

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS: The MHC Gallery's budget is met primarily through private, tax deductible donations. Please, help keep the gallery alive and growing. 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. (204) 888 6781; Online at <https://gallery.mennonitechurch.ca/donate>

Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@mennonitechurch.ca

JOURNEY

the art of Parvin Shere
an exhibition dedicated to Waris Shere



Scenes from Childhood and The Lichen Project by Rhonda Harder Epp



July 15 – September 3
(no event on July 15)

PUBLIC RECEPTION

Saturday, July 30, 7:00PM

remarks by Dr. Jon Gerrard and Ray Dirks

I have known and admired Parvin Shere and Rhonda Harder Epp for most of the years I have worked at the MHC Gallery. Parvin and Rhonda, however, have never met. There is no obvious connection between the two exhibits happening this summer. There is commonality in that both artists seek and probe, explore issues, with their art. It isn't just a pursuit of the aesthetic.

I appreciate the fact that Rhonda and Parvin come from different backgrounds of place, culture and belief roots, yet both come to our gallery to give their art voice. Our gallery attracts many different voices and that is a link we are honoured to hold high.

Long-time Winnipeggers, Parvin and her late husband, Waris, used to visit me from time to time at the gallery. It was always a highlight. Without fail, they were friendly, inquisitive, affirming and open. We shared conversations on art, justice and peace. Beyond their chosen fields, what I remember most is two people as one, two people of peace, justice and community.

I see this exhibit as a journey through the layers of Parvin's career as an artist and humanitarian, with Waris looking over her shoulder, smiling proudly.

From the first time I saw some of Rhonda's work I was impressed by the quality and by the thought put into it. To this day, it seems from my vantage point, she is ever evolving, ever pushing herself to work in new ways while creating pieces that are unfailingly bound in issues and deep reflection.

Ray Dirks, MHC Gallery

Journey

statement by Parvin Shere

Life is a multicoloured journey, wrapped in a net of darkness and light. I always wonder about this journey of life and beyond life. The road is full of ups and downs, twists and turns. No matter whether it is broken or smooth, we have to keep walking. Lives walk together and part one by one. Then the journey ends in the middle of the road. One life is not enough to conquer the long road. The desolate, voiceless road keeps walking far away, beyond life, drowned in boundlessness.

During the journey, I have discovered black spots and bright beacons on the face of our planet. Nature's art gallery is full of a diverse collections of images. Open skies and dark corridors. Wide, smooth roads and narrow, uneven alleyways. Noisiness and serenity. This exhibit expresses the journey of my thoughts and feelings. The journey of entering people's hearts and minds. The journey of joy and pain.

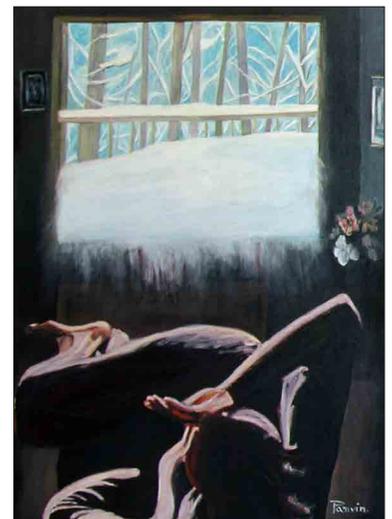
Different colours of life provide fresh blood for the veins of my thoughts. The heart and mind is like a dark room if there are no lit candles of thoughts, curiosity and feelings. These paintings are simply petals of flowers that have bloomed after observations of nature's art gallery. Some petals are dry and withered, taking us to the darker side of life. Other petals are anew, taking us to the brighter side of life.

My journey on this planet has provided me a strong connection with nature, to understand a world of expanse, depth, colour, fragrance, melody and sound. It has also given rise to my thoughts about human life, its division, dualism and oppression. Thoughts about the long journey from the uncivilized to civilized world. These feelings made me create this poem:

TREADMILL

These feet have been walking perpetually
From day one,
But they remain at the same place
Apparently, there is movement,
But the only difference is
That they used to cover their bodies
With leaves and bark of trees,
And now wearing silken robes,
That hide their canine teeth,
Talons and tails,
They are running
On the treadmill of life.
Since the beginning of time,
All sons of Adam,
Have been standing,
On the same starting point,
Yet running perpetually.

