

CANVASs

Volume XV1, No. 1, February 2013

<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

Metaphors in Cloth and Clay

Ingrid Lincoln / Gaëtanne Sylvester

Opening: Friday, February 1, 2013, 7:30pm
February 1 - March 9



Illusion: Ingrid Lincoln

Ingrid Lincoln

Textiles are the ubiquitous stuff of our lives. They clothe us, protect us, telegraph our moods and status, and are with us from birth to death. They are as close as our skins.

Textiles are associated with decay and change. Just as our skins change with age, light and exposure, our cloth echoes these changes.

Our cloth decays and yet in its life it holds the memory of our existence. Lace discolours over time and embodies the concepts of fragility and demise. Its sensuality casts a shadow of its destruction. Its strengths mirror the very essence of our being, the fibres of our genetic code and tissue.

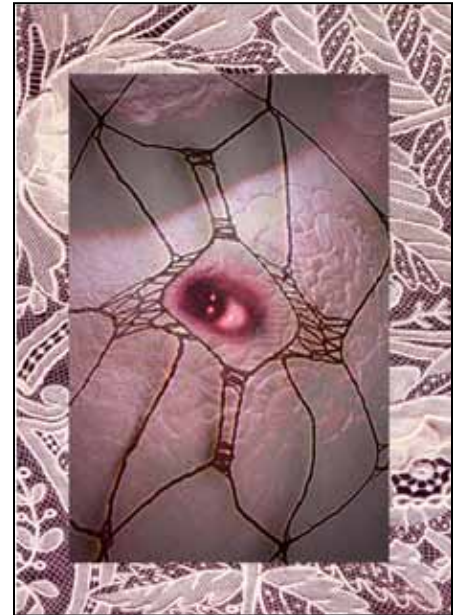
This cloth, like vegetable matter, can be harnessed to our needs. We can imprint it with structure, colour and shape. Through these processes we change the ordinary into the

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

different. We make the material conform to our hand and endow it with meaning – meaning that we hope will transcend the ephemeral quality of the material and give life to the imagination.

Gaëtanne Sylvester

I am curious about how we came to be. Why are we similar or different from one another? My work is informed by my observation of what goes on around me, by history, genetics, and our organic connection to all living things. All of these continue to inspire me.



Pregnant Cross: Gaëtanne Sylvester

Growing up I was taught to be very proud of my ancestry. Being of pioneer stock was a source of great pride for my family. You might say it influenced my fascination with history and genetics. I knew that the first ancestor on my father's side married in Montreal in 1670. Then, quite by accident while researching the history of lace production, I discovered the name of the woman he married, a 16-year-old who was part of the King's Daughters. It made me realize how little we know of the women who immigrated to this country and worked quietly and diligently. This exhibition highlights their enterprising resilience while it celebrates the sheer power of our survival instincts. The individual pieces contain precious metaphorical cargo – a promise of new life, new beginnings, new discoveries – and assure the survival of both the feminine and the masculine equally.

The simplicity of clay in juxtaposition with the complexity of lace appeals to me. Its importance transcends politics, beliefs, differences, injustices, wars. I use lace as metaphor for genetics because of its delicate linear intricacies and its visual reference to our organic existence. Every molecule depends upon another molecule, like the patterns in lace, where every stitch depends upon another stitch. I have incorporated the cell-like structure of lace into my ceramic practice; pressing it into the surface as embellishment as well as inserting it into three dimensional shapes. By decorating with lace, my intention is to create an impression of strength and of fragility while creating an organic texture. My work is intuitive, developing and progressing as I work. Clay is earth, it is organic, it has limits that must be respected. In its raw form it is tactile and sensual. Its malleability allows me to journey inward, to meditate, to connect with the reality of my limits and to journey metaphorically.

examine carefully, discuss — **Canvass**



Deconstructed Cords: Ingrid Lincoln

Donations

The new year has begun but the gallery's fiscal yearend is not yet here. Our year ends January 31. If you can help us end the year on a high note with an early in the year donation, contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or 204 888 6781, extension 194, or send cheques made out to the MHC Gallery to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4. Online donations can be made by clicking on the Give button on the gallery webpage at <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>

News from outside the gallery

Call of the Christian Artist, one-day artist retreat at St. Charles Retreat Centre, 9AM to 4PM, Saturday, March 2. Organized by Anthony Chiarella and facilitated by Ted Wood, The focus of the retreat is to create a forum for Christian artists to gather, reflect on, and dialogue about the nature of being Christians and being artists in the world today. \$40.00, lunch included. For information, contact Anthony at achiarella@mymts.net or call 204 257 0474. To register, contact Ted or Nancy Wood at stcharlesretreat@hotmail.com or call 204 885 2260.

Next

Miriam Rudolph, printmaker, and **Bennie Peters**, painter and mix-media artist, grew up in Mennonite communities in Loma Plata, Paraguay. Their upcoming exhibition explores themes of home and childhood.

Many thanks

Lori Matties is taking over exhibition duties for the next few exhibits as Ray Dirks continues to work on the *Along the Road to Freedom* project.



The Daughters: Gaëtanne Silvester (detail)

Proposals?

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

Mailing list

To receive **CANVASs**, 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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