

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



Final Notes

It has been said that 'all good things must come to an end' (original source: *Troilus and Crisedyde*, Geoffrey Chaucer) and so is true for the TREX management structure with the Art Gallery of Alberta. After having been TREX curator/manager for TREX Region 2 over the past fifteen years, I will be retiring from this position, effective November 10th. This edition of *sightlines*, therefore, is the last that I will have the pleasure of producing.

Before I actually step away from the office, however, I still have a few things to do (well, really there are quite a few). First, I would like to thank all of the venues/venue coordinators who have supported TREX over the years. Your commitment to facilitating the program and your dedication to art and art education are deeply appreciated. TREX could not exist - and I would not have had such a satisfying career - without your assistance! Secondly, I extend my thanks to both the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Art Gallery of Alberta for supporting the arts in Alberta and for enabling me to be a small part of this endeavor. Managing the TREX program in TREX Region 2 has been one of the most rewarding career opportunities I have had over my working life, combining as it does both my love of art and my educational background. I truly could not have asked for a better position in the arts and so I am deeply grateful for the support provided by these institutions. And finally I would like to thank all the artists and curators I have met and had the pleasure of working with over the past fifteen years. At last count, I have been privileged to work with 123 artists and curators over these years and the gifts of their knowledge and creativity to myself and the province as a whole are immeasurable. Thank you to all...and I hope our paths continue to cross in the future!

But enough about me: while I may be retiring, TREX exhibitions are not and continue to move around north central and north eastern Alberta and the rest of the province! Also, there will be a new TREX Region 2 Manager/Curator taking over the reins beginning November 10. Steven Teeuwssen has been hired to replace me and you will be able to reach him at steven.teeuwssen@youraga.ca or by phone at 780-428-3830.

And now, to continue the 'show'. In the previous edition of *sightlines* TREX Region 2 introduced two of the new exhibitions which began travelling the province in September. These are the exhibitions ***Cradle*** and ***Women Gone Wild!*** A third exhibition, which also began travelling in September, was also produced over the past year by TREX Region 2. Fittingly entitled ***...no end to our looking***, this third exhibition, presenting works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, explores the artistic genre of the still life as expressed by Albertan artists over the past 50 years.



John Snow
Bowl of Orange Flowers, 1979
Lithograph on paper
Collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts

A still life work of art is one depicting mostly inanimate subject matter, whether these are natural (food, flowers, dead animals, plants etc.) or man-made (drinking glasses, books, vases etc.). The English term 'still life' derives from the Dutch word 'stilleven'.

Still life paintings had their origins in ancient times. They can be found adorning the interiors of Egyptian tombs and also on ancient Greek vases. Still life or 'low' subjects also survive in mosaic versions and wall paintings at the Italian sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Villa Boscoreale. Despite its antiquity, however, with the fall of Rome in the 5th century AD, still life painting virtually disappeared from European practice.

Beginning around 1300 still life paintings were revived in the form of painted niches depicting everyday objects on religious wall paintings. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, apart from notable exceptions seen in the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer, the still-life in Western art remained primarily an adjunct to Christian religious subjects and conveyed religious and allegorical meaning.

The autonomous still life in painting evolved during the late 16th century. This was partly due to the development of the tradition, mostly centered in Antwerp, Belgium, of the 'monumental still life'; large paintings that included a great spread of still life material with figures and often animals.



Jack Rigaux
Still Life with Flowers in a Vase, 1983
Watercolour on illustration board
Collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts

A second and very important reason for this was an explosion of interest in the natural world following explorations in the New World and Asia. These prompted the beginnings of scientific illustration and the classification of specimens and natural objects began to be appreciated as individual objects of study apart from any religious or mythological associations. In addition, wealthy patrons began to collect animal and mineral specimens, creating 'cabinets of curiosities'. These specimens

served as models for painters who sought realism and novelty. Shells, insects, exotic fruits and flowers began to be collected and new plants such as the tulip were celebrated in still life painting.

