msvu art gallery

Mount Saint Vincent University



Annual Report 2016 – 2017

msvu art gallery

Mount Saint Vincent University Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6

2016-2017 Annual Report

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Cover image: Walking With Our Sisters 2017



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 2016-2017 year will long be remembered as the year of Walking With Our Sisters, an unprecedented event that affected the gallery's operations for more than six months and, it is to be hoped, changed the community for much longer.

Walking With Our Sisters (WWOS) was a commemorative installation honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people, whose numbers exceed 2000 over the last 20 years. The project included more than 1800 pairs of moccasin vamps (representing those who were lost) decorated by contributing artists, and arranged on the floor in a winding formation. Visitors were greeted and smudged by Keepers, who offered sacred medicines and support to visitors. This decolonizing project, carried out by local Elders and volunteers, and guided by the WWOS National Collective that organized the show, transformed the gallery into a ceremonial site of healing. Many of the visitors commented how unlike a conventional art exhibition it was.

MSVU Art Gallery was the sole Atlantic Region venue on the 29-stop national tour (2013-2019). We accepted the responsibility of providing access to the many families of the Indigenous "sisters" from this vast region who have succumbed to violence. The WWOS Halifax Planning Committee, composed of a core of 20 volunteers, worked for months to prepare for the event. Much of their effort was devoted to providing travel assistance to Elders and MMIW families from all over the Atlantic Region. This entailed significant fund-raising, which is reflected in Revenues reported this year. More than 150 volunteers contributed their labour, and the installation was visited by 3,500 over the course of two and one-half weeks. I offer heartfelt thanks to Catherine Martin (Mi'kmaw), MSVU Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies, for her indispensable leadership throughout the project. Claire Dykhuis, Art Gallery Program Coordinator, was also a dedicated and key contributor. Further thanks go to the many Elders who assisted, particularly Geri Musqua LeBlanc and Billy Lewis who advised as regular members of the WWOS Halifax Planning Committee.

This important initiative advanced both indigenization within the university and the national project of Reconciliation. It was held in January 2017, the year of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. MSVU Art Gallery took advantage of a one-time ACOA infrastructure funding program, Canada 150, to apply for a grant in support of renovations which will be completed in the next fiscal period. The effort devoted to WWOS meant we had less time for acquisitions and publications, as the report shows. Compared with our usual program formats, community-based work takes an enormous amount of time, trust-building and cooperation. Working with the WWOS volunteers who generously donated their time has enlightened all of us in the gallery. By giving priority to traditional Indigenous knowledge and collective decision-making, WWOS has also made an indelible impact on the community.

Ingrid Jenkner, Director

EXHIBITIONS

Weaving the Existing. Giorgia Volpe

Organized by Foreman Art Gallery Carl Johnson, Curator 24 March – 29 May 2016

Born in Sao Paula, Brazil, Giorgia Volpe has since 1998 lived in Quebec City, where she has taught drawing, printmaking and photogram at Méduse. This first survey of the artist's career encompassed performance, action art, drawing, sculpture, photography, installations and video.

Volpe often relies on weaving, a technique that runs through her entire oeuvre. Fibres—paper, plastic, recycled material, textiles—are used to create works in which the material, traces of text and other motifs nuance the meaning. Because Volpe completes few "finished" works, her art is often shown in a temporary state, awaiting further transformations. This exhibition represented the suspension in time of her process.

Double Take

Organized by MSVU Art Gallery Ingrid Jenkner, Curator 21 May – 22 August 2016

A routine glance at a work of art sometimes leads to a double take—a delayed reaction to a surprising detail after the initial failure to notice anything unusual. Selected from the permanent collection, the works in *Double Take* either are 'assisted readymades' (modified found objects) or, as 'replicas,' they resemble assisted readymades. The second or third glance generally prompts second thoughts. In combination, the painting/assemblage by Gerald Ferguson and sculptural objects by Marc Courtemanche and Kelly Mark bring art objects into problematic relationships with concepts of authenticity, categories of taste, and hierarchies of practice.



