



Joseph Koensgen, *Forest Patrol*

*Six artists, six different styles, one subject: Conservation. The artists in this exhibition work in very different ways to depict beauty, grief, the complex relationship between a medium and the world. Their works document the changes they are witnessing in a world of plants and animals they love. Each artist's work stands in dialogue with the others to create an exhibition that dialogues in turn with us, the viewers.*

**Joseph Koensgen** is a Winnipeg artist with a passion for nature and wildlife. His keen interest in nature, combined with his artistic talent, meant that from a young age he was drawing and painting the animals he saw around him. Being self-taught, he has grown his talent into creating unique wildlife paintings that he hopes will connect people with the natural world. The underlying tone of his art is that of conservation, and a need to protect the beautiful and untouched parts of the earth. His hope is to start a dialogue about conservation through meaningful and creative pieces of art that show the beauty of nature and wildlife.



Chris Larsen, *Fog*

Being a Metis artist from rural Manitoba, **Chris Larsen** lives in the land of her ancestors, the birthplace of the Metis Nation.

What motivates her is the science of the natural world. With a deep connection to the land, she draws inspiration from the place where she lives beside the forest and the Boyne River.

## CHANGING WORLD a dialogue on conservation

**Joseph Koensgen Chris Larsen Jodi Hildebrand  
 Bill Nitzsche Ovid Charlette Juls Rempel**

**November 15 - January 18  
 OPENING Nov 15, 7:30pm**

A visit to her River's Edge Studio inspires artists and nature lovers alike. It is a sanctuary where the voice of the forest and song of the river come together with evocative work driven by the ancestral search for meaning and belonging. Workshops and events are held here year round.

Chris has exhibited throughout the prairies of Canada and her work can be found internationally. She has helped develop a mentorship program for high school students in rural Manitoba to work with professional artists to gain credits. Chris has been awarded the Queen Elisabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for her contribution to the arts.

**Jodi Hildebrand** produces brightly coloured and expressionistic work while also revealing subtle undertones of political and social commentary. These messages can at first be lost to a viewer who may be dazzled by the multitude of colours and stylized subject matter, however, her work deals with ecological, feminist, and economic matters. Hildebrand obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 2000. Her work tackles contemporary issues while expressing the wonder and complexity of living in relationship with other living beings.



Jodi Hildebrand, *Broadcast Receive*

**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, see the ways to donate at the bottom of the following page.

**Bill Nitzsche** is inspired by nature itself to create his one-of-a-kind furniture, bowls, cutting boards and carvings from the forests around him. Bill is always on the look out for a salvaged tree and is ready to give it a second life.

Bill captures the wonder of wood in his natural-finish carvings and has won several awards at various competitions across North America.



**Bill Nitzsche, Barn Swallows**



**Juls Rempel, Plankton**

For **Julia (Juls) Rempel** art is a means of giving voice to or grappling with issues. The subtitle for her submissions, "the Making of Ghosts," speaks to losses the world is experiencing due to the climate crisis. Using a combination of oil pastel, ink and etching, in this exhibit she explores the teardrop shape as a means of evoking memories of tears that speak to the sorrow underlying the effects of the climate crisis on our freshwater and oceans, and the life they support.

**Ovid Charlette** at 60 years of age is a long established, highly regarded painter. His work is obviously Indigenous and at the same time entirely his own. Relying on his knowledge of traditions and a willingness to be open and vulnerable, Ovid probes deeply into his subject matter. His complex paintings are often layered with multiple meanings. There is always something to discover beyond the obvious in his precisely executed artworks. His interest in the ancient traditions of his people – searching for meaning, healing, looking to teach and to learn – and his ability to create thought-provoking, unique pieces makes Ovid a perfect fit for this exhibition.



**Ovid Charlette, The Charity of Sons**

## Next

*Repair and Maintenance of the Watery Earth and her Lovers*, a multimedia exhibition being brought together by Bob Haverluck opens Fri. Jan. 24, 7:30pm.

## Call for Submissions

*Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence 2*

**DEADLINE: Feb. 25, 2020. Submit up to a maximum of two artworks for consideration**

**INQUIRIES:** Ms. Isabel Cheer [isabelcheer@gmail.com](mailto:isabelcheer@gmail.com); Dr. Zita Somakoko [somacam77@gmail.com](mailto:somacam77@gmail.com)

*Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence* was a one day exhibition at the WAG in 2018. The success of that one day event has led to a second exhibition to run during a full exhibition cycle at the MHC Gallery, opening March 20, 2020. "Manitoba consistently recorded the highest rate of intimate partner violence in Canada, nearly double the Canadian rate according to Statistics Canada in 2015." For more information, go to <https://www.cmu.ca/gallery/exhibits.php?s=breakingthesilence>

**Our annual fundraiser**, Oct. 18, attended by 200 plus people, was a wonderful evening of song, words, art, conversation and food. Ask anyone who was there! It was an inspiring evening. **You can still donate!**

We need more supporters to be inspired to donate to the gallery so we can end the year on a high note. Please, help this unique institution continue to thrive. **Missed the fundraiser? Here is video of the program:** <https://youtu.be/YDfvPsfwKps>

## 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](mailto:rdirks@cmu.ca) for exhibition information.

## Mailing list

To receive information on all upcoming exhibitions join our mailing list by contacting Selenna Wolfe at [swolfe@cmu.ca](mailto:swolfe@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 **MHCGallery** is a program of Canadian Mennonite University. It is 100% funded, from hammers and nails to salaries, by donations. Your support is what keeps the gallery alive.

### donation options:

- by cheques payable to Canadian Mennonite University, **MHCGallery** on the memo line, mailed to 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
- online at [cmu.ca/donate](https://cmu.ca/donate) (by credit or debit card) See drop down tab to designate the gallery.
- make a monthly commitment using the online portal or by contacting Selenna Wolfe at [swolfe@cmu.ca](mailto:swolfe@cmu.ca) or 204 487-3300, ext. 344
- bring a donation when you visit the gallery in person