Parvin Shere



I still have countless unsaid stories in my heart. My brush and pen provide me with self-purification and the promotion of my values. The journey of life is continued to see the unseen, to hear the unsaid, to feel the unfelt, to connect the disconnected, and to realize the unrealized.

I have to keep walking on this boundless road of life with unexpected twists and turns

This exhibit is devoted to Waris (1936-2014), my husband. He has finished his journey to this planet. He came here from an unknown world to experience the creations of God with me. These paintings represent our observations of this world which are full of tears and laughter, peace and conflict that we saw together on this planet. *Parvin Shere*



Parvin Shere

Next

SOMOS SU FUTURO/WE ARE YOUR FUTURE

http://www.atzin.org/photos/custom/Exhibition/jpegs/folleto_expo_final.jpg

Opening September 9. An exhibit brought together by Atzin Mexico featuring master printmaker Alejandro Aranda and watercolourist Ray Dirks, along with women weavers from the community of Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, Mexico. Welcome visitors from Mexico and Atzin director, Susan Smith, at the opening.

Annual MHC Gallery Fundraiser

Friday, September 30. Mark the date in your calendar. RSVP to Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@mennonitechurch.ca or 204 888 6781, extension 194. This is the event each year which keeps the gallery and its unique programming moving forward. If you support what happens in and out of the gallery as a result of our exhibitions and projects, please, plan to attend.

Along the Road to Freedom exhibit coming to Winnipeg

The touring exhibition which honours Mennonite mothers, primarily who brought their families to peace and freedom in Canada from the former Soviet Union, will be mounted at the Manitoba Legislative Building this fall. Attend a special opening event in the Legislative Building on Sunday, October 30. The Winnipeg based exhibition is in the midst of a North American tour. It is currently at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The opening there was one of the best attended events in the history of the venue.

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.

Scenes from Childhood and **The Lichen Project**

statement by Rhonda Harder Epp

The Scenes from Childhood paintings and drawings were inspired by and created for a performance of Robert Schumann's 13 piano compositions *Scenes from Childhood Op. 15*. The *Scenes* paintings are layered colour, figures, and objects partially obscured by the mists of memory and shadows. The figures are placed in a world of colour, randomly applied. Objects — collections — appear, as do shadows; there is a little darkness in everyone's childhood. And there are obscuring layers of white, erasing some details and fogging others.

The Five Lines starting point is the staff; the lines that are home to the notes and determine their identity. Unlike music notation, these lines bend, loop, and cross to become somewhat representative of the themes of each piano piece. They were initially intended to be part of the paintings, but my ideas took a turn and they remained independent pieces.

Thematically there is little to connect *Scenes from Childhood* and *The Lichen Project*. Aesthetically, however, the connection is strong: a predominance of white. I seem to be in the grip of something antithetical to my usual way of working with strong colour.

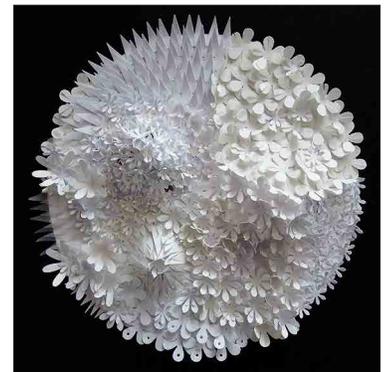
Why lichens? Lichens look interesting in a peculiar and spectacular way; there is amazing design potential. They live in a wide variety of environments, including harsh ones; they are tenacious in an awe inspiring way.

Why white? While lichens have a wide range of colours, from muted to brilliant, other properties are subtle unless one gets up close. Accentuating texture demanded restraining colour.

I live and make things in Edmonton, Alberta. *Rhonda Harder Epp*



Scenes from Childhood #8 by Rhonda Harder Epp



Lichen #4 by Rhonda Harder Epp

Please, consider a donation

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