

MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

CANVASS

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

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

a program of Mennonite Church Canada

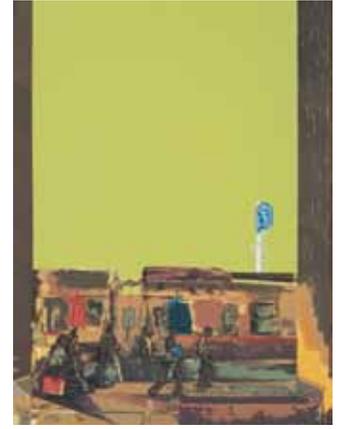
located on the campus of Canadian Mennonite University

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS: The MHC Gallery's budget is met primarily through private, tax deductible donations. Make cheques payable to: MHC Gallery. Mail to: MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Credit card donations, contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or call (204) 888-6781, extension 194.

Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca



Signals series III, silkscreen



Signals series VIII, silkscreen

from China

Prairie Connection

An exhibition of large silkscreen prints by Chinese painter and printmaker

Liang Yu

OPENING

Thursday, August 16, 7:30PM

Liang Yu plans to be in attendance

August 16-October 6



Steam Age I-IX, silkscreen

Overseas journeys continue at the gallery this summer. From the well received — continuing to August 11 — Guatemalan exhibition, *Mayan Families*, we cross the Pacific for an exhibition from China. The MHC Gallery is pleased to host this fantastic art, as well. Many thanks to Karen Cornelius for creating the connections and making it happen. Thanks, as well, to Geraldine Taylor. Thanks to the Chinese Cultural Centre for helping with the opening. Continued thanks to Lori Matties for her fine volunteer help at the gallery.

Prairie Connection

Liang Yu is at the height of a distinguished career as a renowned Chinese painter and printmaker. His work has been exhibited at the National Art Museum in Beijing, China, and was selected to represent China at the London Olympics. He will attend the opening exhibition of his large silkscreen prints.

Liang Yu grew up in a prairie landscape in northeast China, where his earliest memories are full of images of trains,

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

as his father was a railway worker. The steam locomotive, the caboose, the railroad signaling system and the Russian-influenced train stations were all familiar to him.

Drawing on familiar childhood memories, Liang Yu places isolated railway related images on the horizon dominated by the big prairie sky. The rail images, acting as short narratives, provide opportunity for nostalgic memories to surface in the viewer's mind in an attempt to preserve the past.

The vibrant blocks of background colour illuminating the images reflect a moody prairie sky that dwarfs the landscape and resonates with all prairie dwellers. His use of bright coloured backgrounds juxtaposed with realistic railroad images reflects not only his childhood experience but is a metaphor for the rapid change and reinvention that has taken place in China in contemporary times. With such rapid change as the backdrop, Liang Yu can be excused for his nostalgia for the past, as much has been destroyed in China's race into modernity.

Guest curators: Karen Cornelius, Geraldine Taylor

examine carefully, discuss — **Canvass**

Next

Along the Road to Freedom

SUNDAY, October 14, 3PM

CMU Chapel & MHC Gallery

Journeys continue at the gallery. We've come from Guatemala, are going to China and, in October, we'll return to Manitoba via Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Germany, Paraguay, Brazil... following and honouring the journeys of women who brought their families out of Russia during the worst of times, to lives in freedom and safety in Canada. The exhibit includes a series of artworks by Ray Dirks. The opening will begin in the CMU Chapel and then move to the gallery. Please, join us.

In late 2008 Wanda Andres, Hans Funk, Nettie Dueck and Henry Bergen approached Ray asking if he could help them as they searched for a way to permanently pay tribute to women who were responsible for helping children like them escape the fearful clutches of the Soviet Union. Countless fathers and grandfathers had been imprisoned or murdered. Women often became the heads of households, making the gut wrenching decisions required during times of war, anarchy, persecution, terror, destitution and flight. Discover their journeys in *Along the Road to Freedom*.

Amazingly, these journeys include stories of unyielding faith, grace, love and forgiveness. Besides the remembering, this is what the *Along the Road to Freedom* committee want viewers to take with them.

Humanitarian work in Ukraine initiated by those who had to flee and by their descendants is also highlighted — people who returned to help and not to take back what they had lost.

The paintings will tour after their time at the MHC Gallery.



Annual fundraiser

Friday, September 21, 7:30PM

The gallery journey continues into its 15th year. Stops at the fundraiser include a gallery full of art from China, a preview by Ray Dirks of *Along the Road to Freedom*, thoughts from Dorothy Schwab who is partway along a journey of discovery to piece together an exhibition of her late sister's art which will open next Spring, a screening of the gallery's *Leap in Faith* (in the gallery multi-purpose room after the formal program). Taste some wonderful treats to sustain you on this evening's journey.

The annual fundraiser is the event that makes the operation

of the gallery possible. If you appreciate the direction and programming of the gallery, if at all possible, we need your financial support. This gallery, more than any other we are aware of, relies almost entirely on private donations. Church, university and government funds DO NOT keep the doors open. YOU, the audience, our private donors, keep the doors open.

Many thanks for helping us reach the 15th year. We look forward to many more.

Donations

Can't make it to the fundraiser? We accept donations at any time! Donations can be made by cheque, cash or credit card. Contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or 888 6781, extension 194, or send cheques made out to the MHC Gallery to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4.

Prairie Connection by Liang Yu



Signals series VII, silkscreen



Signals series V, silkscreen

Proposals?

Artists, please, submit your proposals to us! The gallery hosts exhibits in approximate 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, MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB Canada R3P 0M4. Ph: (204) 888-6781. E-mail: rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

Thanks

To all who make donations, large and small, we thank you for helping keep the gallery alive and relevant.

CANVASS

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Make your cheque payable to the MHC Gallery

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contact Connie Wiebe at (204) 888 6781 or cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca to donate by credit card

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