

sightlines

April to August 2022

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



Alberta



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Spring is finally in the air so it is a perfect opportunity to introduce a third new TREX Region 2 exhibition which began travelling north central and north eastern Alberta in September 2021. Entitled *A Cordial Word*, this exhibition features art works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts which focus on flowers and the flower garden as these subjects have been rendered by artists in Alberta.

Since I was a child and no matter where I have lived, I have always loved flowers and flower gardening. Digging in and preparing the dirt, carefully arranging seeds or fragile young plants, and then watching all grow and bloom in the summer sun with birds, bees and butterflies flying around - pure magic. An amateur gardener, I am always anxious for the first hint of spring so I can rush out into the garden and start the seasonal round again.

My personal appreciation for flowers has been reflected in the visual arts where, for millennia, flowers have been a common theme explored by artists. One reason for this is their unquestioned beauty. A second reason for their popularity with artists is that, traditionally, flowers have been rich in both religious and secular symbolism. In Ancient Egyptian mythology, for example, the lotus flower symbolized the sun and had strong ties to the concept of creation and rebirth. Lotus flowers are thus a feature in Egyptian wall paintings and relief sculptures. During medieval times flowers appeared in the borders of illuminated manuscripts and as details within larger paintings or decorative backgrounds in tapestries. In these early art works the flowers rendered were often symbolic in nature. A white lily, for instance, was a symbol of purity and many paintings of the Virgin Mary contain white lilies for this reason. In 16th and 17th century Dutch still life paintings, meanwhile, flowers, shown wilting or decaying, are often symbols of mortality.



Annora Brown
Wildrose, n.d.
Watercolour on paper
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts

Roses, one of the flowers featured in the exhibition *A Cordial Word*, have long been used symbolically in artworks.

In ancient Greece and Rome the rose was closely associated with the goddess Aphrodite/Venus and so became a symbol of love and passion. This association of the rose with love is a meaning for the flower that has continued to the present day.

Following the advent of Christianity, the rose became identified with the Virgin Mary and led to the creation of the rosary and other devotional prayers in Christianity.

Each colour of rose has a particular symbolic meaning. Red roses signify enduring passion and is the lover's rose; white roses symbolize humility and innocence; yellow express friendship and joy; pink roses signify gratitude, appreciation and admiration; orange roses symbolize enthusiasm and desire; and purple roses represent enchantment and love at first sight.

In the late 16th and early 17th centuries the use of flowers as independent subjects in art began in earnest. This was due to an increasing fascination with this subject, facilitated by advances in the study of botany and by the importation of numerous new species of flowers into western Europe. During this period new species, such as the tulip, were very precious and expensive and this encouraged their botanically exact rendering by artists.

Tulips are members of the lily family. They are spring-blooming perennial flowers. The flowers are usually large, showy and brightly coloured and often have a different coloured blotch at the base of the tepals (petals and sepals).

Tulips are indigenous to mountainous areas with temperate climates. It is believed that cultivation of tulips began in Persia during the 10th century. In the sixteenth century tulips were imported from the Turkish empire to Europe. By 1594 tulips were grown in the Netherlands and the Dutch tulip industry began.

Tulips are called *lale* in Turkish. When written in Arabic, *lale* has the same letters as Allah and so tulips are a holy symbol. As tulips were associated with the Turkish royal House of Osman, they are also a symbol of abundance and indulgence. While tulips in Turkish culture represented paradise on earth and had an almost divine status, in the Netherlands they became associated with the brevity of life.

By the 19th century the decorative potential of flowers became the most enduring impulse behind their use in visual art and through the art movements of realism, impressionism, post-impressionism and ultimately abstraction, artistic representations of flowers came to focus on explorations of pattern and colour.



