

BUHLER GALLERY 10TH ANNIVERSARY STAFF CATALOGUE

2007-2017



Hôpital St-Boniface Hospital

BUHLER GALLERY 10TH ANNIVERSARY

STAFF CATALOGUE

Introduction

In 2007, under the direction of then CEO, Dr. Michel Tétréault, the Buhler Gallery was established with the vision to provide patients, visitors, and staff with a healthy distraction from the emotions and challenges that arise from being in a hospital setting. He championed this vision until his untimely passing in 2015. Since its opening, our staff, physicians, and volunteers have been active contributors to the Gallery. We've had 5 Staff exhibits and 168 pieces of art displayed in the last 10 years.

Each of these exhibits has showcased the creativity, talent and passions of our caregivers. Through their works of art they have allowed their colleagues, our patients and our visitors to glimpse the person behind the professions. By doing so, they have helped strengthen the fabric of our community.

St. Boniface Hospital staff, physicians and volunteers are integral to the success of the Buhler Gallery. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Buhler Gallery, we'd like to recognize all participants of our staff exhibits. St. Boniface Hospital would also like to recognize the contributions of those whose talents may not visibly grace our walls, but who make each exhibit possible. Your contributions to both the Hospital and the Gallery are invaluable.

This catalogue is designed to walk you through the themes, artists and art work of the Juried Staff exhibits.

BUHLER GALLERY STAFF EXHIBIT 2008



Participants: Adaskin, Jon; Akkerman, Bea; Baetsen, Anne; Beaudry, Marc; Bischoff-Smith, Karen; Bouchard, Joel; Cieszynski, Elizabeth (Liz); Cuming, Donna ; Dauphinais, Louis.; de Groot, Karen J.; DeSchutter, Michael; Desjardins, Omar; Despins, Wendy; Ens, Ruth; Fiola, Rolande; Fischer, Dean; Forbes, Margie; Hebert, Arlette; James, Carol; Kehrer, David; Kellough, Douglas; Kuppe, Maureen; Lagasse, Gisele; Loewen, Kaethe; MacDonald, Dawn; McPherson, Darlene; Meder, Eric; Mohr, Dana; Paulson, Terry; Pound, Brian; Sandham, Joan; Scaramuzzi, Gladys; Seddon, Louise; Sesak, Grant; Taylor, Allison; Tremblay, Nancy; Victor, Helen A.; Walsh, Claire

2008

Theme- Oasis

Most people have what they call an 'Oasis'. Some find refuge and relief and others find calm and tranquility in them. It is an escape from the real world that most of us need. In a hospital setting, finding space away from the hectic and stressful atmosphere is crucial to well-being.

Bea Akkerman lost her 22 year old daughter, Jennifer, to Leukemia in 1994. When information about ‘Oasis’ went up, she approached her colleagues to ask for help creating something tangible in memory of her daughter. Many of her colleagues volunteered to create a memorial banner. For eight months, they worked on a banner that spoke to Jen’s resilience and spirit.

Together they submitted a quilt to the Gallery; with every addition telling a different story or revealing a different facet of Jen’s personality. Akkerman’s daughter found her oasis in Nature, among trees and lakes in Manitoba. These are prominently featured in the quilt. For others who helped create it, the quilt symbolized the search for meaning and serenity in life.

Currently housed at the Fort Garry United Church, this work of art continues to touch the hearts of many and acts as an Oasis for those looking for inspiration.

‘The quilt symbolized the search for meaning and serenity in life.’

Jon Adaskin, a Nursing Assistant, wanted to highlight the warm and sunny feeling most people feel in their ‘Oasis’. His submission to the 2008 Buhler Gallery Staff exhibit is a photograph of an old boat abandoned on a beach. This boat is located on quiet stretch of land where Jon finds time to be alone, to re-centre and relax, capturing his oasis in a single frame.

Darlene McPherson has a story that’s difficult to tell in such a small space. She is a volunteer on E4 – Geriatrics, and brings her love of art and life to all those who work and rest there. Using a set of photographs taken from her garden, she takes ward residents on a garden tour, and gives them the time to simply share their stories, to talk about the lives they have lived. The images of the flowers from her gardens provide elderly patients with an ‘Oasis’, a time-out from this sometimes difficult chapter of their lives.

This soft-spoken woman accompanies patients as they walk down memory lane, and feels as though all these men and women are her surrogate aunts and uncles. She records the stories she hears and posts them in the ward, using them as a catalyst for even more sharing and reminiscence. Her submission to the gallery is entitled ‘The Joy Within’, a painted created with the input of E4 residents and staff.

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BUHLER GALLERY STAFF EXHIBIT 2010



Participants: Adaskin, Jon; Bischoff-Smith, Karen; Blaich, Robert; Bouchard, Joel; Cuming, Donna; Dauphinais, Louis; deGroot, Karen; Despins, Wendy; Dickens, Annica; Ens, Ruth; Forbes, Margie; Jones, Loreen; Lyons, Marcie; McPherson, Darlene; Meder, Eric; Millar, Rita; Perry, Diane; Poirier, Joseph; Pylypiak, Josef; Taylor, Alison; Tremblay, Nancy; Walsh, Claire

2010

Theme- Healing

Every one heals differently, whether it is healing after a long, and physically or emotionally exhausting day or healing following illness. In the 2nd staff exhibit hosted by the Buhler Gallery, we asked staff to submit pieces reflecting their concept of healing.