Kelly Mark, Split Axes 1995

The Department of Prints and Drawings

Organized by MSVU Art Gallery Ingrid Jenkner, Curator 11 June – 21 August 2016

How can a small university art gallery, itself a department, oversee a "Department of Prints and Drawings"? The provocative title of this exhibition was meant to prompt skepticism about the medium-based categories that still define large public collections, such as those at the National Gallery of Canada.

The exhibition was made up of contemporary works by more than 30 artists, selected from the MSVU Collection. Anna Torma's appliquéed, embroidered and inkjet printed wall hanging incorporates drawings appropriated from members of her family. Reed Weir's stoneware bather stands on a base with a pyrographic (wood-burned) design of Matisse-like nudes. Equally expressive and gestural is Deb Kuzyk's underglaze floral decoration of a porcelain bowl thrown by her husband Ray Mackie. Among the works by artists with Halifax connections are lithographs by Dan O'Neill and Ericka Walker, and drawings by Lucie Chan, Anne Macmillan and Susan Wood.

Home Economics: 150 Years of Canadian Hooked Rug

Organized and circulated by the Textile Museum of Canada Shauna McCabe, Natalia Nekrassova, Sarah Quinton and Roxane Shaughnessy, Curators 3 September – 6 November 2016

Highlighting how craft and commerce have been deeply entwined, *Home Economics* shed light on two centuries of creation that embraces vernacular design and individual expression – vibrant evidence of Canada's evolving cultural and economic landscape. Today, artists and artisans continue to adapt personal experiences and points of view into material culture, part of the new ethos of interdisciplinary creativity in the 21st century.

The exhibition presented over 100 hooked rugs from the TMC collection, including the work of contemporary artists Joanna Close, Nancy Edell, Hannah Epstein, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Heather Goodchild, Barbara Klunder and Yvonne Mullock as well as seldom-seen pieces by Emily Carr, Clarence Gagnon, Florence Ryder and Georges-Édouard Tremblay.

Annual Mount Community Show

Organized by MSVU Art Gallery 16 November – 11 December 2016

Mount Saint Vincent University students, staff, faculty, alumnae and their families were invited to display their creative work in this annual extravaganza. Entries included visual art, music, performance, poetry, craft, literature, basketry, beading, and more!

Walking With Our Sisters

Organized by Walking With Our Sisters Collective 14 January – 1 February 2017

Walking With Our Sisters was a community-based, volunteer-organized art commemoration for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit people and their families. It was composed of hundreds of pairs of moccasin vamps beaded by contributors from Canada and around the world. The exhibition has already travelled to nearly twenty communities in Canada. MSVU Art Gallery was honoured to host Walking With Our Sisters on Mi'kmaw territory.

How Do I Look?

Organized by MSVU Art Gallery Ingrid Jenkner, Curator 11 February – 9 April 2017

This selection of artists' self-portraits from the Mount Saint Vincent University Collection addressed both the experience of being looked at by others, and that of returning the gaze. As a corollary to their engagement with practices of looking and appearing, these self-portraits also tackle the frameworks of race, gender and sexuality.

In her extended photographic self-portrait, Rosalie Favell exposes the intersectional consequences of coming out as an Indigenous lesbian. Works by the African Nova Scotian artists Chrystal Clements and Jim Shirley confront the racializing gaze in inventive ways. Replacing images with words, Marie Koehler tackles and triumphs over patriarchal objectifications of women's appearance. Sarra McNie, on the other hand, subsumes the representation of her nude figure in the formal problems of modernist painting.



