



DRAWING, AGNES NANOGAK, 1979
FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION, MSVU

ANNUAL REPORT 1978 - 1979

ART GALLERY

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3M 2J6

ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 1978 - 30 JUNE 1979

THE ART GALLERY

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N. S.

Each year the gallery seems to shift slightly in its orientation vis-a-vis its exhibits and programs and the audience for both. This year I am delighted to report that there was a qualitatively different level of co-operation with university faculty and students. Three exhibits were involved beginning with the exhibit The Landscape Art of Quebec last October. Under the dynamic leadership of Professor Catherine Rubinger of the Modern Languages Department a program Quebec Hôrizons of lectures, readings, film, music and drama was presented by the university, all centered on Quebec and its culture. In addition she helped the gallery train a group of modern language students to give tours of the exhibit in French. Professor Rubinger conceived the idea of the exhibit, worked throughout on organizing faculty and student participation, and helped plan the film program which was offered free by the National Film Board.

The second exhibit which brought major faculty participation was Canadian Political Cartoons, loaned to us by the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Professors Larry Fisk and Michael MacMillan of the Political Studies Department and Hugh Wallace of the History Department organized a series of panels and readings and a contest, The Great Canadian Political Cartoon Contest which together brought a large response from both inside and outside the university.

Thirdly, Dr. Joyce Kennedy of the English Department, originated the idea for an exhibit about childhood. Views of Childhood was the result, as also was the specially commissioned set of drawings of traditional Inuit childhood by Inuit artist Agnes Nanogak from Holman Island, N.W.T. The exhibit, which included views of childhood by artists from the 18th to 20th centuries was planned to coincide with the Atlantic Society for 18th Century Studies conference held at this university in April. Dr. Kennedy wrote the catalogue essay and helped organize special gallery activities such as actor Graham Whitehead's reading of Forgotten Children Stories for conference delegates.

It is impossible to over stress the impact of this sort of faculty participation. When faculty is involved exhibits and programs are enriched incalculably; of equal importance is the resulting increase in student interest and enrichment. Our Fifth Annual University Community Art, Craft, Baking, Hobby and Talent Show as usual brought all components of the university community - students, staff, faculty and alumnae - together in a gigantic show and tell operation. During this year too we had the volunteer services of Public Relations student Sandra Macleod. She was unflagging in publicizing all gallery activities with students, particularly through the student newspaper The Picaro.

The Art Gallery Advisory Committee met four times. It is made up of representatives from student, faculty, administration, alumnae, Sisters of Charity and the outside community. Depending on the items under consideration others are invited to advise on specific projects. For example, the Child Studies Department was very helpful on the exhibit Views of Childhood. This committee is a

uniquely useful sounding board for the gallery; and the meetings also afford the gallery the opportunity to explain its many-faceted operation to significant sectors of the university and outside communities.

This past year saw another shift for the gallery - fewer exhibits were shown. Last year we displayed twenty-seven exhibits, nineteen produced by or with the gallery. This year we showed twenty, twelve of which were organized by or with the gallery. This is in part an enforced response to rising costs; it also reflects the large-scale nature of four of this year's exhibits. Canadians, funded by National Museums featured ninety-four photographs by fifty-six people from across the country. It is travelling across Canada for two years. The Landscape Art of Quebec which was organized by the Quebec Museum at the request of this gallery, entailed major planning for its wide-ranging attendant activities. For Views of Childhood with the specially purchased drawing of Agnes Nanogak we borrowed over eighty works from eleven different Canadian galleries and archives as well as from seven private collections. And the year's final exhibit Survival Atlantic Style which opened June 21 was in itself an exercise in survival. Featuring works - paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, videotape and sculpture - from sixteen contemporary artists, in the four Atlantic Provinces, it was opened by the art historian and exhibit organizer Barry Lord to much controversy and acclaim.

