

sightlines

June to November, 2021

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program
Region 2 - Northeast and North Central Alberta, Art Gallery of Alberta



Alberta



Hello Neighbour!

From 1968 to 2001 PBS broadcast the children's television show Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, created and hosted by Fred Rogers. Focusing on children's moral and ethical reasoning, the programs taught children about civility, tolerance, sharing and self-worth and each episode always began with Rogers saying 'hello neighbour' to his audience and inviting them into his neighbourhood.

Many TREX exhibitions do much the same, inviting viewers into different communities and the neighbourhoods of art and artists, allowing a glimpse of how others live and how artists' think and create. The new TREX exhibition **...bring a folding chair** introduces viewers to artists who are literally their neighbours but whose stories may be unfamiliar. Featuring artworks by Elsa Robinson, Braxton Garneau, AJA Louden and Fetsum Teclamarium, the works in this exhibition honour the heritage, history and talents of Black citizens and artists in Alberta and Canada.



Born in Canada but primarily raised in Jamaica, **Elsa Robinson** has called Edmonton home for the past 30+ years. Describing herself as a multi-media artist, Robinson views art as a way to communicate spiritual values, questions and concepts.

Elsa Robinson
Honouring The Ancestors, 2021, Mixed media textile
Collection of the artist

For Robinson the title of the TREX exhibition **...bring a folding chair** speaks to the fact that she is seen as a black woman and what it means to be walking in her skin colour in Alberta and whether or not she has been 'invited to the party'. As stated by the artist:

I am in a position where I am constantly analyzing the 'invitation' and am constantly adjusting my thoughts and actions in response to the invitation I perceive in any moment. The title (of the exhibition) says to me 'even though I wasn't invited to the party, come to the party and establish my presence at it'. By making the work and presenting it I am establishing myself in the community: I am at the party.

Colour and shape are integral to the meaning of Robinson's works. For the artist, the colour black represents strength, mystery and creation. Gold, meanwhile, represents purity, value, wealth and richness. In creating her works, which speak to herself as a black woman, she thus decided to pair the two colours. As indicated by the artist, her art works address her skill and strength in successfully staying present at the 'party', regardless of the nature of the invitation.

Braxton Garneau was born and raised in Edmonton and is primarily a 'representational' and figurative artist. As expressed by Garneau, his art practice allows for two main things. First, it enables him to share things that he might not be able to do verbally and in sharing, have an effect on peoples' lives. As Garneau states:

I think it's beautiful to share experiences that not everyone has access to. Art provides exposure: the more someone is exposed to people that don't look like them or have the same experiences or ideas, the more a person is able to empathize. Art allows for conversations that may not regularly come up.

Secondly, art allows the artist to examine his own life:

My art is also a way for me to distill my own experiences and it's through art that I digest information.

For the exhibition **...bring a folding chair** Braxton Garneau aims to share the history and experiences of Black Canadians, specifically in Alberta. Inspired by archival research, Garneau's portraits will be a 'response' to the archives. As he states:

We've always been at the table, but the story hasn't always been recognized or appreciated and acknowledged. My work is about being heard and being seen and the more we tell these unique stories, the more they become everyone's story.



Braxton Garneau, *Dine*, 2021, Oil on canvas
Courtesy of the artist



AJA Louden was born in Calgary and raised outside of Cochrane, Alberta. As he indicates, the title of this exhibition is a useful prompt to what he considers in his work and in his art practice. As expressed by this artist:

AJA Louden
Claiming A Chair, 2021, Mixed media on panel
Private Collection

(The title) talks about me showing up with my own seat: as a person showing up not expecting or needing a place set for me but showing up with my own seat. People who look like me have been hidden...the Black story has been hidden; representing faces of people of colour and speaking to the experiences of people of colour - either people in positions of power or as central figures - (is my way) of making sure that our stories as people of colour are seen as part of the public story or narrative. Bringing a seat to the table involves just showing up: being visible and being heard.

Speaking to this particular TREX exhibition and Black Lives Matter protests in North America and elsewhere, Louden eloquently and forcefully states:

I'm tired of asking for a place as we've asked for years. Now I'm just bringing my chair.

The final artist featured in the exhibition **...bring a folding chair** is **Fetsum Teclamarium**. Born in Eritrea in 1972 into a traditional farming family, Teclamarium developed his drawing and painting skills from direct observation of nature and nature has been his guide both in art and in life.