Joseph Poirier, a Sterile Processing Attendant, submitted two photographs to the Buhler Gallery Juried Staff exhibit in 2010.

His submission 'Anticipation' depicts passengers disembarking a giant excursion vehicle on the Columbia ice fields in Alberta. "The anticipation of discovering a new world on the glaciers is a brief escape from daily worries. You cannot help but be in awe of the beauty before you. To me, that is healing."

In 'Serenity,' Joseph has captured a beautiful waterfall which he describes as "healing to both the body and the mind. "As I take photos, he says, I become one with the scene."

"You cannot help but be in awe of the beauty before you. To me, that is healing."

Karen Bischoff-Smith started working at St. Boniface Hospital part-time at the age of 15. In the years since she has worked in the kitchen, in the labour and delivery unit (for 21 years), and since 2000, in Audiovisual Design Services. Her life-long interest/passion for photography was piqued in her teenage years when she followed a photography course at school. Karen does not have a favorite type of photography. "If something strikes my fancy - whether it's a building, a person, or a nature scene - I will capture it on my camera."

Her two pieces of art on display are black and white photographs. 'Doorway to Heaven' is a photograph of the Precious Blood Catholic Church in St. Boniface. "Churches in general and this one in particular with its spiraling roof pointing to the sky, are spiritual, healing places." 'In Duck Under Dock,' her second piece, the photo is taken in a way that makes the ducks appear to be under the dock. "Calm bodies of water have always conveyed the ideas of serenity and healing to me."

Karen loves photography. She has taken some classes to improve her skills, and her only regret, is not having enough time for photography.

Rob Blaich is an Audio/Visual Specialist with St. Boniface Hospital Research since 2006. The original version of his submission won Gold at the Health and Sciences Communications Association (HeSCA) Media Festival, held in Yale University, 2009.

Originally designed as a movie poster to promote the Communications and Media Services department, 'Under the Microscope' is a series of six photographs digitally manipulated and integrated using Adobe Photoshop.

The work represents the important partnership between technology, health and healing as miniaturized researchers work together to understand diseases that continue to puzzle and afflict humanity. Ultimately, basic research will allow us to heal people and restore them to health.

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BUHLER GALLERY STAFF EXHIBIT 2012



Participants: Adaskin, Jon; Belanger, Lucille; Berkowitz, Ivan; Bischoff-Smith, Karen; Bontey, Linda; Cuming, Donna; Dauphinais, Louis; de Groot, Karen; Despins, Wendy; Ens, Ruth; Forester, Sarah; Jones, Loreen; Kehrer, David; Locke, Chris; Lowen, Katherine; Lyons, Marci; MacDonald, Dawn; Millar, Rita; Poirier, Joseph; Rozmus, Mike; Saint-Hilaire, Mélanie; Seddon, Louise; Sesak, Grant; Szczepaniak, Piotr; Taylor, Alison; Walsh, Claire; Ward, Gerry; Ward, Linda

2012

Theme- Contemplation

In a busy and intense environment, it is important to take a moment to simply step back and reflect when you're feeling overwhelmed. In 2012, we asked staff to give us insights into what contemplation means to them. How do you calm yourself when you're surrounded by the bustle of hospital life?

Piotr Szczepaniak emigrated from Poland to Canada with his family in 1991. A year later he joined the Housekeeping team at St. Boniface Hospital and has been working mostly evenings in the Research Centre. For as long as he can remember, Piotr enjoyed drawing. Recognizing the artistic talents of their son, his parents were prepared to send him to art school in his native Poland. That would have meant leaving home at 14 years of age. In the end, Piotr decided against it.

Although he never took formal art classes or courses, his interest in art endured. He entered the Juried Exhibition at the urging of a St. Boniface Hospital colleague, Jon Adaskin, whose work is also on display in the current exhibition. Initially reluctant, Piotr submitted two pieces for the exhibition.

The first one, 'Contemplation', is a drawing of a mother and her young daughter in a warm embrace; the second, 'Phoenix', is a porcelain sculpture, which represents, hope and resurrection. For Piotr, contemplation means "light thoughts during a quiet time," a term that roughly translates to *zamyślenie* in his native Polish.

Linda Ward a Nuclear Medicine technologist at St. Boniface Hospital was one among the many talented artists who had their work featured at the Buhler Gallery 3rd Juried Staff Exhibit in 2012. Her piece, 'Six Reflections', portrays six Canadian flags. She was standing near the bicycle rack outside the hospital's main entrance when she noticed the Canadian flag reflecting off the glass panes of the atrium. Inspired by what she saw, she completed a water color representation.

