

Reconciliation through the Arts

January 26 – March 10, 2018

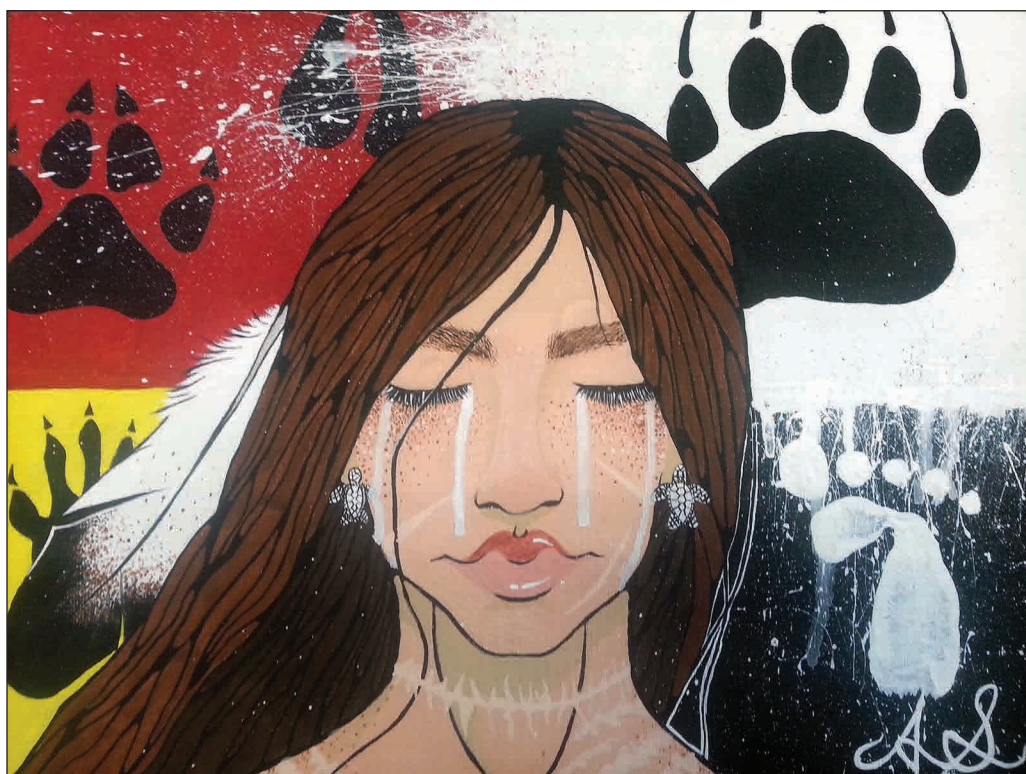
OPENING, Friday, January 26, 7:30pm

"It is our hope that the exhibit will generate inter-cultural dialogue with Indigenous and Settler communities, to explore themes such as traditional life, treaty making, residential schools, protection of mother earth, returning to culture and spirit, 60's scoop, child welfare, incarceration, and the intergenerational effects from colonialism." *exhibition organizers Clairissa Kelly and Marlene Gallagher*

In spring 2016, we (Marlene Gallagher and Clairissa Kelly) brought students to view the **STORIES IN ART FROM IRAQI KURDISTAN** exhibit at the MHC Gallery. The exhibit was initiated by Ray Dirks and was brought together by Kathy Moorhead Thiessen of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Iraqi Kurdistan (northern Iraq) has been host to millions of refugees and displaced persons. All of these faith and cultural groups now live together in a very small geographical area. Christian Peacemaker Teams Iraqi Kurdistan asked representatives of several of these groups — Iraqi Kurds, Syrian Kurds, Yazidis, Assyrian Christians and Iraqi Arabs — to tell their story through art.

In viewing the art from everyday folks from across the globe, we could connect to the themes of oppression and thought that it would be great if we could showcase similar works from people within our communities. In the era of reconciliation and in response to the calls to action outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report, we approached Ray Dirks to see if there was an opportunity to create space within the gallery to showcase the works of Indigenous artists.

We put out a call for new and existing works from both emerging and established artists who identify as Indigenous (First Nation, Inuit, and Métis). We also asked for art to be submitted from the Settler community, as long as it fit within the broad theme of reconciliation. And, we led workshops in a number of settings in order to spur artistic creations for the exhibition. *Clairissa Kelly, Marlene Gallagher*



artwork by Anastasia Stevenson

Exhibition organizers

Clairissa Kelly, B.A., B.Ed.
Ojibwe, Educator, Inter-Disciplinary Artist, Treaty #1

Marlene Gallagher, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed
sessional lecturer for the Peguis School Board, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Canadian Mennonite University; member of the Speakers Bureau for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

special thanks to Peter Friesen

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS: The MHC Gallery relies almost entirely on donations from gallery supporters who undergird operating and project budgets — from office and exhibit supplies to salaries and everything between. To help keep the gallery growing, **make cheques payable to: Canadian Mennonite University, memo line MHC Gallery**. Mail to: 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2. Credit card donations, contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@cmu.ca or 204 487-3300, ext 344. Online donations at cmu.ca/donate. Ray Dirks, curator, rdirks@cmu.ca

Special donations needed

Reconciliation through the Arts exhibition. If you would like to help offset expenses related to the exhibition, please, make a designated tax deductible donation.

