

Now is the winter...

Without question, Canada is a physically and visually dramatic place to live. Not only are Canadians blessed with one of the most varied landscapes on the planet, but we are also exposed to a wide range of climatic conditions experienced within four rather distinct seasons in a year. The travelling exhibition *Now is the Winter...* examines one of these seasons – winter – and through the art works included in this exhibition, presents varied considerations of this season and offers insights into its effects on the human psyche.

For some people, winter is a 'wonderland' of crisp sparkling snow magically sculpting the landscape. For others, it is a time of whistling, bitter winds which sweep over a 'dead' world. Some see winter as a time of fun and frolic whereas, for others, the season is a time of hibernation or, in some cases, desolation. These contrasting views of winter are encapsulated in the two distinct bodies of artwork presented in the exhibition *Now is the winter...*

The first grouping of art works concerns photographic images created by Edmonton artist aAron Munson. Munson's works revisit his father's experience living and working at Isachsen, a remote Arctic weather station, for a year in the 1970s. aAron Munson's photographs, produced during his own visit to Isachsen in April of 2016, present a region of Canada most Canadians will never see and a harrowing, though also beautiful, view of the harshest of Canadian landscapes and seasons. In contrast, the exhibition also presents ten works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts which offer very different views of this time of year.

The exhibition *Now is the winter...*, featuring art works by Edmonton artist aAron Munson and works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, presents winter in all its guises. From 'winter fun' to chilling vistas, the works in this exhibition take viewers into the heart of this season, inviting them to examine not only their personal relationships to the physical world but also to themselves.

The exhibition Now is the winter... was curated by Shane Golby and organized by the Art Gallery of Alberta for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program. The AFA TREX program is financially supported by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

FRONT COVER IMAGES
Top Image: Irene McCaugherty, *Visitors for Lunch*, 1995,
Watercolour on paper
Collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts
Bottom Image: aAron Munson, *Isachsen 08*, 2018
Photographic print
Collection of the artist



The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program

The Art Gallery of Alberta is pleased to present this travelling exhibition to venues throughout Alberta. Currently the Art Gallery of Alberta serves over 60 venues in approximately 35 communities. Exhibitions on tour from the Art Gallery of Alberta easily adapt to space requirements of smaller venues: schools, libraries, museums, health care centres and other community facilities. The exhibitions are organized in such a manner as to make unpacking, packing, hanging and shipping as easy as possible. Along with the exhibition, each venue receives an Educational Interpretive Guide. These materials enable teachers to use the exhibition within the school curriculum.

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Collection is the primary source of works featured in the travelling exhibitions. Other sources for exhibitions may include community partners, archives, private collections and loans from artists. Each year we welcome new venues to enrich their community art through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program.

Our Thanks

The artists

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts

and to the many individuals, organizations and communities who contribute to the success of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program each year.

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The Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program

Now is the winter...





Evelyn McBryan
Waiting for the School Bus, 1978
 Watercolour on paper
 Collection of the Alberta Foundation
 for the Arts

Evelyn McBryan came to Alberta with her family in 1918 and settled in Grande Prairie. She studied art from Euphemia McNaught, before attending the Vancouver School of Art in 1936 and subsequently taking several short courses at the University of Alberta from Doug Barry, H.G. Glyde and J.B. Taylor. Having once remarked; “An artist is a recorder and an interpreter of his time”, in 1942 she was commissioned along with Euphemia McNaught to document the building of the Alaska Highway through her art.

Among her many lifetime accomplishments, Mrs. McBryan worked tirelessly to make the Arts a reality in the country of the Peace, serving on the Provincial Board of Culture and the Visual Arts Board in 1960. In 1964, she became the Arts and Crafts Coordinator for the City of Grande Prairie, a position she held for ten years. She was appointed to the Alberta Art Foundation Board in 1973, where she established a school exhibition program and was responsible for organizing the Peace Region Arts Council that same year. In 1976 Mrs McBryan received the prestigious Alberta Achievement Award for her contributions to the province and on her death in 1985, the Prairie Art Gallery (now the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie) dedicated a room in her honour.