Sharon Simonds Chia
Chinese Marble Vase with Tulip, 1990
Oil on masonite
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts



Ellen Lyons
My Annuals, 1983
Acrylic on board
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts

The exhibition *A Cordial Word*, featuring works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, shines a spotlight on flowers and the flower garden. Expressing a variety of artistic styles and media, the art works in this exhibition invite viewers to reflect on the beauty, fragility and importance of these natural wonders and appreciate and nurture the flowers in their midst.

This exhibition will continue to travel TREX Region 2 until the end of August, 2022, when it will transfer to TREX Region 1, organized by the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie.

Exhibition Schedule April to August, 2022

Exhibition	April 7 - May 11	May 19 - June 15	June 23 - July 19	July 23 - August 24
<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>	Belgravia Elementary School 11605-74 Ave., Edmonton Contact: Brent Irving Phone: 780-435-5560	Calmar Public Library 4705-50 Ave., Calmar Contact: Susan Parkinson Phone: 780-985-3472	Bonnyville Museum 4401-54 Ave., Bonnyville Contact: Sue Phillips Phone: 780-815-4408	Morinville Museum 10010-101 Street, Morinville Contact: Donna Garrett Phone: 780-939-3925
<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>	Ardmore School 4801-48 Ave., Ardmore Contact: Evelyn Bourbeau Phone: 780-826-5144	Alice Melnyk Library 5009 Diefenbaker Ave., Two Hills Contact: Betty Lou Kobe Phone: 780-657-3553	Anzac Recreation Centre 237 Stony Mountain Rd., Anzac Contact: Ana Maria Mendez Phone: 780-713-6826	Chuck MacLean Arts Centre 4809-52 Street, Camrose Contact: Tanya Pattullo Phone: 780-672-9949
<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>	High Park School 40 Highridge Way, Stony Plain Contact: Amy Collett Phone: 780-963-2222	Mother Margaret Mary School 2010 Leger Road, Edmonton Contact: Nicole Thauvette Phone: 780-988-2279	Beaumont Public Library 5700-49 Street, Beaumont Contact: Andrea Ciochetti Phone: 780-929-2665	Slave Lake Library 50 Main Street SW, Slave Lake Contact: Kendra McRee Phone: 780-849-5250
<p>Adornment 'Adornment' is defined as the use of item(s) that decorate, embellish, enhance, beautify, or enrich. This exhibition features works by three indigenous artists from Alberta who create works of adornment which express the joy of creativity, pride in craftsmanship, and the desire to share their traditions with others. Curated by MJ Belcourt and organized by TREX Region 2</p>	Eastglen High School 11430-68 Street, Edmonton Contact: Christina Hamer Phone: 780-908-0617	Two Hills School 4806-51 Ave., Two Hills Contact: Mirela Olah Phone: 780-657-3383	MacDonald Island 1 C.A. Knight Way, Fort McMurray Contact: Ana Maria Mendez Phone: 780-713-6826	Anzac Recreation Centre 237 Stony Mountain Rd., Anzac Contact: Ana Maria Mendez Phone: 780-713-6826
<p>From Water into Sky This exhibition explores the use of watercolour painting in expressing the natural world. This exhibition gives voice to the marvels and moods of the natural world and the 'magic' that can be found both within and through water. Curated by Shane Golby, Art Gallery of Alberta</p>	Grasmere School 4201-46 Street, Alberta Beach Contact: Elizabeth Miner Phone: 780-924-3758	Town of Ponoka #200, 5604-50 Street Ponoka Contact: Val Somerville Phone: 403-783-0130	Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre 4501-50 Street, Camrose Contact: Jane Cherry-Lemire Phone: 780-608-2922	Calmar Public Library 4705-50 Ave., Calmar Contact: Susan Parkinson Phone: 780-985-3472