Chrystal Clements, American Beauty Made for Me 2000

Tove Storch: Sculpture

Organized by MSVU Art Gallery Ingrid Jenkner, Curator 25 February – 9 April 2017

Tove Storch's first solo exhibition in North America followed a three-week production residency in the Art Gallery. Storch's sculpture emphasizes process, physicality and the unique properties of materials. These characteristics are reminiscent of minimalist and post-minimalist practices of the 1970s. A Danish critic has identified a range of art-historical allusions in her work: "Donald Judd's specific objects came to mind, as did Robert Irwin's more delicate combinations of material qualities and visual effects, and the sensual spatial politics of Lygia Clark and Helio Oiticica."

The new work by the Danish artist engaged with the gallery's two-storey architecture, deploying a forest of narrow metal rods to span the distance between floor and ceiling with an effect similar to that of a drawing. It incorporated the formal paradox typical of Storch's sculpture, wherein the physical concreteness of the elements belies the optical variability of their appearance.



Tove Storch, Untitled 2017

SPECIAL EVENTS

7 April 2016

Film Screening with MSVU Feminist Collective for Wilma Needham: Some Works about Guatemala

18 and 26 May 2016

Touch Tours of Weaving the existing for Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority students

26 May 2016

Artist's Talk with Shawna Dempsey, in partnership with Eyelevel Gallery

21 July 2016

Artists' Talks with Dan O'Neill and Ericka Walker for The Department of Prints and Drawings

11 August 2016

Artists' Talks with Anne Macmillan and Susan Wood for The Department of Prints and Drawings

24 September 2016

Opening Reception and Curator's Talk with Roxane Shaughnessy for Home Economics

22 October 2016

Artist's Talk with Joanna Close for Home Economics

5 November 2016

Workshop, rug hooking with Joanna Close for Home Economics

16 November 2016

Opening Reception of the Annual Mount Community Show

5-24 February 2017

Production Residency for Tove Storch, visiting Danish artist, to build her new site-specific sculptural installation *Untitled*, 2017

25 February 2017

Opening Reception and Artist's Talk with Tove Storch for Tove Storch: Sculpture

15 March 2017

Panel Discussion Artist Kim Morgan held a public conversation with gallery director Ingrid Jenkner concerning *Tove Storch: Sculpture*

Coffee Hours

25 May 2016 14 September 2016 30 November 2016 20 July 2016 19 October 2016 8 March 2017

Walking With Our Sisters community events and collaborations

10 May 2016

Community Conversation and information session

4 October 2016

Sisters in Spirit memorial at the Friendship Centre for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls

28 October 2016

An evening with Caribou Legs (Brad Firth), ultra-marathon runner raising awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, in collaboration with the Friendship Centre

23 November 2016

Community Conversation and information session

30 November 2016

Tobacco Tie Teach-in with Elder Geri Musqua-LeBlanc

13 December 2016

Crafts with Community event to raise awareness about WWOS

5, 7, 10, 19 January 2017

Orientation Sessions for WWOS volunteers

14 January 2017

Media event

14 January 2017

Welcoming and Opening Ceremony

17 January 2017

Two-Spirit Gathering for queer and Two-Spirit WWOS community members

1 February 2017

Closing Ceremony



Walking With Our Sisters (installation) 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Tove Storch New Work 2017

Essay by Ingrid Jenkner, 16pp., colour illustrations.

MEDIA RESPONSE

Wilma Needham: Some Works about Guatemala

Staff. "Exhibit at MSVU in Halifax throws light on brutality of Guatemala's civil war." Touch BASE (April 2016): 5.

Double Take

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: May 19 to 25, 2016." Canadian Art (19 May 2016). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/must-sees-week-may-19-25-2016/

Shawna Dempsey Artist's Talk

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: May 26 to June 1, 2016." Canadian Art (26 May 2016). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/must-sees-week-may-26-june-1-2016/

Other

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The Department of Prints and Drawings

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: July 21 to 27, 2016." Canadian Art (21 July 2016). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/must-sees/week-july-21-27-2016/

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: August 11 to 17, 2016." Canadian Art (11 August 2016). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/79013/

Home Economics: 150 Years of Canadian Hooked Rugs

Steeves, Julianne. "National rug exhibit visits 'heartland of hooked rugs'." The Signal (26 September 2016). http://signalhfx.ca/national-rug-exhibit-visits-heartland-of-hooked-rugs/

Staff. "Five Essential Events." Halifax Magazine (October 2016).