While popular in the Netherlands the genre of still life was not favored in the rest of Europe where many academics regarded still life painting as simply an art of imitation and viewed it as calling for manual skill but no imagination or intellect. In the late 19th century with the Impressionist painters in France, however, this attitude began to change. For the Impressionists technique and colour harmony triumphed over subject and so the still-life became of importance to artists. With impressionist still life works both allegory and mythological content are completely absent. Instead impressionist artists, intent on exploring new ways of seeing and recording the observable world, focused on formal experimentation in broad, dabbing brush strokes, tonal values, and colour placement.

The formal concerns of the Impressionists had a significant impact on later artists and contributed to the development of successive art movements such as modernist abstraction, abstract expressionism formalism and pop art. Through all the artistic changes in the 20th century, however, the still life as a subject investigated by artists survived and contemporary artists have a wealth of influences to draw upon when investigating this genre.



E.J. Ferguson
Cocktail Shaker, 1973
Serigraph on paper
Collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts

Exhibition Schedule November 2023-April 2024

Exhibition	November 16- December 13	December 21- January 24	February 1- February 28	March 7-April 10
Ahkameyimo - Never Give Up The travelling exhibition <i>Ahkameyimo - Never Give Up</i> features the work of two Indigenous artists whose works, while respecting traditional culture and visual imagery, also engage with the urban environment in which they reside. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2	Belgravia Elementary School 11605-74 Ave., Edmonton Contact: Brent Irving Phone: 780-435-5560	Moves to Art Gallery of Grande Prairie TREX Region 1		
Turtle Island The Woodland School of Art, developed by Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau, has influenced Indigenous artists throughout Canada since the 1960s. The exhibition <i>Turtle Island</i> 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	Onoway Elementary School 5108 Lac St. Anne Trail North Onoway Contact: Danica Brent Phone: 780-967-5209	Retires with Art Gallery of Alberta TREX Region 2		
Cradle Canada is a young country but many who settle here come from regions which are the sites of the oldest civilizations on earth: regions known as 'cradles of civilization'. This exhibition presents the work of three artists who originally come from cradles of civilization in the Middle East and South-East Asia. Each artist is a story teller, sharing ancient and rich cultural histories and legacies in their work and demonstrating that we are all one people. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2	Eastglen High School 11430-68 Street Edmonton Contact: Christina Hamer Phone: 780-908-0617	Spruce Grove Library 35-5 Ave., Spruce Grove Contact: Courtney Entner Phone: 780-962-4423	Lacombe Memorial Centre 5214-50 Ave., Lacombe Contact: Maureen MacKenzie Phone: 403-782-1258	Rideau Park School 10605-42 Ave., NW Edmonton Contact: Jane Zaiane Phone: 780-437-0010
...no end to our looking Still-life' describes works of art that show inanimate objects that are natural or man-made. This exhibition features works from the collection of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts which explore the enduring legacy of the still-life as this subject has been expressed by artists in Alberta over the past fifty years. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2	Millet and District Museum 5120-50 Street Millet Contact: Tracey Leavitt Phone: 780-387-4696	Drayton Valley Library 5120-52 Street Drayton Valley Contact: Verna Wicks Phone: 780-514-2722	Warburg School 5412-50 Street Warburg Contact: Janet Sarvas Phone: 780-848-2822	Rich Valley School RR#1, Gunn Contact: Wendy Gerhardt Phone: 780-967-5754
Women Gone Wild! Animal imagery has been an aspect of humankind's cultural repertoire. Long the domain of male artists, in the 20th century female artists also began to explore the wild kingdom. This exhibition explores the subject of wild creatures as they are expressed in the work of three contemporary women artists from Edmonton. Curated by Shane Golby, TREX Region 2	Mayerthorpe High School 5310-50 Ave., Mayerthorpe Contact: Kimberly Lane Phone: 780-786-2624	Archbishop MacDonald High School 14219-109 Ave., Edmonton Contact: Jonathan Eschak Phone: 780-451-1470	Laurier Heights School 8210-142 Street Edmonton Contact: Sarah Radom Phone: 780-483-5352	H.W. Pickup School 3505-58 Ave., Drayton Valley Contact: Scott Kupsch Phone: 780-542-4495
