

# BREAKING THE SILENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE<sup>2</sup>

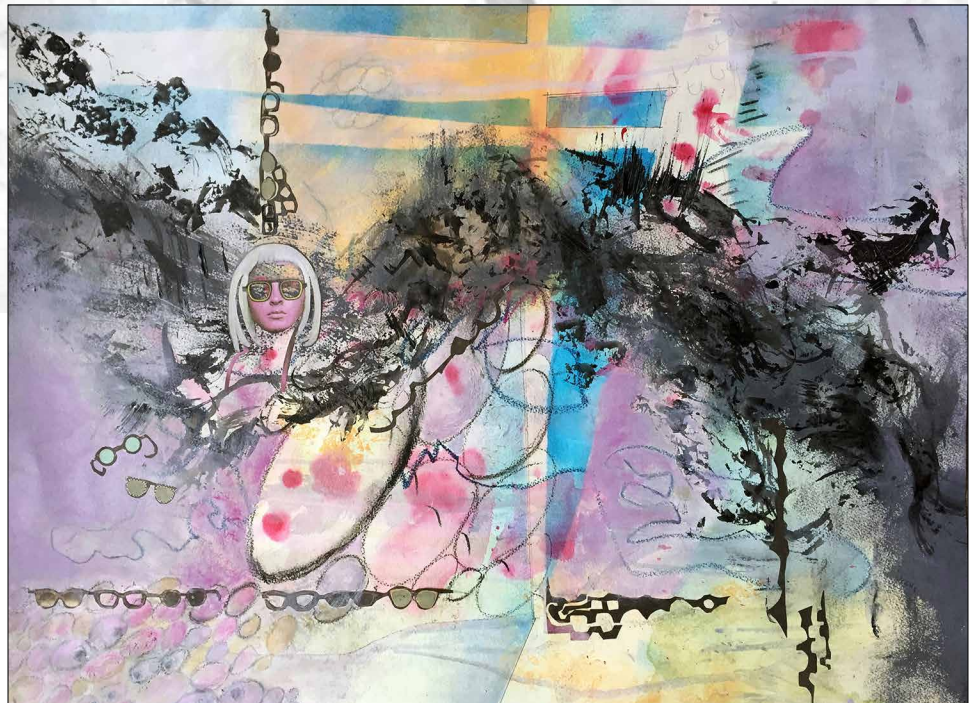
## Group Exhibition

MHCGALLERY, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.

March 20 – May 2, 2020

**OPENING Fri., March 20, 7:30pm**

"MANITOBA CONSISTENTLY RECORDED THE HIGHEST RATE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN CANADA, WITH A POLICE-REPORTED RATE OF 896 VICTIMS PER 100,000 CITIZENS, NEARLY DOUBLE THE CANADIAN RATE OF 482 PER 100,000, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA'S FAMILY VIOLENCE IN CANADA REPORT." a 2019 statistical profile



### From the gallery

In November 2018 a one day exhibition event took place at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence was initiated by Dr. Zita Somakoko and Isabel Cheer. They along with a group of other volunteers made something happen which they had never imagined doing previously. The event was powerful and artists were keen to participate.

Eventually Zita came to me asking if the gallery would be interested in the art. I said yes, so long as it could be on display for an entire exhibition timeslot.

Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence<sup>2</sup> comes out of our conversation. Artists from the previous showing and new ones in addition are exhibiting their works. The exhibit is powerful, disturbing, honest and comes with the hope that more will be done to protect those of all ages dealing with domestic abuse.

*Ray Dirks*

### Breaking the Silence

Dr. Deborah-Zita Somakoko founded the organization Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence in Manitoba in 2015 after the senseless and horrible murders of two women in Winnipeg at the hands of their intimate partners (husband and common law) in October 2015. She then organized the very first religious forum on breaking

### *Can't see for looking, Jane Gateson*

the silence on domestic violence in Manitoba in November 2015, to begin a conversation with our religious and community leaders on breaking our silence on violence against women and girls in our province.

Since then Deborah-Zita has held numerous and various awareness events against violence against women and girls throughout Manitoba. She trains and speaks to a wide variety of audiences including junior and high school students, religious leaders, health care professionals and educators, as well as in business and community forums on the subject of domestic violence and on what each of us can do to make a difference within our own context to keep our families safe and potentially prevent a homicide.

As a survivor of both childhood and adult domestic violence and abuse, Deborah-Zita strongly advocates for victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. The exhibition Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence<sup>2</sup>

**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.

is a follow up to a powerful one day event held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 2018. The MHC Gallery exhibition is another opportunity initiated by Deborah-Zita to speak out against domestic violence and in support of those who suffer. Together with Isabel Cheer and other volunteers, the hope and prayer is that this exhibition makes a difference, is a step forward in breaking the silence.

*Special thanks to exhibition organizers Dr. Deborah-Zita Somakoko, Isabel Cheer and all other volunteers; with assistance of the MHC GALLERY.*

## Public Forum & Conversation **Religion and Family Violence: Understanding the Challenges and Working for Change**

with Dr. Catherine Holtmann

Director of the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research (MMFC) and Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton; academic chair of the Religion and Violence research team and of the Violence Against Immigrant and Visible Minority Women research team at the MMFC

Hosted by

Breaking the Silence on Domestic Violence

Monday, March 30, 1:00pm

### **Conference Room**

Canadian Mennonite University (south campus)

**RSVP:** [breakingsilencedv@gmail.com](mailto:breakingsilencedv@gmail.com)



*Dolls, Eveline Mangin Mauws*

## *Events at the Gallery connected with Mother Earth and her Lovers' Repair and Maintenance*

**Workshop, Saturday, March 7.** BUILDING AN ECOLOGICAL ACTIVIST BOOK OF SONGS, STORIES & POEMS. Come for a day of performances & workshops, listening and small group conversations, as we are showered with the best songs, stories and poems about the WATERY ANIMALLY EARTH and surrounded by more than 60 artworks. Her wonders, her wounding, her defence and her mending will be sung and said with the help of SINGERS Don AMERO, Greg ALLEN; STORYTELLERS Cree Elder Stan MCKAY, Jamie OLIVIERO; POETS Dennis COOLEY, Karen CLAVELLE, ARTISTS Mirae YOUNG and Bob HAVERLUCK. **Cost:** \$20 for the day, including lunch and snacks. **To register,** contact Selenna Wolfe at 204 487-3300, Ext 344 or [swolfe@cmu.ca](mailto:swolfe@cmu.ca)  
**COFFEE HOUSE, 2-4:30, Sunday, March 8.** SONGS, POEMS, STORIES with Don AMERO, Dennis COOLEY, Jamie OLIVIERO, Greg ALLEN, Gerry WOLFRAM, Bob HAVERLUCK

### **Next**

Exhibition by Winnipeg artist and journalist Rhonda Spivak, May 8-June 20.

### **Donations**

A friendly reminder. The gallery needs donations year-round, not just at the time of the fundraiser. Your support any time of the year is most appreciated.

### **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 MHC Gallery 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, MHC Gallery on the memo line, mailed to 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
- online at [cmu.ca/donate](http://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