With each gallery-organized exhibit, we make available further information through catalogues and videotapes or slide-tapes. This year we produced eleven catalogues or poster-leaflets, and with ever-helpful Audio Visual Services, four videotapes and one slide-tape. All give descriptive and interpretive information which help educate the viewers and enhance their understanding and enjoyment. They also furnish necessary documentation for the artists as well as yielding a permanent archival record of the exhibits. Every effort is made to provide the most accurate documentation of the artists and the work. It is often the small university gallery which gives Canada's artists and crafts people their first major recognition and encouragement. This past year the handsome four-colour poster-leaflet (funded by a grant from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs) for Contemporary Micmac Fibre Hangings was sent, as with all our catalogues, to galleries and museums across Canada. As a result a major national gallery, the Albert White in Toronto, has offered the Eskasoni women a show of their own work in December.

That particular exhibit originated as a result of my appointment by the Eskasoni Band Council, Cape Breton, as the Fine Arts Consultant for art work for the new school on the Reserve. The fibre hangings as well as the photo silkscreens of the Eskasoni Micmac Community by Susan McEachern were two colourful projects, which were developed for the school. (The third one was of paintings by Leonard Paul, a Micmac artist who had his first solo exhibit at this gallery.)

It is the policy of this gallery to highlight work by regional artists and crafts people, past and present. This is done in a variety of ways: by solo exhibits as with Graham Fowler's paintings and Karen Casselman's weaving;

by group shows of related work as with Six in Clay which featured six Nova Scotia potters; by juried shows of various sorts - this past year it was a national black and white photography show about people, Canadians which included work by Atlantic area photographers; by theme exhibits which place work in a specific context. This year's Survival Atlantic Style is the most recent example. We hope to secure funding to allow this important visual insight into neglected sectors of our economic and cultural life to travel to other galleries inside and outside the Atlantic Provinces.

Grants received from outside organizations have been of significant aid to our exhibition and activity program. For example, the exhibit Canadians received its final funding from National Museums of Canada; the Sisters of Charity's grant enabled the spectacular improvisational workshop and dance performances coordinated by Ellen Pierce and Graham Whitehead; money from the Department of Indian Affairs funded a handsome 4-colour poster for the Contemporary Micmac Fibre Hangings poster; Canada Council's matching grant of \$1,000 enabled the special purchase of the drawings by Inuit artist Agnes Nanogak.

That the gallery staff is a hard working one can be seen by even the most cursory scanning of the lists of:

- exhibits presented (20)
- lectures and panels organized (20)
- films shown (15 shown on 25 occasions)
- performances arranged of concerts, dance, plays and readings (25)
- tours (33)
- sets of painting, drawing and puppet classes (5)
- openings (8)
- acquisitions (20)
- grants and fees obtained (\$20,643)
- loans of the two gallery-produced multimedia kits The Artist in Nova Scotia to teachers, and Creativity in Children to parents and Child Studies groups, and the Slide Registry of Women Artists to art classes, curators and women's groups, plus over 170 works from the permanent collection to various parts of the university
- Receptions, meetings and conferences held by various groups in gallery space, including Bedford Basin University Women's Club monthly meeting (25)

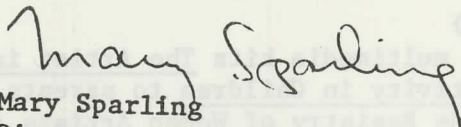
What an examination of such lists does not show however is the enthusiasm which the staff brings to these responsibilities. Lawna Stewart, our Accessionist-Secretary, not only carries out the necessarily huge volume of correspondence, record keeping, and typing of catalogues, etc, but she helps meet our many publics, in person and on the telephone, with warmth, interest and relevant information. This year she spent a week at the National Gallery and attended the semi annual training session in publicity and conservation at the Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association in Charlottetown. This increased expertise added to her growing gallery experience makes her contribution an invaluable one.

