

CANVASs

Volume XXVII, No. 1, January - February, 2024

Located on the south campus of Canadian Mennonite University @ 610 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba

a free bi-monthly newsletter of
MHCGALLERY

A Gallery of Canadian Mennonite University

M-F 8:30 - 4:30 | Sat. 12 - 5

FROM
TO

HERE THERE

A RETROSPECTIVE IN PAINT - CLAY - GLASS

My hands
have a
voice



ALVIN PAULS

Jan. 19 - Feb. 24
Opening: Friday
Jan. 19, 7:30pm



Time Jars; Alvin Pauls (1987)

From Here to There celebrates the life and work of Manitoba artist Alvin Pauls. MHC Gallery has worked closely with the artist, now in his 80s, to mount this first-ever major retrospective of Al's work, which showcases his diverse artistic skills in painting, clay and glass media. The exhibition opens on January 19 at 7:30 pm and will feature original pottery and painting artworks as well as full-scale reproductions of some of Al's well-known, large mural pieces.

Al's artistic journey began with a fine art degree focused on painting at the University of Manitoba in 1967. The son of a Mennonite Bishop, Al's work often focused on topics of faith, expressed through visual elements like line and colour. He spent the early part of his career as a high-school teacher and leading painting lessons in the evening. However, his interest in working with clay continued to grow, leading to him founding Sounding Stone, a pottery school, supplier, and giftware shop in 1972. Al's passion for teaching art and pottery, combined with his wife Judith's gift for business and retail soon grew the Sounding Stone to be a household name.

The family business continued to expand, and with additional family members coming on board to support the Sounding Stone, Al was able to take on many new artistic projects and commissions in the 1970's and 80s. This period included some of his most ambitious works, including his "Apostolic Twelve" mural and Time Jars to mark Bethel Mennonite Church's 50th Anniversary in 1987. He also created new expressive stained glass windows for the Church in 2008.

A Little History in Our 25th Season

Ken Reddig, Mennonite historian and archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives from 1997-1999, was central to the creation of the gallery as it is today. He secured funding to enclose the gable, creating an expanded space, and hired our founding director, Ray Dirks, in 1998. This history remains today in our name - MHC (Mennonite Heritage Centre) Gallery. Working with a stunning but undeveloped space, Ray "figured out how to bring the architecture and the art together", according to Ken. Initial planning involved securing funding for 3 years of programming. The success of these first years provided the momentum to continue. While the gallery became a separate entity in 2017, we continue to be close neighbours and occasional collaborators with the Archives - such as with the Mennonite Village Photography exhibit in 2022. Ken continues to be active in the Mennonite history community and currently sits on the board of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada.



Ken Reddig in the Mennonite Heritage Archives in 1986. Mennonite Archival Information Database. CA CMBS NS12-01-71.

Coming up...

Brushstrokes and Bluewords

by Christine Stewart-Nuñez and Pauline Aitken

Water: Above & Between Below

by Cheryl Zubrack

March 1-April 13

*watch for special events to mark World Poetry Day and World Water Day! *

Support the Gallery

MHC Gallery is a program of Canadian Mennonite University primarily funded through donations. Please consider donating by cheque (include MHC Gallery on the memo line), online at 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!


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 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 cmu.ca/gallery

 /mhcgallerymanitoba

 @mhcgallery