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 Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

Women Wielding Knives: Exploring Power in Domesticity*

Jodi Hildebrand (ground floor) Curated by Jaimie Isaac

A Thread, a Thought, a Knot

Chantel Mierau (upper floor)

November 28, 2014 to January 17, 2015

**Opening: November 28, 7:30pm
 (with refreshments by Edible Alchemy)**



Tending, Jodi Hildebrand

In *Women Wielding Knives*, Jodi Hildebrand addresses contemporary issues of domestic duty, gender roles, consumerism, and the food economy through a feminist perspective. It is more relevant than ever to address women's roles and value in society given the current unrest, the baby boomlet, food security and sustainability across the globe. Many people are striving to (re)turn to self-reliance, consider political and ecological acts that seek balance and health within the home. In consideration that home and hearth were traditionally associated with a woman's domain, the exhibition focuses on women's relationships to food production and preparation. There is an increasing awareness and participation in this genre of discourse. "Food revolution" is expressed through various theoretical frameworks from feminist, environmental, health & wellness, economical and cultural standpoints, some of which take action via art-based methods. Jodi uncovers many levels of access in this area of discussion in her work; food is not only celebrated but also critiqued. The exhibition will also explore the Canadian Mennonite Heritage Centre's archives as an intervention and connection to a historical dialogue.

Jodi is a Winnipeg-based artist and a descendant of European Mennonite heritage in Canada. Primarily she produces brightly coloured and visually celebratory mixed media acrylic paintings. Their subject matter, however, often conveys a deeper exploration of the relationship between women, environment, and food. Hildebrand obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Manitoba in 2000. After becoming a mother in 2008, she became acutely aware of the powerful role women play in facilitating food choices that form the foundation of the food economy. Her work has been featured in *Geez* magazine, *The Uniter*, *Rhubarb* magazine, and *The Lögberg-Heimskringla*, and is held in various private collections. Jodi's work has also been featured in several Winnipeg group shows including *The Art From the Heart Show and Sale* (2006-2013); *I Want to Ride my Bicycle* group show (2010) at the Lob Pub; the *7 x 7 art show* (2008) at The Edge Gallery; *Geez* magazine celebration (2006), *Urban Shaman*;

and the Wolseley Arts Festival (2007), Robert A. Steen Community Centre. She is an active

member and volunteer for the Art From the Heart Show and Sale. Jodi enacts her beliefs in her own domestic duties, as she tries to seek balance between the pleasure of eating and eating healthfully. She continuously sifts through complicated and often contradictory information about food in order to make the best choices for herself and her family.

Jaimie Isaac is a freelance curator, writer, artist, art administrator, student and mother based in Winnipeg. She is of Ojibwe and British heritage and a member of Sagkeeng First Nation. Isaac holds a degree in Art History (2005) and an Arts and Cultural Management Certificate (2009) from the University of Winnipeg. Currently she's completing graduate studies at the University of British Columbia Okanagan on contemporary Indigenous Curatorial Praxis. Selected curatorial projects include; visual arts coordination for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's national event in Winnipeg (2010); *All My Relations*, a Linus Woods solo show at ace art inc. (2010); The Ephemerals Collective that produced *Trending* at the University of Winnipeg (2011) and *Re:Trending 2014* at the First Nations University and a film, *Indian Maiden* (2011); Leah Decter's (*official denial*) *trade value in progress* on tour nationally (2011-presently). Jaimie's artwork has been presented in a group show, *Art and Reconciliation* at TRU University Gallery in Kamloops and FINA Gallery in Kelowna (2013), *memory awareness expectation* at Platform Gallery for Video Pool Media Arts Centre and at *WNDX Festival of Moving Image* (2014). Jaimie has contributed numerous published essays in catalogues and journals. She has presented at national and international conferences. Jaimie has been an artist in residence with Art and Reconciliation in Kamloops, at Plug In ICA in Winnipeg, and Sante Fe, New Mexico, on Social Engagement. She is currently secretary on the board with the national Aboriginal Curatorial Collective/CCA.

A Thread, a Thought, a Knot

Chantel Mierau uses string, yarn, and fabric as an integral component of printmaking, video, sculpture and other forms of image-making. *A Thread, a Thought, a Knot* uses basic sewing supplies to explore order, chaos, and the process of thinking, especially moments of confusion, epiphany and rumination. Using multiple approaches, the artist seeks out parallels between knotted thread and thought patterns.

Mierau is a multidisciplinary artist living and working in Winnipeg, originally from Langham, Saskatchewan. She is an alumni of Ros-thern Junior College and attended Canadian Mennonite University from 2003 to 2005. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the

University of Manitoba. In 2014, Mierau was nominated for the Winnipeg Arts Council's RBC On the Rise Award which recognizes the demonstrated promise of an emerging, professional Winnipeg artist in any discipline.



Never Ah Ha, Chantel Mierau

2014 DONATIONS

The annual fundraiser on October 3 was a wonderful success. Thanks to those who attended and gave to keep the gallery and its projects and programs running. We need more donations to round out the year. If you appreciate the gallery and its work, please, consider a donation.

Since the fundraiser, the gallery's school program has increased. Three significant projects are on the go and we look forward to fabulous exhibitions, from Jodi's and Chantel's to those lined up in 2015.

Credit card donations: call Connie Wiebe at 204 888 6781, extension 194. By mail donations: make out cheques to MHC Gallery and mail to MHC Gallery, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4.

Online: <https://donate.mennonitechurch.ca/programs/gallery/>



Workshop participants from the Osler English as an Additional Language program with Ray Dirks and Manju Lodha.

NEXT: "My House as a Life: Outer/Inner Journeys," paintings by Jane Gateson.

***Thank you**, to Golden West Radio, for its sponsorship of Jodi Hildebrand's exhibition.

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

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Canvass

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