Fetsum Teclamarium, *Unlimited Travel*, 2020
Oil on canvas, Collection of the artist

Though he often focuses on the natural world as a subject in his works, Teclamarium does not limit himself to this and his work is influenced by many concerns such the urban and natural topography of where he lives, his cultural heritage and the concerns of the society he is in. In speaking of the exhibition **...bring a folding chair** and the fact of being an artist of African heritage in Alberta, Teclamarium draws a parallel between being a refugee in Canada, racial relations and the act of painting itself. As expressed by the artist:

When I'm mixing the colours for my paintings, something becomes beautiful through a connection with the other colours around it. A colour by itself is nothing. For example, in order for white to 'shine' it needs another colour either in front or behind it. This is natural and if you block yourself from this simplicity you get stuck. Beauty comes from the harmony of colours, just as the beauty in life comes from mixing and learning from each other.

Exhibition Schedule June to November, 2021

Exhibition	June 24 - July 21	July 29 - August 25	Sept. 2 - Sept. 29	October 7 - Nov. 3
<p>The Male Gaze The travelling exhibition The Male Gaze presents the work of three male artists from Edmonton who investigate male subjects and concerns as themes in their work; exploring concepts of gender and what it means or could mean to be 'a man'. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>CARFAC Alberta 3rd Floor, 10215-112 Street Edmonton, AB., Contact: Chris Carson Phone: 780-421-1731</p>	<p>Fox Creek Library 103 - 2a Avenue Fox Creek, AB., Contact: Mandy Miskelly Phone: 780-622-2343</p>	<p>Travels to TREX Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie</p>	
<p>...fire and frost The exhibition ...fire and frost presents the work of three contemporary artists who document past and present experiences, objects and places to awaken memories universal to us all. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>Morinville Museum 10010-101 Street Morinville, AB., Contact: Donna Garrett Phone: 780-939-3925</p>	<p>St. Albert Public Library 5 St. Anne, St. Albert Place St. Albert, AB., Contact: Michelle Steinhusen Phone: 780-459-1687</p>	<p>Travels to TREX Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie</p>	
<p>The Rush and Roar! The 1920s were a pivotal decade in human history, ushering in political, economic, social and cultural changes which continue to impact contemporary society. This exhibition presents art works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts which reflect these changes and provide context for the tumult of this present time. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>Alice Melnyk Public Library 5009 Diefenbaker Ave., Two Hills, AB., Contact: Betty Lou Kobe Phone: 780-657-3553</p>	<p>Onoway Public Library 4708 Lac St. Anne Trail North Onoway, AB., Contact: Kelly Huxley Phone: 780-967-2445</p>	<p>Travels to TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat</p>	
<p>Turtle Island The Woodland School of Art, developed by Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau, has influenced Indigenous artists throughout Canada since the 1960s. The exhibition Turtle Island bears witness to this as this style is expressed in the drawings and paintings of three contemporary Indigenous artists from central Alberta. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p> <p></p>	<p>Ponoka Jubilee Library 5604-50 Street Ponoka, AB., Contact: Dan Galway Phone: 403-790-1980</p>	<p>Barrhead Public Library 5103-53 Ave., Barrhead, AB., Contact: Elaine Dickie Phone: 780-674-8519</p>	<p>Victoria School of the Arts 10210-108 Ave., Edmonton, AB., Contact: David Cameron Phone: 780-426-3010</p>	<p>Belgravia Elementary School 11605-74 Ave., Edmonton, AB., Contact: Brent Irving Phone: 780-435-5560</p>
<p>Life Lit Up This exhibition, featuring works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, explores the influence of chiaroscuro and tenebrism on photographers from Alberta. Using dramatic contrasts between areas of black and white, these artists expose the 'wonder' and beauty of the ordinary. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>Calmar Public Library 4705-50 Ave., Calmar, AB., Contact: Susan Parkinson Phone: 780-985-3472</p>	<p>Devon Public Library 101-17 Athabasca Ave., Devon, AB., Contact: Kami Rosentreter Phone: 780-987-3720</p>	<p>Retires TREX Region 2 Art Gallery of Alberta</p>	
<p>Aakíí isskská'takssin (Woman - thought) This photography series is designed to expand the interpretation of story within contemporary art practice of artists with Blackfoot heritage. The work of the featured artists aims to foster a deeper awareness of the complexities of Indigenous identity. Curated by Jennifer Bowen and organized by TREX Region 2</p> <p></p>	<p>Slave Lake Public Library 50 Main Street SW Slave Lake, AB., Contact: Kendra McRee Phone: 780-849-5250</p>	<p>Lacombe Memorial Centre 5214-50 Ave., Lacombe, AB., Contact: Maureen MacKenzie Phone: 403-782-5655</p>	<p>Ponoka Jubilee Library 5604-50 Street Ponoka, AB., Contact: Don Galway Phone: 403-783-3843</p>	<p>Davidson Creek Elem. School 360 Davenport Drive Sherwood Park, AB., Contact: Kaye Schindeler Phone: 780-467-5557</p>