<p>Nitssaaakita'paispinnaan: We Are Still In Control This exhibition honours the well of life in the place the artists in the exhibition live: Siksikaisskshkoyi (Blackfoot land/territory). This exhibition features work by three contemporary Blackfoot artists whose works are inspired by Blackfoot ways of life, places, and knowledge. Curated by Troy Patenaude and Kent Ayoungman for the Art Gallery of Alberta</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Syn crude</p>	Travelling TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre Medicine Hat		Stuart MacPherson Public Library 8702-91 Avenue, Bold Centre Lac La Biche Contact: Kristy Arsenault Phone: 780-623-7467	St. Paul Municipal Library 4802-53 Street, St. Paul Contact: Eunhye Cho Phone: 780-645-4904
<p>Through Those Trees This exhibition features works created by artist Halie Finney. Through her works Finney explores generations of her Métis family's narratives within the Lesser Slave Lake region where she grew up. Curated by Becca Taylor for TREX Region 3</p>	H.E. Bourgoin School 4313-39 Street, Bonnyville Contact: cheryl Edwards Phone: 780-826-3323	Robert Rundle School 50 A Grosvenor Blvd., St. Albert Contact: Suzanne Weir Phone: 780-459-4475	Ponoka Jubilee Library 5604-50 Street, Ponoka Contact: Dan Galway Phone: 403-783-3843	Viking Municipal Library 4920-53 Ave., Viking Contact: Barb Chrystian Phone: 780-336-4992
<p>Between The Cosmos This is a solo exhibition of works by photography and mixed media artist Rocio Graham. In these works Graham merges the magic of native-Alberta seeds with that of cyanotype paper to create her very own galaxies and star systems. Curated by Ashley Slemming, TREX Region 3</p>	Rideau Park School 10605-42 Ave., NW, Edmonton Contact: Jane Zaiane Phone: 780-437-0010	Victoria School of the Arts 10210-108 Ave., Edmonton Contact: David Cameron Phone: 780-426-3010	Barrhead Public Library 5103-53 Ave., Barrhead Contact: Elaine Dickie Phone: 780-674-8519	Stuart MacPherson Public Library 8702-91 Avenue, Bold Centre Lac La Biche Contact: Kristy Arsenault Phone: 780-623-7467
<p>Figured This exhibition features works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts which focus on the study of the human figure. This exhibition features works created between 1966 and 2004 by twelve renowned Canadian artists. Curated by Xanthe Isbister, TREX Region 4</p>	Vermilion Public Library 5001-49 Ave., Vermilion Contact: Sheila Heit Phone: 780-853-4288	Slave Lake Library 50 Main Street SW, Slave Lake Contact: Kendra McRee Phone: 780-849-5250	Onoway Public Library Onoway Heritage Centre 4708 Lac Ste. Anne Trail North Onoway Contact: Kelly Huxley Phone: 780-967-2445	Beaumont Public Library 5700-49 Street, Beaumont Contact: Andrea Ciochetti Phone: 780-929-2665
<p>Glimpse: Gabrielle Lussier Combining photography, paint, print, collage and poetry, Gabrielle Lussier creates mixed media interpretations of physical and emotional spaces, marking her presence in these spaces and creating intimate portrayals of someone struggling with their mental health. Curated by Danielle Ribar, TREX Region 1</p>	Mayerthorpe High School 5310-50 Ave., Mayerthorpe Contact: Diane Ziemmer Phone: 780-786-2624	Drayton Valley Library 5120-52 Street Drayton Valley Contact: Verna Wicks Phone: 780-514-2722	Viking Municipal Library 4920-53 Ave., Viking Contact: Barb Chrystian Phone: 780-336-4992	MacDonald Island 1 C.A. Knight Way, Fort McMurray Contact: Ana Maria Mendez Phone: 780-713-6826



David More
Flax Unto Lilies, 2000
Oil on masonite
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts



David More
Poppy Pink Morning, 2000
Oil on masonite
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts

sightlines is a newsletter from the Art Gallery of Alberta and is published to promote awareness for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program. For information contact Shane Golby, Curator/Manager, by telephone 780.428.3830 or email: shane.golby@youraga.ca