Mullin, Morgan. "10 ways to have a winning weekend." The Coast (20 October 2016). http://www.thecoast.ca/TheScene/archives/2016/10/20/10-ways-to-have-a-winning-weekend

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: October 20 to 26, 2016." Canadian Art (20 October 2016). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/must-sees/this-week-october-20-to-26-2016/

Adams, Trevor. "Hot Entertainment." Where Magazine (October 2016). http://www.where.ca/nova-scotia/halifax/hot-entertainment-5/

Kenins, Laura. "Home Economics at MSVU Art Gallery." Akimbo (2 November 2016). http://akimbo.ca/akimblog/index.php?id=1188

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Staff. "'Home Economics: 150 Years of Canadian Hooked Rugs' at Mount St. Vincent University Art Gallery, Canada." Blouin Artinfo (24 October 2016).

http://ca.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1646460/home-economics-150-years-of-canadian-hooked-rugs-at-mount-st



Artist unknown, Hooked Rug 1940

Annual Mount Community Show 2016

Leger, Paul. "Le téléjournal acadie." *Radio-Canada* (16 November 2016). http://ici.radio-canada.ca/emissions/Telejournal_Acadie/2015-2016/ [38.30m]

Staff. "Show at MSVU runs until Dec. 11." The Chronicle Herald (28 November 2016). http://thechronicleherald.ca/artslife/1419763-show-at-msvu-runs-until-dec.-11

Walking With Our Sisters – K'jipuktuk / Halifax

Dahms, David. "Walking With Our Sisters Pays Homage to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women." Visual Arts News (7 January 2017).

http://visualartsnews.ca/2017/01/walking-with-our-sisters-pays-homage-to-missing-and-murdered-native-women/

"Media Advisory: Walking with our Sisters – K'jipuktuk/Halifax." NationTalk (9 January 2017). http://nationtalk.ca/story/media-advisory-walking-with-our-sisters-kjipuktuk-halifax

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: January 12 to 18, 2017." Canadian Art (12 January 2017). http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/must-sees-week-january-12-18-2017/

Lewis, Lara. "The long walk to Halifax." *The Coast* (12 January). http://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/the-long-walk-to-halifax/Content?oid=5919640

Staff. "OUT AND ABOUT: 8 things to do in Nova Scotia this weekend." The Chronicle Herald (12 January 2017).

http://thechronicleherald.ca/artslife/1431775-out-and-about-8-things-to-do-in-nova-scotia-this-weekend

Staff. "Sure Thing: Walking With Our Sisters." The Coast (12 January). www.thecoast.ca/halifax/walking-with-our-sisters/Event?oid=5819243

Shaw, Ron. "Memorial honouring missing and murdered Aboriginal women opens at N.S. university." CTV Atlantic (14 January 2017)

http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/memorial-honouring-missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women-opens-at-n-s-university-1.3241464?autoPlay=true

"Media Advisory: Walking With Our Sisters – K'jipuktuk / Halifax opens to the public." NationTalk. (14 January).

http://nationtalk.ca/story/walking-with-our-sisters-kjipuktuk-halifax-opens-to-the-public

McMillan, Elizabeth. "Memorial honouring missing and murdered Indigenous Women Opens." CBC Nova Scotia (14 January 2017).