The second member of our staff (three of us are full-time) is the Exhibitions Officer. This position is an annually changing apprenticeship in all phases of art gallery operation. This year, Douglas Kirton, a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, has brought his own serious commitment as an artist to all the work we have displayed. The many artists who visit our gallery to show their work receive the benefit of this informed interest. The careful treatment of each item from its unpacking to its most effective installation has been Doug's hallmark. His particular interest in Symbolist art, led him to organize the scholarly exhibit The Graphic Work of Odilon Redon from the collections of the National Gallery, Ottawa. The position of Exhibitions Officer continues to yield a rich harvest for the gallery and its program. And as always we are grateful to the National Gallery for the week of behind-the-scenes training they annually give our new staff.

We are fortunate too in our part-time employees. Betty Shatford who for the past three years has carefully maintained and catalogued the permanent collection, continues to build the Slide Registry of Nova Scotia Women Artists. The registry now holds slides and information on 80 artists. She also regularly assists in exhibit installation. Our weekend attendants are university students who like this year's Joanne Pyra and Nancy MacDonald are always most helpful in assisting our weekend visitors while maintaining careful supervision of the exhibitions.

In the April 1979 issue of the monthly magazine Halifax an article about the "art scene in Halifax" cited this gallery as being "amazingly versatile [and one which] runs a strong parallel educational program with every show" (p.39). It is through the co-operation of people in every part of the university that this has been possible. But most significantly, throughout this entire year the gallery has been given strong and vibrant support by the university's new president, Dr. E. Margaret Fulton. Despite the heavy demands on her own hectic schedule she has always been quick to assist the gallery. Her enthusiastic presence at and interest in our activities - from openings, to student coffee parties, to performances, to lectures - overtly proclaims that at the very highest level the art gallery is important to the life of this university.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Sparling
Director, Art Gallery

Attendance: 16,470

Open 360 days

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays
12 noon to 5 p.m.

STAFF Full-time

DIRECTOR	Mary Sparling
ACCESSIONIST-SECRETARY	Lawna Stewart
EXHIBITIONS OFFICER	Douglas Kirton

Part-time

WEEKEND ATTENDANTS	Joanne Pyra
	Nancy MacDonald
CATALOGUER	Betty Shatford

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SISTER SHEILAGH MARTIN	Faculty-Sisters of Charity
MARGO AUCOIN	Board of Governors
RUTH DRYSDALE	Alumnae
MARIE ELWOOD	Nova Scotia Museum
BERNIE HART	Department of Education
WENDY BLACKWOOD	Student Services
MARY MOORE	Administration
SANDRA MACLEOD	Student
JOANNE PYRA	Art Gallery
MARY SPARLING	Art Gallery
DOUGLAS KIRTON	Art Gallery
LAWNA STEWART	Art Gallery

From time to time the gallery invites other members of the university community to attend, e.g. the Public Relations director, when their advice is needed.

EXHIBITIONS: 20 exhibits, 12 organized by or with the gallery*
There were eight openings

1978

June 30 - July 30

Upstairs &
Downstairs

*CANADIANS, organized by Peter Barss and the gallery. Funded by National Museums of Canada and Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Family Foundation. Opened by Harry Bruce.

August 3 - September 4

Downstairs

ROSES, Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation

Upstairs

*SIX IN CLAY: Six Nova Scotia potters, Birdsall, Goodstein, Smeraldo, Stuart, Taylor and Worthington, organized by the gallery. Opened by Sheila Stivens.

September 8 - October 1

Downstairs

*PAINTINGS by Graham Fowler, Halifax, organized by gallery.

Upstairs

*DRAWINGS by Sally Spector, Montreal, organized by gallery. Opened by Dr. E. Margaret Fulton.

October 4 - October 22

Downstairs &

Upstairs

THE GRAPHIC WORK OF FELIX VALLOTTON. Circulated by the National Gallery of Canada.

October 27 - November 19

Downstairs

THE LANDSCAPE ART OF QUEBEC, organized by the Quebec Museum.

