

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVASSs

Volume VI, No. 6, November December 2003

<http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/index.htm>

hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Sat., noon – 5 PM

two gifts for the season

Peace on Earth
annual juried exhibition

&

The Annunciation Series
and other recent paintings

by Christian Worthington

OPENING: Friday, November 14, 7:30PM
exhibition continues until January 10, 2004

It has become a tradition to hold our annual juried exhibition at the end of each year. 2003 is no exception. At the same time it is an exceptional year since there will be two exhibitions opening on November 14. *Peace on Earth* features art that ranges from photography to painting to collage to printmaking. Artists include Peter Martens, Jane Heinrichs, Jane Gateson, Peter Von Kampen, Sandra Campbell, Anthony Chiarella, Jean Wiens, Hazel Birt and Grace Rempel. Artists were simply asked to comment on peace. The art ranges from subdued to powerful, from awe inspiring to questioning.

Christian Worthington's *The Annunciation Series* will hover overhead in the upper gallery. Worthington is an exceptionally talented and enthusiastic young Winnipeg artist. His Corydon Ave. studio is filled with positive energy as soon as he steps inside. Don't expect to spend only a few moments. There's always lots to see and Worthington always has lots to say. When we first met, his dedication to his art impressed me as did his talent. *The Annunciation Series* is loosely based on the Biblical annunciation. Perhaps each painting is not specifically about Mary but let the paintings fill you and you cannot help but feel the mystery of that moment. These are reverent,

Canvas — a piece of strong cloth on which to paint a picture

"My paintings are concerned with the depiction of how light illuminates flesh, the sensuality of the war between light and shade, how a form struggles for clarity before it is swallowed up by nothingness, the delicate tension that occurs between all the elements that concern the art of painting — and the curious aesthetic emotion that occurs in the sensitive viewer that is specific to painting alone."

Christian Worthington

beautiful images where figures emerge and disappear in and out of layers of lovingly brushed oils.

Worthington also promises more, the latest in a branching out as he roughs up his technique, working with textures in new ways following themes of the European masters.

We feel these two exhibitions, while very different from each other, are complimentary. As a search for peace continues in the main gallery the announcing of the coming Prince

of all Peace can be pondered above. As we near the Advent season it certainly is appropriate to continue searching for peace, a gift every good person desires, and it is a time to renew our wonder at the mystery around the greatest gift of all, the coming of Christ to the world.

Ray Dirks

Proposals?

Artists, please, submit your proposals to us! Ask for application guidelines. The gallery hosts exhibits in two month blocks throughout the year.

Mailing list

To receive **CANVASSs**, invitations to all exhibitions and other gallery updates contact Connie Wiebe, cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca.

Contact

Ray Dirks, curator, MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 0M4. Phone: (204) 888-6781 or (204) 667-9340. E-mail: rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

Thanks

The DeFehr Foundation, Frank and Agnes DeFehr, The Vine and Branch Foundation, The P.W. Enns Family Foundation, Palliser Furniture Limited, Bill and Margaret Fast, Herb and Erna Buller, The Winnipeg Foundation, all other donors

examine carefully, discuss — **Canvass**

In God's Image: a global Anabaptist family

NEW book

In 2000 MHCGallery curator Ray Dirks began work on a global exhibition project. In August 2001 he began a series of reference gathering trips that took him around the world. In July 2003 an exhibition of daily life photographs and art from 17 countries opened at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. It traveled to the assembly gathered of Mennonite World Conference in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in August 2003. A European tour begins in the Netherlands in January 2004. On October 24, 2003 a book rolled off a Friesens press in Altona. The book includes, as does the exhibit, daily life photographs and artworks from Canada, the US, Cuba, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

India, Indonesia, Taiwan and Japan. It is a celebration of the Anabaptist global family of faith but should be of interest to anyone who desires to see the world through the eyes of its citizens and artists. While traveling for the project, Dirks stayed with ordinary families and commissioned and purchased art in each country. The book includes approximately 300 full colour images plus daily life stories from each country. It is retailing at a significantly lower price than most full colour books of this scope.

Join us for a celebration of the printing of the book and purchase a signed copy.

A second launch for the book will take place at McNally Robinson Booksellers on Grant Ave. in Winnipeg on Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30PM.

BOOK LAUNCH

Monday, November 10, 7:30PM
Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery
600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg

In God's Image a global Anabaptist family

written, designed, most photography by Ray Dirks
introduction by Larry Miller, executive secretary,
Mennonite World Conference, Strasbourg, France

ARTIST TALK

Saturday, December 6, 2:00PM

Christian Worthington will be at the gallery to discuss his art. Worthington is never at a loss for words or enthusiasm when it comes to discussing art. This promises to be an informative and enlightening event. \$5.00.

ACT FAST

Saturday, November 1, 9:00AM – 4PM, MHCGallery upstairs workroom; \$95.00

One day Gelatin Plate Printmaking workshop with Brenda Correia, visiting printmaker from Massachusetts. This innovative, low-tech method of printmaking does not require a press and is a low or no toxic approach. If interested do not contact the gallery but rather contact Karen Cornelius directly at 487-6096.

NEXT UP

Friday, January 16, 2004, 7:30PM

A moving and inspiring exhibition on the disappearance of the buffalo by Metis artist Jo Cooper opens 2004. Cooper currently resides in Quebec. This collection of her paintings comes from Saskatchewan and is very much of the Prairie soil and Aboriginal heart. Don't miss it.

The upstairs gallery will feature art coming out of the Andrews St. Family Centre in Winnipeg's north end, just off Selkirk Ave. MCC volunteer and artist Caili Woodyard is working with young and old in the community to come up with a wonderful exhibition that will offer viewers a look into a part of our community many of us know little about. Come to the opening and meet the proud artists.

Special thanks to all who donated to the gallery this year!

Can you help?

All donations are tax deductible and should be made out to the Mennonite Heritage Centre.

I'd like to support the MHCGallery (PLEASE PRINT)

name _____

address _____

_____ postal code _____

phone number (___) _____ amount _____

Make your cheque payable to the Mennonite Heritage Centre (**designate to MHCGallery**) Mail to: MHCGallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4

The MHCGallery **CANVASS** is published by the Mennonite Heritage Centre of the Mennonite Church Canada. Gallery curator: Ray Dirks. All correspondence and exhibition proposals should be sent to 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3P 0M4. Phone (204) 888-6781 or (204) 667-9340. E-mail: rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca. Contact us and join our mailing list. <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/index.htm>

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