

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

Sylvia Regehr (Graham) (1962-2011) was born and educated in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She referred to her art life and career as being split between two communities—the Prairies and the Woods; that is, Winnipeg and the Central Interior of B.C. Sylvia was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 2006. After one year of treatment she bounced back and created some of her most creative and meaningful art. In March 2009, Sylvia



Sylvia Regehr Graham, Sticks and Stones

was diagnosed with meta-static terminal cancer. This, however, did not deter her from creating art, rather she began a race against time to complete as much artwork, creative journaling and book making as she possibly could. During one of her radiation treatments in Vancouver, she spoke to other women receiving treatment and commented, "I met many women who had great stories to tell. I would like to develop a workshop called 'Telling Our Stories.'" To honour Sylvia's memory and her art, her sister Dorothy Schwab has partnered with CancerCare Manitoba to mount an art exhibit at the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery. The exhibition will feature Sylvia's art along with art created by participants in the CancerCare Manitoba Art Therapy Program. As the participants tell their stories through their art, Sylvia's dream becomes a reality.

One of Sylvia's most successful art exhibits in Quesnel was entitled "Assemblage and More." Part of this exhibit will be brought to life during this exhibit. Assemblage is a legitimate art form and has been around since the 1950s, however there are only a handful of assemblage artists left in Canada. Assemblage art can best be described as a three-dimensional collage, which

Who Will Listen to Our Stories?

An Exhibition of Storytelling through Art

Sylvia Regehr Graham

and

CancerCare Manitoba Art Therapy Participants

Opening: Friday, May 3, 2013, 7:30 pm
May 3 - June 22

is often constructed with objects not traditionally considered art materials. Sylvia stated, "I find that making art this way is filled with the delight of discovery and invention." Being a professional forester by trade, she often found her inspiration to create her mixed media art from the natural forest.



Sylvia Regehr Graham, Woman Being Round

Biography written by Sylvia:

"My first formal training in art began at the high school level at River East Collegiate in Winnipeg. I was fortunate to have a wonderful teacher who stressed a rather formal approach to art education based on drawing and art history. Although I had never planned to be an artist, this class gave me the inspiration and direction to do so.

I attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg from 1981-1983, where I took a two year advertising Art Program. This was a rigorous course focusing on both graphic design and illustration. It taught me much of the self discipline and perseverance necessary to pursue a career in art. After college, I worked as a commercial artist for two years, but soon felt I had to move on to pursue other interests.

In 1985, I enrolled in the Forestry Program at University of British Columbia. While at university, I took a fine arts studio course, which introduced me to mixed media work. I found that creating work this way was quite challenging and that it provided for endless exploration of the combination of theme and material. Quesnel became my home after graduating from University. I soon learned that an artist living in a smaller center must embrace "self-education." I have pursued this by taking numerous workshops, by engaging in personal research and by participating in the local arts community."

CancerCare Manitoba's Art Therapy Program

Patient and Family Support Services at CancerCare Manitoba has offered art therapy since 2002 and combines supportive group therapy with creative expression.

Art therapy is based on the principle that

unconscious material exists in the art that people create. The goal of making art in a group therapy context is to bring symbolic content/unconscious references to light. The Art Therapy program at Cancer Care Manitoba helps participants to better manage the sometimes challenging experience of living with cancer. Through guided creative experiences using a variety of materials including paint, pastels, paper, clay and chalk, participants reconnect with their creative selves without censoring or judgment and gain valuable insights about themselves and their cancer experience that are embedded and revealed in the artworks. The completed artworks become a permanent record of the therapy and the therapeutic process.



Mandala

The sessions have been facilitated by Tanis Dick, who holds a Masters degree in Art Therapy, and Miriam Duff, who holds a Masters degree in Clinical Counseling. The program is offered in the winter, spring and fall for patients who have been treated with any type of cancer in the past two years. Clients do not

need to have any previous experience or expertise in art. Attending the free eight-week session can be liberating and healing for participants.

"Looking at the art created in the program and reading the reflections that accompany it offers a window into the inner experience of what it's like to have cancer," says Jill Taylor-Brown, Director of Patient and Family Support Services.

A "graduate" group meets once a month for anyone who has been through the 8 week program for those interested in continuing to explore this form of therapy. CancerCare Manitoba Art Therapy is supported by funds donated to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. For more information and/or to register, please contact Jill Taylor-Brown at 204-787-1325.

"When you've thought life is terrible, the program (with all members) gives the strength to go on with dignity and pride...life is beautiful again!"



Next

Manitoba Society of Artists Annual Juried Exhibition, June 27-September 14, 2013. Opening Thursday, June 27, 7:30pm. A Juror lecture will be held at the Gallery on Monday, June 24 at 7pm. Ray Dirks and Charles Spratt will speak.

Proposals?

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

Mailing list

To receive **CANVAs**s, 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.

CANVAs

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