

40 is the new 20

The travelling exhibition **40 is the new 20**  is a celebration. In 1972 the Alberta Art Foundation, now the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA), established a provincial art collection; a unique representation of the history, development and achievements of Alberta's visual arts community. Over the past fifty years this collection has grown to over 9000 artworks; profiling the careers of hundreds of Alberta's artists, reflecting the history and development of Alberta and becoming an important cultural legacy for all Albertans. The exhibition **40 is the new 20**  celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the AFA's art collection and offers insights into stories of Alberta and artists from the province.

While celebrating the establishment of the AFA's art collection, this exhibition also celebrates an important initiative of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Since 1981 the AFA has supported a provincial travelling exhibition program (TRES). The mandate of the program is to provide every Albertan with the opportunity to enjoy visual art exhibitions in their community. While exhibitions for the TRES program are curated from a variety of sources, a major part of the program assists in making the AFA's art collection available to Albertans. In 2021 the TRES program celebrated its' 40th anniversary and the TRES exhibition **40 is the new 20**  recognizes this anniversary as well.

The TRES exhibition **40 is the new 20**  celebrates both the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts art collection and the recent 40th anniversary of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts TRES program. Since 1986 the Art Gallery of Alberta (formerly the Edmonton Art Gallery) has been affiliated with the TRES program and so this exhibition, presenting twenty works from the AFA collection, celebrates these anniversaries by re-visiting TRES exhibitions produced by the Art Gallery of Alberta over the past twenty years. Exploring an eclectic mix of themes, genre, art styles and media this exhibition expresses the vitality of the visual arts in Alberta and the roles of the AFA and Art Gallery of Alberta in supporting the arts in the province.

*The exhibition **40 is the new 20**  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 TRES program is financially supported by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.*

Front Cover Image:
Barbara Milne
Early Spring (detail), 1987
Acrylic, oil on plywood
Collection of the Alberta Foundation
for the Arts



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

40 is the new 20

Alberta





Jacques Rioux
House Under Construction,
Edgemont, Calgary, The Calgary
Picture Project, 1985
 Silver gelatin on paper
 Collection of the Alberta
 Foundation for the Arts

Jacques Rioux is a Canadian photographer. Born in Sherbrooke he has been based in Calgary, Alberta, since completing his education in applied photography in Montreal in 1979. He has practiced both commercial and fine art photography throughout his career and his work can be found in the collections of prestigious institutions such as the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, and the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography in Ottawa. He is known for creating a number of extensive photographic series including 'The Calgary Picture Project'. From its inception in 1980 to its completion in 1992, the project is a visual exploration of the city, including beautiful park views, dramatic architectural studies, weathered industrial buildings, busy public spaces, and suburban houses.

Rioux's photographic work *House Under Construction, Edgemont, Calgary, The Calgary Picture Project* was included in the 2001 TREX exhibition *Urban/Suburban*. In this exhibition, curated by Christal Pshyk for the Edmonton Art Gallery (now the Art Gallery of Alberta), artists looked at the changing meanings of urban and suburban spaces: how the city can be both a place of prosperity and a site of poverty and danger and how the superficial beauty and symmetry of the suburbs can be both comforting and stifling.



Gerry Dotto
Speak of the Kettle, 2012
 Digital print on paper
 Collection of the Alberta
 Foundation for the Arts

According to most historians and psychologists storytelling - the conveying of events in words, images and sounds - is one of the things that define and bind humanity. Storytelling is a means for sharing and interpreting experiences and has been used since the dawn of time for entertainment, education, cultural preservation and to instill moral values. Storytelling is found in all human cultures and stories have been expressed in visual forms for thousands of years.

Storytellers, a travelling exhibition curated by Shane Golby which toured Alberta from 2013 to 2016, explored the stories related by artists in Alberta from the mid twentieth century into the twenty-first. One of the works featured in this exhibition was the photograph *Speak of the Kettle* by Edmonton artist Gerry Dotto.

Born and raised in greater Edmonton, Dotto has been active in the Edmonton art scene for over 25 years and his work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Dotto describes himself as a conceptual artist. Based on our everyday interactions with common forms of visual communication, his images re-interpret these systems of communication and present them in a new light.



Tim Van Horn
Illegal Television in Fort, 1995
 Silver gelatin print
 Collection of the Alberta
 Foundation for the Arts

Tim Van Horn was born in 1969 and resides in Red Deer. Since graduating from the Alberta College of Art and Design with a major in Photography in 1992, he has participated in a number of solo exhibitions in Calgary and Edmonton, group exhibitions in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Toronto and New York, and in Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibitions. As expressed by the artist concerning his practice:

At age four I had already shot my first roll of film and had decided on a life career as a 'cameraman'. On my fifteenth birthday I received my first 35 mm camera, my dream - then as it is now - is to create powerful and monumental photographs and photo documentaries. Growing up and travelling around Canada and around the world in the Canadian Military, I developed a ... craving for cultural experiences. It became obvious to me at an early age that my life calling was to document the world around me with a camera.

The subject matter I have chosen is limited to the unlimited possibilities of the people and places of Canada: Searching to make the ordinary, extraordinary; The real, the surreal.

Van Horn's photograph *Illegal Television in Fort* was one of the works featured in the TREX exhibition *Life Lit Up*. This exhibition, which travelled Alberta from 2018 to 2021, presented twenty-three photographic works which took the most banal of subjects, settings or events and transformed them into scenes of wonder through using strong contrasts of light and dark. This exhibition was curated by Shane Golby.