

# CANVASS

## MENNONITE HERITAGE CENTRE Gallery

Volume XV1, No. 5, September October 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](mailto:cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca) or call (204) 888-6781, ext 194. Online at <https://mennonitechurch.ca/project/gallery>  
Ray Dirks, curator, [rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca)

## Embracing the i-kon

Today the term *icon* conjures up images associated with computers and modern technology. For centuries, however, the icon (derived from the Greek *eikon* or *ikon*), has referred exclusively to images of the

divine or the sacred. Serving an integral role in the liturgical practices of the Eastern Orthodox Church in particular, icons represent “windows into heaven,” directing the minds and hearts of the faithful toward God.

Curated by Rachel Baerg, this exhibition features a selection of historic icons including folk variants from Ethiopia and Asia alongside the work of local Ukrainian iconographer Vera Senchuk and five contemporary artists.

Drawn from a wellspring of Eastern iconography and traditional Christian signs and symbols, Winnipeg artists Michael Boss, Ray Dirks, Seth Woodyard, Christian Worthington and Michele Sarna present diverse and highly personal works of art. These artists come from divergent faith backgrounds and work in a variety of mediums, including wood, canvas, clay and metal. Their work provides for engaging dialogue concerning the appropriation of traditional Christian images and explores the often tenuous relationship between traditional art and the church today, and between contemporary art and the expression of personal faith.



Seth Woodyard, *Book*. Acrylic and ink on cardboard, machine sewn in plastic sleeve, 7 x 9 inches, 2007.

Rachel Baerg completed a Masters degree in Art History at the University of Toronto. She currently works at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and teaches Art History at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. To set up an interview with or ask questions of Rachel, e-mail her at [rbdesign@shaw.ca](mailto:rbdesign@shaw.ca).

# Writing Icons, a Demonstration by Vera Senchuk

Thursday, Oct 24, 2013, 7-8:30pm

According to the Eastern Orthodox tradition, true religious icons are said to be written, not painted. Join local Ukrainian iconographer, Vera Senchuk for a fascinating demonstration outlining the traditional and symbolic illustrative steps of writing an icon.

Winnipeg-based, Vera Senchuk is one of few women in Canada continuing the Ukrainian Orthodox tradition of icon-writing. Mentored by

accomplished iconographers Dymtro Bartoshuk of Winnipeg and Vladislav Andreyev of New York, Senchuk began writing (painting) icons as a trained iconographer in 1984. Since then she has produced over 800 icons for individuals and for Orthodox Eastern rite Catholic and Roman Catholic Churches. Her work is found throughout Canada, the USA, in Ukraine, and as far away as an Orthodox mission in the Himalayan Mountains.

## MHC Gallery ANNUAL FUNDRAISER, 1998/2013/15 years and counting

Friday, October 4, 7:00PM

featuring Rachel Baerg, curator, *Embracing the i-kon*/Karl Stobbe, violinist and associate concertmaster, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (at 7pm)/Ray Dirks, MHC Gallery curator/dessert including mouthwatering perishky/a spirited, informative, inspirational, fast-paced evening.

**RSVP by September 23 to Connie Wiebe at 204 888 6781, ext 194 or [cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca)**

Icons and icon-inspired art will fill the gallery at the time of the fundraiser. Iconography goes back many centuries. Certainly, the gallery's history does not reach anywhere near that far back. But 15 years is significant as a donation-funded arts institution that is now firmly established and highly regarded in faith, art, school and cultural communities. **Join us on October 4 to learn more about the gallery and where it is going.**

In early 1998 Ray Dirks walked into the office of then Mennonite Heritage Centre director Ken Reddig and asked if there might be interest in his turning the space into a fulltime gallery. Poorly lit and with few usable walls, the space had operated informally as a gallery for 20 years. Reddig was intrigued and took the request to those above him. Support for the idea was enthusiastic but came with zero funding. The gallery would have to raise its budget through donations from its supporters.

With funding commitments to cover half a year and Dirks having worked part-time as curator for a few weeks, the first exhibition opened at the MHC Gallery in September 1998. 15 years on the gallery is a thriving, well-regarded institution. It has changed and grown, but the way the budget is met is unchanged. The gallery still needs to raise almost all its funds through donations.

The gallery features many fine events, openings, workshops and projects. The annual fundraiser has become the event that allows the rest of the gallery program to unfold each year. If you support the gallery's work, please, consider attending the fundraiser. If you cannot make it, we hope you will still consider a tax deductible donation. See ways to donate in Masthead and below.

**Next:** "Talking Water" with Bob Haverluck and friends. Opening: November 15, 2013

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca)

### Thanks

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

**CANVASSs**

## Please, consider a donation

**I'd like to support the MHC Gallery** (PLEASE PRINT)

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