<p>A Cordial Word Flowers have been a common theme explored by artists for millennia. This exhibition, featuring works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, shines a spotlight on flowers and the flower garden and invites viewers to reflect on the beauty, fragility and importance of these natural wonders. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>In Development TREX Region 2 Art Gallery of Alberta</p>		<p>Robert Rundle Elem. School 50A Grosvenor Blvd., St. Albert, AB., Contact: Suzanne Weir Phone: 780-459-4475</p>	<p>H.W. Pickup School 3505-58 Ave., Drayton Valley, AB., Contact: Scott Kupsch Phone: 780-542-4495</p>
<p>Now is the winter... Canadians are exposed to a wide range of climatic conditions experienced within four distinct seasons in a year. The travelling exhibition Now is the Winter... examines one of these seasons: winter. This exhibition features art works by Edmonton artist aAron Munson and works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Curated by Shane Golby, Art Gallery of Alberta</p>	<p>In Development TREX Region 2 Art Gallery of Alberta</p>		<p>Elmer Elson School 4215 Geinger Ave., Mayerthorpe, AB., Contact: Sherry Shaw Phone: 780-786-2268</p>	<p>W.P. Wagner School 6310 Wagner Rd., Edmonton, AB., Contact: Rebecca Marcus Phone: 780-469-1315</p>
<p>...bring a folding chair Though people of African and Caribbean heritage have been in what is now Canada since the earliest days of colonization, their inclusion in the political, economic social and cultural landscapes of the country has been limited. The exhibition ...bring a folding chair recognizes the significant contributions Black Canadian artists make to Alberta and gives voice to our common humanity. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2</p>	<p>In Development TREX Region 2 Art Gallery of Alberta</p>		<p>Ardmore School 4801-48 Ave, Ardmore, AB., Contact: Evelyn Bourbeau Phone: 780-826-5144</p>	<p>Gallery @501 #120, 501 Festival Avenue Sherwood Park, AB., Contact: Kristene Miller Phone: 780-410-8582</p>
<p>Heaven Can Wait Heaven Can Wait is a series of works by Medicine Hat-based artist Roy Caussy. Inspired by Caussy's love of colour and pop-culture references, these drawings conjure nostalgia for the mid-1990s. At first glance reminiscent of trendy genre posters, they bring a lightness to our society's current pandemic heaviness. Curated by Xanthe Isbister, TREX Region 4</p>	<p>Travelling TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat</p>		<p>Archbishop Jordan CHS 4001 Emerald Dr., Sherwood Park, AB., Contact: Greg Lakeman Phone: 780-467-2121</p>	<p>Two Hills School 4806-51 Ave., Two Hills, AB., Contact: Mirela Olah Phone: 780-657-3383</p>
<p>Visiting with Memory Visiting with Memory is a solo exhibition by Lindsey Bond which draws on an archive of her family's photographs to explore a multitude of worlds; human and more-than-human, past, present and future, personal and cosmic. It begins with the story of a single family and unfolds into a much larger conversation. Curated by Genevieve Farrell, TREX Region 4</p>	<p>Travelling TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre, Medicine Hat</p>		<p>Spruce Grove Public Library 35-5th Ave., Spruce Grove, AB., Contact: Courtney Entner Phone: 780-962-4423</p>	<p>Lougheed Centre 4501-50 Street Camrose, AB., Contact: Jane Cherry-Lemire</p>
<p>Women X Women Featuring works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, this exhibition explores the female psyche through the eyes of women artists from Alberta. Curated by Xanthe Isbister, TREX Region 4</p>	<p>In storage/Art Gallery of Alberta</p>	<p>Slave Lake Public Library 50 Main Street SW Slave Lake, AB., Contact: Kendra McRee Phone: 780-849-5250</p>	<p>Travels to TREX Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie</p>	
<p>In Good Company In 1953 Calgary artist John Snow purchased two lithography presses from a printing company. Mastering the lithographic process, Snow create hundreds of expressive prints over his fifty-year career and acted as mentor to many of his contemporaries. This exhibition reflects his lasting 'imprint' on Alberta art. Curated by Shannon Bingeman, TREX Region 3</p>	<p>Travelling TREX Region 3 Alberta Society of Artists Calgary</p>	<p>Slave Lake Public Library 50 Main Street SW Slave Lake, AB., Contact: Kendra McRee Phone: 780-849-5250</p>	<p>Barrhead Public Library 5103-53 Ave., Barrhead, AB., Contact: Elaine Dickie Phone: 780-674-8519</p>	<p>Lacombe Memorial Centre 5214-50 Ave., Lacombe, AB., Contact: Maureen MacKenzie Phone: 403-782-1258</p>

