

***Ukraine: Close to Home* by Margaret Shaw-MacKinnon**  
***Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico***  
**produced by Mennonite Heritage Village, the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada & the Plett Foundation**

Opening March 10 at 7:30 pm | Exhibition from March 10 - April 29



Baba Yaga Coming Through a Portal, Margaret Shaw-MacKinnon



School in Blumenfeld, Man ca 1925, Mennonite Heritage Archive

**Home is a complicated concept...**one quick search of the Oxford Dictionary reveals that we use the word interchangeably to refer to everything from objects and property to people, communities and even nationhood! Two new exhibitions at MHCGallery engage notions of home, particularly its definition as "the town, district, country, etc. that you come from, or where you are living and that you feel you belong to."

*Leaving Canada: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico* is a travelling exhibition produced by Mennonite Heritage Village, the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, and the Plett Foundation. Presented with support from the Mennonite Heritage Archives, it tells the story of the nearly 8000 Mennonites who left Canada in the 1920s to start new lives in Mexico and Paraguay. When 'home' in Canada started to signify tension between the obligations of citizenship and the religious, linguistic and educational rights of their community, these Mennonites sought a new solution to preserve their faith and culture.

*Ukraine: Close to Home* is Margaret Shaw-MacKinnon's visual song to her grandparents. As Ukrainian immigrants who came to Canada in the First Wave of immigration in the 1890's, Senko and Pasia...

...con't over

...Kaczkowski experienced an atmosphere of intolerance and discrimination all too common for those who are perceived to be “different”. For Shaw-MacKinnon, the hardships experienced by her ancestors hold a particular resonance in light of the current conflict. Her folk-art aesthetic incorporates symbols and stories both familiar and striking; linking private and public stories, past and present experiences that many will connect with.

Together, these two exhibitions engage a dynamic conversation about home, tackling competing ideas of coming/leaving; lost/preserved; memory/legacy; determination/assimilation; freedom/citizenship. The stories explored in *Leaving Canada* and *Ukraine: Close to Home* echo through the years; the concepts are still as relevant today as at the turn of the century. In a divisive world marked by a current conflict in Ukraine, viewers are ultimately invited to consider the joy, hope, and spirit that shines through trauma and the meaning of calling a place a home.

### **Call to Artists: 2024 Exhibition Proposals**

Are you planning to exhibit your art in 2024? Consider MHC Gallery! We are open to proposals of new or retrospective work from individual artists, artist collectives, curators and collaborations working in all visual art mediums. MHC Gallery offers CARFAC fees to exhibiting artists. **The deadline to apply is April 1, 2023.** More information at [cmu.ca/gallery](http://cmu.ca/gallery)

MHC Gallery is located at Canadian Mennonite University, however, artists do not need to be of a particular faith tradition or cultural background to apply. We are committed to the inclusion of diverse voices recognize and perspectives. MHC Gallery encourages the exchange of culture, faith, spirituality, and creativity. We believe that through artistic expression we can get to know one another, respect, understand and accept each other.

### **Support the Gallery**

MHC Gallery is a program of Canadian Mennonite University. It is primarily funded through donations. Please consider donating by cheque (include MHC Gallery on the memo line); online at [cmu.ca/donate](http://cmu.ca/donate) (designate the gallery via the drop down menu) or in-person when you visit the Gallery.

Monthly donations support long-term planning at the Gallery!

### **Thank you! Your donations, large and small, help this unique gallery thrive!**

Gifts of time are also appreciated. Please consider bringing a friend to an upcoming exhibit, sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts or volunteering at the Gallery.

Arts and Facts: Discovering Israel's Dayan Women  
by Rhonda Spivak  
May 5 - June 17, 2023

### **We Are Moving Online**

Please send us your current email address if you would like to go paperless. Join our email list by contacting [mhcgallery@cmu.ca](mailto:mhcgallery@cmu.ca) or 204 487-3300 ext. 344

### **MHC Gallery Connect:**

Visit: 610 Shaftsbury Blvd

Mail: 500 Shaftsbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2

Phone: 204.487.3300 ext. 346 | Email: [MHC\\_Gallery@cmu.ca](mailto:MHC_Gallery@cmu.ca)

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