Leap in Faith project book. Manju Lodha and Ray Dirks are working on the final phase of the *Leap in Faith* project, a book which will be widely distributed to Manitoba schools and be made available to all faith and cultural communities in Manitoba. The project also includes the earlier released *Leap in Faith* DVD and completed school and community workshops. The Winnipeg Foundation and the Blennerhassett Family Foundation have generously supported the project but more funding is needed. If you would like to support this vitally important work revealing and celebrating our increasingly multicultural and multi-faith community, please consider a tax deductible donation.

How to give (designate to the *Reconciliation* exhibition, *Leap in Faith* project or make a general donation to the gallery)

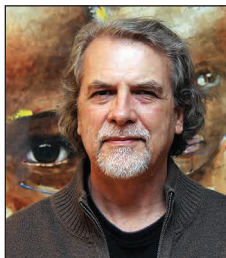
- by cheques **payable to Canadian Mennonite University**, MHC Gallery on the memo line (plus exhibition or project name), mailed to 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
- online at cmu.ca/donate (by credit or debit card)
- bring a donation when you visit the gallery in person
- if you would like to make a monthly commitment to the gallery, use the online portal or contact Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@cmu.ca or 204.487.3300, ext. 344

Award reception

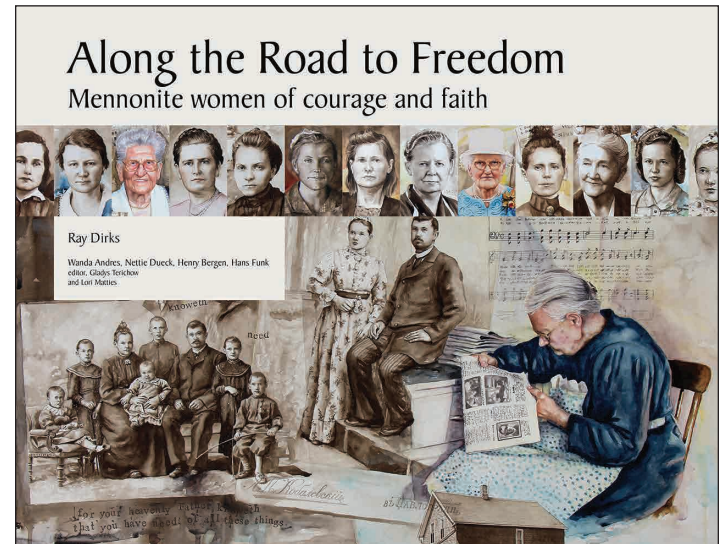
Manju Lodha and Ray Dirks are joint recipients of the 2018 Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-religious Understanding to be officially awarded at Government House on January 10. A public reception on the CMU campus will follow the award ceremony.

8:00pm, Wednesday, January 10, Marpeck Commons (new CMU library building, 500 Shaftesbury Blvd.)

Special music by Alexa Dirks (Begonia, Chic Gamine) accompanied by Matt Schellenberg (Royal Canoe)



Along the Road to Freedom Mennonite women of courage and faith BOOK AVAILABLE



"The shared words and level of detail made my heart ache and rejoice." The Honourable Janice Filmon, C.M., O.M., Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

The *Along the Road to Freedom* coffee table book features full page images of all 26 Ray Dirks paintings from the *Along the Road to Freedom* touring exhibition. The book also includes written stories about all of the women in the paintings. Historical background by Dr. Marlene Epp provides the base needed to better understand the situations which caused the Mennonite exodus and attempted escape from the former Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1940s. Ray Dirks writes about his own journey and the process involved in creating the exhibition.

132 pages, 12" x 9" hardcover, \$35.00 plus GST. Discounts for the purchase of five or more books.

Purchase at the gallery or online at commonword.ca
Also available at McNally Robinson Booksellers and the CommonWord bookstore.

Next

Two exhibitions, one by Faye Hall and one by Anthony Chiarella, opening March 16

Exhibitions

The gallery generally hosts six exhibition time slots per year — either one exhibition using both levels or, most often, different exhibitions on each level. Contact Ray Dirks at rdirks@cmu.ca for exhibition information.

Mailing list

To receive information on all upcoming exhibitions join our mailing list by contacting Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@cmu.ca or 204 487 3300, ext 344.

Thank you

To all who make donations, large and small, we thank you for helping this unique gallery continue to thrive and make a difference.

DONATIONS

The gallery operating budget, including salaries and all exhibition expenses, and project budgets are dependent on supporter donations.

Cheques must now be made out to Canadian Mennonite University and designated to the MHC Gallery.

donation options:

- by cheques payable to Canadian Mennonite University, MHC Gallery on the memo line, mailed to 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
- online at cmu.ca/donate (by credit or debit card)
- make a monthly commitment using the online portal or by contacting Connie Wiebe at cwiebe@cmu.ca or 204.487.3300, ext. 344
- bring a donation when you visit the gallery in person