Upstairs

*FIBER LANDSCAPE, by Karen Casselman, Cheverie, organized by gallery. Opened by Prof. Catherine Rubinger.

November 23 - December 10

Downstairs &

Upstairs

*CURRENT WORK, faculty of Studio Division, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, organized by gallery and NSCAD. Opened by Dr. Garry Kennedy.

December 14 - January 7, 1979

Downstairs

RELIGIOUS ART, circulated by Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops. Grant from Sisters of Charity. Opened by Most Reverend James M. Hayes.

December 14 - January 21

Upstairs

*CONTEMPORARY MICMAC FIBRE HANGINGS, Eskasoni Reserve, Cape Breton, organized by gallery. Support from Department of Indian and Northern Development. Opened by Most Reverend James M. Hayes.

January 11 - January 21

Downstairs

PAPER TIGERS, circulated by Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina. Works on paper from western Canada by artists Biram, Gallie, Lodge, May, Stephanson, Thauberger and Wade

January 25 - February 11

Downstairs &

Upstairs

*FIFTH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY ART, CRAFT, BAKING, HOBBY AND TALENT SHOW, organized by art gallery. Opened by Mrs. Margo Aucoin.

February 16 - March 11

Downstairs &

Upstairs

CANADIAN POLITICAL CARTOONS, circulated by Winnipeg Art Gallery

March 16 - April 8

Downstairs

Upstairs

CHANGING PROSPECTS: VIEWS OF AMERICA ON PAPER, circulated by the National Gallery of Canada

*THE GRAPHIC WORK OF ODILON REDON, organized by Douglas Kirton, Exhibitions Officer, from the collections of the National Gallery of Canada

April 12 - May 13

Downstairs &

Upstairs

*VIEWS OF CHILDHOOD, organized by the gallery and Dr. Joyce Kennedy. Including Drawings of Agnes Nanogak

May 18 - June 17

Downstairs

Upstairs

FOLKSONG IN FABRIC, Skye Morrison, Toronto, circulated by Memorial University Art Gallery

*THE ESKASONI MICMAC COMMUNITY, photo silkscreens by Susan McEachern, Halifax, organized by the gallery. Special opening involving Duc d'Anville grade five and two Rockingham Brownie Packs.

June 22 - July 29

Downstairs &

Upstairs

*SURVIVAL ATLANTIC STYLE, sixteen artists from the four Atlantic Provinces, organized by Barry Lord with the art gallery. Barss, Burger, McKiggan, Paul, Purdy, Roache and Shirley from Nova Scotia; Butt and Lapointe from Newfoundland; Caissy, Chiasson, Gallant, Kashetsky, Spital and Therriault from New Brunswick; Woolnough from Prince Edward Island. Opened by Barry Lord.

LECTURES: 20 lectures and panels
Talks and Panels

September 17: Drawings by Sally Spector & Paintings by Graham Fowler, talk by Mary Sparling

September 20: Wednesday Lunch Hour Arts Mix: Five part slide-sound series
October 18 from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with additional slides of works by Canadian artists in the context of that week's subject, organized by Douglas Kirton, Exhibitions Officer

October 15: The Graphic Work of Felix Vallotton, talk by Mary Sparling

October 29: Landscape In Quebec Cinema, by Rene Rozon, Quebec film critic

October 29: The St. Lawrence Valley, "From a military society to a civil Society, 1605-1815", by Fernand Ouellet, University of Ottawa

October 30: Talk by Yves Theriault, Quebec poet

November 1: Quebec Folk Songs, illustrated in song and story, by Prof. Jacques Barthomeuf, French Department (2 lectures)

November 3: The Evolution of the Landscape Tradition in Quebec Art, by Prof. Lacroix, art historian, Concordia University. Courtesy Canada Council.