Kablona
Eskimo Scene, 1950
 Oil on masonite
 Collection of the Alberta Foundation
 for the Arts



aAron Munson
Isachsen 10, 2018
 Photographic print
 Collection of the artist

aAron Munson was born in Salmon Arm B. C. and currently lives in St. Albert. He became interested in the art world as a young child and eventually graduated from MacEwan University in Edmonton in 2003 with a diploma in digital arts. He has been making film and photographic works ever since.

Munson’s artistic practice is generally project-based and, whether he works in film or photography, his style or approach is flexible to fit the project. His aim is always to offer viewers a different vantage point for them to observe themselves and the world. For Munson, art offers a space where people are less defensive and more receptive to different ways of seeing the world. He sees his role as an artist as one where, rather than promoting his own thoughts and ideas or trying to tell people how to think, he provides alternative ways of seeing things; offering spaces to create shifts in perspectives of how we view others and the world.

One of the projects Munson worked on from 2013 to 2018, a part of which is featured in the T Rex exhibition, examined the Canadian arctic weather station Isachsen. Munson was inspired to create this body of work when he read his father’s diary from 1974/1975 when he spent a year working at the weather station. The younger Munson became interested in trying to understand who his father was and how his father’s experience at Isachsen changed him and how we ourselves become the people we do in response to environmental effects. To fulfill these aims the artist made his own journey to Isachsen in 2013 and spent a week photographing the abandoned station. The photographs aAron Munson came away with from his journey are fairly traditional in nature. As expressed by the artist, he chose a traditional landscape approach in documenting Isachsen as it is such foreign imagery that there was no need to manipulate the work.

For the artist, however, documentation of a place is only part of his aim. Through his photographs Munson creates a window into both the beauty (and horror) of Isachsen and allows viewers to experience isolation and the impact isolation, in whatever way it is caused, has on our minds and how it shapes the ways we view ourselves and the world. The Isachsen photographs created by aAron Munson, and the focus of the T Rex exhibition on winter, are thus metaphors for larger societal and individual concerns and questions, allowing us to reflect on the impermanence or changing state of things and our perceptions of the world around us.



Illingworth Kerr
Winter, n.d.
 Linocut on paper
 Collection of the Alberta Foundation
 for the Arts

Illingworth Kerr (1905-1989) was born in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, in 1905. He began to draw and paint at an early age. Between 1924 and 1927 he studied at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. His teachers included Arthur Lismer, Frederick Varley, J.E.H. MacDonald, William Beatty and C.W. Jeffrey. Kerr returned to Lumsden and was introduced to the works of James Henderson and Augustus Kenderdine. From 1936 to 1938 Kerr worked and studied in London and then, from 1938 to 1940, settled in Montreal where he worked with other artists on projects to represent Canada at the New York World’s Fair. From 1940 to 1947 he relocated to Vancouver where he taught briefly at the Vancouver School of Art and became a member of the British Columbia Society of Artists. From 1947 to 1967 Kerr acted as Head of the Art Department at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (later the Alberta College of Art) in Calgary and continued to travel extensively throughout Canada, the United States, England and Europe. In 1967 Kerr retired and was thus able to pursue his art career full time. In the last few years before his death he arranged a donation of approximately 500 drawings and 16 sketchbooks to the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery. He also donated the contents of his library to the Alberta College of Art.

Illingworth Kerr was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary in 1973; the National Award for Painting and Related Arts, the University of Alberta, Edmonton, in 1975; and the Order of Canada in 1983. He continued to paint and draw as long as he was able and passed away on January 6th, 1989.



Stan Phelps
Winter Still, 1987
 Coloured etching on paper
 Collection of the Alberta Foundation
 for the Arts