

WHO AM I? A RETROSPECTIVE 1997- 2022

May 6 - June 18

Opening May 6, 7:30pm

(masks required)

Milos Milidrag is an international artist who was born in former Yugoslavia. Until 1997 he served as a professor of fresco and mosaic at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Pristina (now Republic of Kosovo).

In 1997 Milos arrived in Canada as a war refugee on an UNHCR visa. He became a Canadian citizen in 2001. As a freelance artist, he has had solo shows in Winnipeg, Berlin, Krakow, Belgrade, Sarajevo, among others. He has participated in than 300 group shows. His works are kept in museums, galleries and private collections in Europe and Canada. See more about him at milosmilidrag.com

Milos writes: I have been painting for 45 years now; neither a short nor a long time. During this time, I have gone through several phases and stylistic directions, changing in accordance with major developments in my journey through life. In the 80s and 90s my work was primarily experimenting with colour and shape and reflecting my responses to the world around me.

A new phase begun with my arrival in Canada in 1997, a phase full of questions and searches for answers. Later, moving through questions such as Who am I? Why am I here? Where is this road taking me? to more figural work in tribute to things unjustly forgotten and to woman as the point of primordial origin of all that is of value, my most recent work ignores the outside world and focuses on purely abstract colour exercises. The paintings have been freed from any commentary on current or past events. They are contemplative to the point of religiosity. Bearing a unique title of "Listening to Silence," they help me to find the meaning of existence. Although, that is also a kind of rebellion, is it not?



Milos Milidrag *Forgotten Flowers, No:2, 2014*



Milos Milidrag *Listening to Silence, No:5, 2016*



Milos Milidrag *In the Garden, No:7, 2021*



Greetings from our new curator

Greetings and thank you for trusting me with this opportunity at MHC Gallery! I believe that art is like a good story: nuanced, layered, and with meanings that shift and grow as we, ourselves grow. I have spent most of my career discovering and sharing art stories by exploring relationships: relationships to each other, to the world around us, and, importantly, to art.

Throughout this journey I have worked to create safe spaces for artistic exploration in my photography classrooms at PrairieView School of Photography; engaged in enriching dialogue with diverse audiences as the Public Art Tour Coordinator with the Winnipeg Arts Council; and delved into museum practices new and old as a graduate student at the University of Winnipeg's Master of Arts Curatorial Practices program. My own arts practice focuses on photography, but above all I value the stories and relationships created through expression of all kinds.

These past few years have been an unprecedented time of transition and I look forward to the ways that I can

continue to build relationship and sustainability across spaces, communities, and media into the gallery's future. I am particularly grateful for the leadership and gentle guidance provided by Ray Dirks and the gallery's Advisory Committee during this time. And, of course, thank you for your continued support! Should you like to talk further, I'm available at the gallery on Tuesdays and Thursdays or anytime via email at: shodges-kolisnyk@cmu.ca. I hope to see you at the gallery soon.

Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk



This newsletter is moving in the direction of going online. You have 3 choices. 1) If you are able and willing please send us your email address so we can add it to our email list, 2) you can continue to receive paper copies, or 3) you can unsubscribe. In all three cases, please contact us at mhcgallery@cmu.ca or call Selenna Wolfe at 204 487-3300, ext 344.

NEXT: June 24 - Sept 17: Mennonite Village Photography, a collection of photographs from four Manitoba Mennonite Villages, 1890 to 1940

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 swolfe@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 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 (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 or 204 487-3300, ext. 344
- bring a donation when you visit the gallery in person