November 8: The Spirit of Quebec, by Prof. Jacques Goulet (2 lectures)

November 9 & Landscape and the Quebec Novel, by Prof. Catherine Rubinger
November 13

December 3: Lecture by Eric Cameron on the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design exhibit

January 4: Suzanne Swannie talks about Micmac Fibre Hangings, sponsored by the Atlantic Society of Handweavers

February 28: Where Do We Draw the Line on Political Cartoons?, a panel discussion with Larry Fisk, Bob Chambers, Harry Flemming, Prof. Larry Steinberg and Max Keddy

FILMS: 15 films - 25 occasions

Quebec Horizons (at the Mount) (National Film Board collaboration)

October 29: Kamouraska

November 5: J. A. Martin, Photographe

November 12: Les dernieres fiancailles

November 19: Les Males

Wednesday Lunch Hour film:

November 15: Quebec in Silence and Autobiographical by A.M. Klein (2 showings)

March 7, 10 & 11: The Hecklers

March 28: The American Vision (2 showings)

March 31 & The American Vision (2 showings)
April 1

April 4, 7 & 8: The Secret World of Odilon Redon

April 12 to The Stories of Tuktu, 13 part film series
May 13

PERFORMANCES, concerts, dance, plays, readings (25 performances)

- September 13&17: David Hayes, Halifax guitarist (during Spector and Fowler exhibits)
- October 13&14: Erica Levin and Hoon Mo Kim concert of French music during Vallotton exhibit
- November 17&20: Michel Tremblay play, Damnee Manon, Sacree Sandra, presented by the English Department in conjunction with Quebec exhibit
- December 19 -
- January 3: Religious Art. Open workshop for performers with Ellen Pierce
- January 3: Transformations of Faith with Ellen Pierce, featuring Graham Whitehead, Sandy Moore, Cia Orenstein and Pat Richards (2 sessions)
- January 9&14: Freya Oberle, cellist and Hoon-Mo Kim concert. Courtesy Musicians Union.
- January 25&29: Just Us presented A Musical Revue of Pop Tunes, assistance from Profs. O'Neill and Court
- January 28: Two puppet plays by education students, directed by Dr. P. O'Neill (2 performances)
- February 11: Marguerite McNeil McDougall and Bruce MacKinlay in concert, taped by CBC
- February 15&16: Graham Whitehead, readings from the speeches, letters and diaries of political leaders, Macdonald, Laurier, King, Diefenbaker, Trudeau and Levesque
- March 16: Contact Improvisation to American Jazz, with dancers Sara Shelton, Andrew Harwood (2 sessions)
- March 22&25: American Songs and Arias, concert with Sally Novinger, lyric soprano and Katherine Sorenson, piano
- April 19&22: Inuit Stories in String, with Graham Whitehead and Joan Waldron
- April 28: Stories from Forgotten Children's Books, with Graham Whitehead, part of a three-day conference being held by the Atlantic Society for 18th Century Studies

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, tours, contests, classes

- March 7: The Great Political Cartoon Contest, in conjunction with the Political Studies Department, awards presented
- May 18: Opening of Folksong in Fabric, with grade five class from Duc d'Anville school who made kites in class, flew them on the lawn outside the gallery. Later that day two Brownie Packs from Rockingham made banners in the gallery from material provided by the gallery.
- Tours: (33)
- French language tours during the Quebec exhibit, conducted by university students (28 tours) for university, high school and elementary grades

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, tours, contests, classes (continued)Tours:

November 18: Social Studies teachers: Uses of Gallery
 April 28: Lunenburg social studies teachers: Uses of Gallery
 May 10: Clayton Park Junior High art class
 May 25: Canadian Association of Social Studies: Uses of Gallery
 June 15: Wentworth Park School, Rockingham, grade 2

Classes: 5 sets of classes

October 10 - Painting classes for adults with Felicity Redgrave (15 students)
 November 18
 October 14 - Art classes for children 8 - 11 with Jean Doig (15 students)
 December 2
 January 27 - For children who love to paint, 8 - 11 with Sue Shirley (15)
 March
 January 30 - Introductory drawing for adults with Felicity Redgrave (15)
 March 20
 March 31 - Spring Puppet Workshop for Children with James MacSwain, (15)
 June 9 ages 10 - 12 years