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	Travelling in TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre			Lakedell School RR#1 Westeros Contact: Stacey Fiveland Phone: 780-586-2415
Party On! The group exhibition <i>Party On! Celebrating 50 years of the AFA Collection</i> presents a lively grouping of work by fourteen Albertan artists. Each artwork depicts a single moment of shared revelry and interconnectedness; scenes of musical performances, dancing, carnivals, community gatherings and shared food and drink help mark this special occasion. Curated by Genevieve Farrell, TREX Region 4	Tofield Municipal Library 5407-50 Street Tofield Contact: Nicole Hillyer Phone: 780-662-3838	Vermilion Public Library 5001-49 Ave., Vermilion Contact: Sheila Heit Phone: 780-853-4288	J.E. Lapointe School 4801-55 Avenue Beaumont Contact: Courtney LaPointe-Molnar Phone: 780-929-5988	Goes to Alberta Society of Artists TREX Region 3
Strange and Known Places This exhibition is a collaborative curatorial project featuring the work of ten artists based in or with strong ties to Medicine Hat. The exhibition's title reflects on the familiar geography that ties these artists together (Known Places) and the overarching use of personal mythology or an exploration of lesser-understood aspects of the human experience (Strange Places). Curated by Genevieve Farrell, TREX Region 4	Stuart MacPherson Library #101, 8702-91 Ave., Lac La Biche Contact: Kristy Arsenault Phone: 780-623-7467	Town of Ponoka #200, 5604-50 Street Ponoka Contact: Tamara Cameron Phone: 403-783-0130	Chuck MacLean Arts Centre 4809-52 Street Camrose Contact: Tanya Pattullo Phone: 780-672-9949	Goes to Art Gallery of Grande Prairie TREX Region 1
Touching the Sky Balancing between abstract marking and painterly realism, <i>Touching the Sky</i> features three Peace Region artists whose work is rooted in exploring phenomena that extend beyond the visual senses like smell, touch, emotion, spirituality, sound and time and our ability to represent them through art. Curated by Robin Lynch, TREX Region 1	Two Hills School 4806-51 Ave., Two Hills Contact: Mirela Olah Phone: 780-657-3383	High Park School 40 Highridge Way Stony Plain Contact: Amy Collett Phone: 780-963-2222	Viking Municipal Library 4920-53 Ave., Viking Contact: Kelly Harray Phone: 780-336-4992	Goes to Alberta Society of Artists TREX Region 3
Alone Together This is a solo exhibition of hyper-realistic pencil crayon portraits by Calgary artist Kelly Isaak. Created during one of the more severe COVID 19 lockdowns in Alberta, this portrait series shines a light on times where we may have felt quite alone but were able to navigate these moments together as a community. Curated by Ashley Slemming, TREX Region 3	Travelling in TREX Region 1 Art Gallery of Grande Prairie			Concordia University of Edmonton 7128 Ada Blvd., Contact: JoAnne Iddings Phone: 780-479-9334
We Are Immigrants The exhibition <i>WE ARE IMMIGRANTS</i> explores the hidden hardships and legacy of early Chinese Canadian immigrants from the mid 19th century onward. It also celebrates their resilience in overcoming immense adversity and their contribution to Canada in solidifying the country's confederacy. Curated by Ashley Slemming, TREX Region 3 and developed in partnership with Exposure Photography Festival .	Travelling in TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre			Belgravia Elementary School 11605-74 Ave., Edmonton Contact: Brent Irving Phone: 780-435-5560
What's Held The artworks in <i>What's Held</i> explore ways of memorializing, mapping, and holding onto significant sites, keeping our stories of them alive and present, even as the landscape shifts or carries us further away from home. Beyond settler borders and monuments, the works recognize the power and importance of place. Curated by Kiona Callihoo Ligtvoet and Robin Lynch TREX Region 1	Travelling in TREX Region 4 Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre			Two Hills School 4806-51 Ave., Two Hills Contact: Mirela Olah Phone: 780-657-3383

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 the TREX Region 2 Manager/Curator by telephone 780.428.3830 or email. Also please visit TREX at <https://www.youraga.ca/exhibitions/afa-travelling-exhibitions-trex> and on Instagram@trex_region2