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<p>Creatures What is real and what is not real? Imaginary animals may not have a place in modern zoology, but their endurance in our contemporary mythologies indicates something very real about human need. The exhibition Creatures features 19 artworks of fantastical beings primarily from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts by seven artists. Curated by Shannon Bingeman, TREC Region 3</p>	<p>Travelling TREC Region 3 Alberta Society of Artists Calgary</p>		<p>Caslan School 4903-50 Ave., Caslan, AB., Contact: David Skoglund Phone: 780-689-2118</p>	<p>Ecole Kenneth Kearns 8 Sandpiper Drive Sherwood Park, AB., Contact: Jacqueline Dargis-Boucher Phone: 780-467-7135</p>
<p>The Animal Responded In this exhibition artist Philip Kanwisher presents nine photographs and five drawings inspired by his encounters with wildlife in Alberta, Yukon Territory, Eastern Canada and Svalbard. This initial meeting, however, is just the beginning of his practice. Curated by Shannon Bingeman, TREC Region 3</p>	<p>Leduc Public Library #2 Alexandra Park Leduc, AB., Contact: Linda McLean Phone: 780-986-2637</p>	<p>Killam Public Library 5007-49 Ave., Killam, AB., Contact: Barb Cox Phone: 780-385-3032</p>	<p>Travels to TREC Region 3 Alberta Society of Artists Calgary</p>	
<p>What Lies Beyond All the world's religions have made vast contributions to the imagery, materials, titles, and metaphors for God and spirituality. Drawing influence from typical religious iconography, indigenous spirit animals, as well as more abstract interpretations this exhibition encourages the viewer to meditate on what they consider to be spiritual, where their beliefs lie, and what the nature of reality really means. Curated by Danielle Ribar, TREC Region 1</p>	<p>Travelling TREC Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie</p>		<p>Lilian Schick School 4509-54 Ave., Bon Accord, AB., Contact: Shelley Greenwood Phone: 780-921-2200</p>	<p>G.H. Primeau School 811 Grandin Drive Morinville, AB., Contact: Sharon Van Brabant Phone: 780-939-3593</p>
<p>Permanence of Ink The use of ink in art to reflect on themes of mortality, mythology, religion and spirituality is an age-old practice. This exhibition features the works of four artists who use ink to explore these very human themes. Curated by Danielle Ribar, TREC Region 1</p>	<p>Viking Municipal Library 4920-53 Ave., Viking, AB., Contact: Barb Chrystian Phone: 780-336-4992</p>	<p>Town of Ponoka #200, 5604-50 Street Ponoka, AB., Contact: Val Somerville Phone: 403-783-0130</p>	<p>Travels to TREC Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie</p>	

Additional images from the exhibition ...bring a folding chair



AJA Louden
The Story of Dapper Dan, 2021
Mixed media on panel
Private Collection



Braxton Garneau
Amber Valley, 2021
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of the artist



Fetsum Teclmariam
Unity, 2019
Charcoal on paper
Collection of the artist



Elsa Robinson
Reflection, 2021
Mixed media textile
Collection of the artist