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/walking-with-our-sisters-halifax-installation-1.3936139

McMillan, Elizabeth. "Memorial honouring missing and murdered Indigenous Women Opens." Eastern Ontario Network Television (14 January 2017).

http://easternontarionetwork.com/~eon/index.php/news/canada-news/62785-memorial-honouring-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-opens-nova-scotia

Pace, Natasha. "They represent the unfinished lives': memorial honours missing and murdered Indigenous women." Global News Halifax (14 January 2017).

http://globalnews.ca/news/3181757/they-represent-the-unfinished-lives-memorial-honours-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women/

Quon, Alexander. "Mount Saint Vincent hosts 1,800 powerful stories of missing and murdered indigenous women." Metro News Halifax (14 January 2017).

http://www.metronews.ca/news/halifax/2017/01/14/msvu-hosts-stories-missing-murdered-indigenous-women.html

Dinshaw, Fram. "Haligonians walk with missing and murdered sisters." The Chronicle Herald (14 January 2017).

http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1432295-photos-haligonians-walk-with-missing-and-murdered-sisters

Blanchet, Stéphanie. "Une exposition à Halifax commémore les femmes autochtones assassinées ou disparues." Radio Canada (14 January 2017).

http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1010910/exposition-femmes-autochtones-halifax

DeLory, Alison. "Walking With Our Sisters Is A Path to Healing" Alison DeLory blog (19 January 2017). http://alisondelory.com/blog/2017/1/19/walking-with-our-sisters-is-a-path-to-healing.html

Hussman, Rebecca. "They were lights.' Walking With Our Sisters memorial visits Halifax." The Nova Scotia Advocate (15 January 2017).

https://nsadvocate.org/2017/01/15/they-were-lights-walking-with-our-sisters-memorial-visits-halifax/

Googoo, Maureen. "Family members of missing, murdered women contribute moccasin vamps to art exhibit at MSVU." Kukuwes (17 January 2017).

http://kukukwes.com/2017/01/16/family-members-of-missing-murdered-women-contribute-moccasin-vamps-to-art-exhibit-at-msvu/

Barnard, Elissa. "Walking With Our Sisters is a journey in truth, beauty and the pain of lost love." Local Xpress (17 January 2017).

https://www.localxpress.ca/local-arts-and-life/walking-with-our-sisters-is-a-journey-in-truth-beauty-and-the-pain-of-lost-loves-511717

Staff. "MSVU installation a tribute to indigenous women." The Chronicle Herald (22 January 2017). http://thechronicleherald.ca/thenovascotian/1434521-msvu-installation-a-tribute-to-indigenous-women

Shaw, Ron. "Honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women." CTV Atlantic (24 January 2017). http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/memorial-honouring-missing-and-murdered-aboriginal-women-opens-at-n-s-university-1.3241464

Shore, Amanda. "Halifax Report: Can an Art Gallery be a place for mourning?" Canadian Art (9 February 2017).

http://canadianart.ca/reviews/halifax-report-art-gallery-mourning/

Tove Storch Sculpture

Staff. "Must-Sees This Week: February 23 to March 1, 2017." Canadian Art (23 February 2017). <a href="http://canadianart.ca/must-sees/mu

ART GALLERY PERSONNEL

Full-Time

Director Ingrid Jenkner (BA, Toronto; MA, London)

Part-Time

Administrative Assistant Traci Steylen (BOAD, MSVU)

& Web Manager

Program Coordinator Claire Dykhuis (BAH, Dalhousie University; BA, Nova Scotia

College of Art and Design; MA, York University)

Gallery Technician T.J. Ediger (July 2016 – February 2017)

David Dahms (BFA, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; BA,

Mount Allison University)

Gallery Attendant Robyn MacKinnon

Kelsey McLaughlin

NSCAD Intern Carrie Goodfellow

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Ingrid Jenkner, Director, taught the first-year Cultural Studies course "Art in Halifax Now" in 2017, and continued her service on the Cultural Studies Program Committee. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Masterworks Arts Award Foundation, she oversaw the adjudication of the 2016 award and helped to prepare for the adjudication of the 2017 prize. Jenkner was appointed Chair of the Masterworks Jury Selection Committee in 2016.

David Dahms, Technician, was on leave from July 2016 through February 2017.

Claire Dykhuis, Program Coordinator, is involved with Eyelevel Art Gallery as both a board member and Programming Committee chair. Claire's article article "Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University's Feminist Collective" was published in the recent issue of the feminist art journal *n.paradoxa*.