Receptions, meetings and conferences held by various groups in the gallery space including Bedford Basin University Women's Club monthly meeting (25)

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA PRODUCED

in co-operation with Audio Visual Services

VIDEOTAPES: 4

Fiber Landscapes, by Karen Casselman
Paintings, by Graham Fowler
Landscape Art of Quebec, by Prof. Lacroix
Inuit Stories in String, by Graham Whitehead and Joan Waldron

SLIDE TAPE: 1

Odilon Redon, by Douglas and Jane Kirton

OPENINGS - 8ACQUISITIONS: 20

Seventeen drawings depicting traditional Inuit childhood by Inuit artist Agnes Nanogak, Holman Island, N.W.T. were purchased by the gallery with a \$1,000 matching grant from Canada Council. Two more were purchased by the Child Studies department, and another by the 1979 Graduating Class, for a total of 20. These will hang as a permanent installation in the Social Athletic Complex to be constructed in 1980.

GRANTS - \$20,643&
FEES

- \$1,100 for Acquisitions, honoraria earned by Mary Sparling from Canadian Eskimo Arts Council
- \$1,000 for Acquisitions, a Canada Council Matching Grant
- \$2,500 for Great Expectations from National Museums of Canada
- \$1,000 for Religious Art from the Sisters of Charity
- \$1,000 for Micmac Fibre Hangings from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
- \$11,800 for Canadians from National Museums of Canada
- \$200 for shipping assistance for Vallotton Prints exhibit from the National Gallery of Canada
- \$328 for travel to the National Gallery - a week's training session for Douglas Kirton and Lawna Stewart - from Canada Council
- \$140 for travel to the Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association meeting in Charlottetown for Douglas Kirton and Lawna Stewart from Canada Council
- \$200 for Prof. LaCroix from Canada Council Visiting Artists Association
- \$275 for Ellen Pierce from Canada Council Visiting Artists Association
- \$500 an approximate figure covering the feature length film series they showed at the Mount during the Quebec exhibit, plus poster costs, from the National Film Board of Canada
- \$700 for rental fees from the travelling exhibit Canadians

EXHIBITS ORGANIZED BY OR WITH THE GALLERY CIRCULATING NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Images of Lunenburg County, photographs by Peter Barss. Circulated by Nova Scotia Museum.

Older Ways, Nova Scotia artifacts and photographs by Peter Barss. Circulated by Nova Scotia Museum.

Portrait of a People, drawings by Micmac Indian Leonard Paul. Circulated by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Canadians, black and white photograph show about people. Circulated by Mount Saint Vincent University.

MEMBERSHIPS

Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association
 University Art Association of Canada
 American Association of Museums
 Visual Arts Nova Scotia
 Canadian Museums Association
 Smithsonian Institute
 Federation of Museums, Heritage & Historical Society of Nova Scotia
 International Council of Museums

CONFERENCES ATTENDED (*paid by outside organization)

Semi annual conference Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association, Montreal, October
 Annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Education through Art, Halifax, October
 Annual meeting of the University Art Association of Canada, Halifax, February
 Semi annual conference Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association, Charlottetown, April
 *Canada Council meeting of Curators, Ottawa, May
 *Eskimo Arts Symposium, Winnipeg, May

LOANS

The Artist in Nova Scotia multimedia kit produced by the gallery is in constant circulation to teachers.

Creativity in Children resource kit produced by the gallery is borrowed by child study groups and teachers.

Slide Registry of Nova Scotia Women Artists kit is borrowed by various artists and women's groups.

Works from the permanent collection are installed throughout the university

In addition loans are often made from our library of videotapes, which now number over 50.

ATTENDANCE : 16,470