GRANTS AND REVENUE

FEDERAL GRANTS

Canada Council for the Arts Annual Assistance to Museums and Public Galleries	\$78,000.00
Department of Canadian Heritage Brenda Francis Pelkey: A Retrospective	15,000.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	
Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women Walking With Our Sisters	4,000.00
Arts Nova Scotia Presentation Assistance Walking With Our Sisters Presentation Assistance Tove Storch Sculpture	9,060.00 6,500.00
MUNICIPAL GRANTS	
HRM Community Arts Grant Program Presentation Assistance Walking With Our Sisters	5,000.00
Grants Subtotal	\$117,560.00
<u>DONATIONS</u>	
Public Service Alliance of Canada, WWOS contribution Public Service Alliance of Canada Area Council 1, WWOS contribution Sisters of Charity of St-Vincent De Paul, WWOS contribution Kairos Halifax (WWOS contribution) Kairos National Office (WWOS contribution) Government Services Union PSAC, WWOS Contribution Stantec, WWOS contribution Women's Community Centre, Halifax, WWOS Contribution Calvin Presbyterian Church, WWOS Contribution MSVU Dean's Office WWOS contribution YWCA Halifax WWOS contribution Maritime Conference fund, United Church of Canada, WWOS Contribution MSVU Nancy's Chair of Women's Studies MSVU Alexa McDonough Institute Mennonite Central Committee Maritimes Office Acadia First Nation Advanced Screen printing (in kind donation) Private Donors	\$2000.00 500.00 1,500.00 300.00 300.00 500.00 171.50 1,000.00 200.00 1,000.00 250.00 350.00 250.00 1,000.00 1,000.00 1,000.00 300.00 300.00 300.00

Engineers Nova Scotia (WWOS)	200.00
Dalhousie Women's Centre (WWOS)	100.00
Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg (WWOS)	200.00
Unifor Social Justice Fund (WWOS)	500.00

Donations Subtotal \$11,171.50

EARNED REVENUE

Art Gallery of Windsor, re print of *Brenda Pelkey Haunts* essay by Ingrid Jenkner \$1,000.00

Catalogue Sales 1,257.93

Earned Revenue subtotal \$2,257.93

GRAND TOTAL \$130,989.43



Dan O'Neill, JPEG Note: BYHD.01.COPY.JPEG 2003-04

MSVU art gallery Mount Saint Vincent University

Statement of Purpose

Through its exhibitions and programs, the Art Gallery functions as a visual arts resource to the University, communities served by the University, Metro residents and art publics everywhere. Admission is always free of charge.

The Art Gallery reflects the University's educational aims by devoting a significant part of its activities to the representation of women as cultural subjects and producers. This program focus is balanced with exhibitions on themes in visual culture which are relevant to university academic programs and/or constituencies served by the Art Gallery. Artists and artisans from the Atlantic region are represented, often in the early stages of their careers. The Gallery's exhibitions and programs are funded in part by Arts Nova Scotia, and by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Since many contemporary artists treat art-making as a form of inquiry, the university art galleries are uniquely positioned to promote access to their work. MSVU Art Gallery aims to foster informed, critical responses to works of contemporary and historical art, in keeping with its academic setting. Gallery publications, lectures and talks by visiting artists and scholars are announced in the semi-annual Newsletter.

The Art Gallery encourages interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge, and its exhibitions are used by students and faculty in their course work. In addition, the gallery supports the MSVU Cultural Studies curriculum.

On behalf of the University, the Art Gallery manages a collection of art that reflects priorities set by the exhibition program and the University's mission. Many works can be viewed in the E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre and other campus buildings. The special collection of wares by Nova Scotia ceramicist and Mount alumna Alice Hagen is also displayed on campus.

MSVU Art Gallery respectfully acknowledges that the Gallery and Mount Saint Vincent University are situated on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People