For Linda, this experience was a fine example of contemplation because it offered her a pleasant distraction from the hum drum of life, "Sometimes you notice something in your surroundings that takes you out of the moment you're in and allows you to think about something pleasant. This painting is an example of one of those times."

"Sometimes you notice something in your surroundings that takes you out of the moment."

Gerry Ward former Director of Spiritual Care, took up painting with acrylics about 6 years ago almost by accident. Since then he has painted three works of art. His submission, 'Rush Hour Vancouver', is a humorous piece showing umbrellas, seemingly without people, at a traffic light.

Gerry explains, "I was in a hotel room in Vancouver having a cup of tea, looking out my window and quietly contemplating the scene outside. It was raining, as it does a lot when I am in Vancouver, and all I could see were umbrellas. I was inspired to paint that."

Gerry spent three hours creating Rush Hour Vancouver and prefers to focus and work straight through to complete a piece. Although he has not done a lot of painting, he hopes to do more in the future as a form of relaxation.

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BUHLER GALLERY STAFF EXHIBIT 2015



Participants: Bontey, Linda; Bouchard, Joel; Brandt, Adam; Breault, Michelle; De Groot, Karen; Despins, Wendy; Doirion, Alice; Fernandez, Alejandra; Fillion, Monique; Gerrard, Naomi; Hawman, Todd; Locke, Christine; Loewen, Kaethe; Lyons, Marcie; Poirier, Joseph; Seddon, Louise; Taylor, Alison; Victor, Helen; Walsh, Claire

2015

Theme- Rejuvenation

Sometimes, we get stuck in a routine. And to grow, we must continually revive our soul and restore our vitality. Some people paint, some take up a new hobby, some meditate and some read. Rejuvenation can mean different things to different people as long as it helps you feel anew.

Michelle Pichette Breault, a volunteer in the Buhler Gallery, submitted two art pieces to the Buhler Gallery's 4th Juried Staff Exhibit: Rejuvenation. 'Wings' a ceramic sculpture representing healing from the inside out, shedding layers throughout the healing process, and 'Touch' an intaglio print demonstrating the healing and rejuvenating power of the human touch were featured in this exhibit.

The shedding layers and the detailed intaglio print represent the process of rejuvenation. It is a symbol for finding hope and restoring oneself in the process.

According to the artist, "rejuvenation is a process, not an outcome. It's restorative, rebuilding, and finding hope."

"Rejuvenation is a process, not an outcome."

Naomi Gerrard is no stranger to the art world. Besides being a Registered Nurse by profession, she graduated with a Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

Since the 1980s, her artwork has been displayed in smaller art galleries across all regions of Manitoba, in juried art shows in Ontario and Quebec, and as far away as Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Japan.

Since 2000, Naomi has been working as a casual nurse in the home care program of Palliative Care. In her role, she relieves the primary nurses, offering care, teaching and support to patients at home facing life-threatening illness.

Her submission 'Summer Day on the Prairies' is a mixed medium piece integrating canola seeds and acrylic paint. Its bright colour scheme shows a young woman watching a variety of crops as they grow. "Rejuvenation to me is like taking a big, deep breath. You have a new look at things and see them from a slightly new perspective. It is something that happens daily." Naomi's art reflects her interest in health, generally, and the activities of the family. She credits her children and now her grand-children for her inspiration.

Alice Doiron has been working with St. Boniface Hospital since 2005. In recent years, she has taken up button art and candle decorating as a way of taking her mind off the sometimes harsh realities of life in a hospital.

For some people, a button is just a button; for Alice, a button offers endless possibilities. Her two pieces of art on display – 'Tree of Life' and 'A New Generation' – showcase her creativity. 'Tree of Life' symbolizes the start of a new season and the hope it brings. "I needed only green buttons for this piece and finding enough of them was a challenge."

'A New Generation' features two panda bears. "Pandas are an endangered species because of the destruction of their habitat. For me, they represent the need for new generation of people aware of the importance of protecting our environment."

Alice has done other button art pieces, including the Eiffel Tower, a musical clef, and a sailboat. "When doing the button art I sometimes get stuck, and it's not clear how the pieces will fit together. I usually stop. When I come back to it later, a clear picture emerges, and I am able to finish the piece."

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BUHLER GALLERY STAFF EXHIBIT 2017



Participants: Altasin, Alyssa; Bischoff-Smith, Karen; Breault, Michelle Pichette; Chartier, Colomb Fafard; Chiarella, Anthony; Cieszynski, Liz; de Groot, Karen; Doiron, Alice; Fallis, Patricia; Fillion, Monique; Fisher-Robinson, Marilyn; Forester, Sarah; Gallant, Annette; Gerrard, Naomi; Janzen, Leah; Kehrer, David; Locke, Chris; Malach, Vanessa; Jessica Slater; Meder, Eric; Poirier, Joseph; Seddon, Louise; Victor, Helen

2017

Theme- Canada 150

2017 marked Canada's 150th birthday. We asked staff to interpret and retell the rich history and mission of St. Boniface Hospital in the context of events that shaped, and continue to shape, our culture and society.

Patricia Fallis is a potter with over 30 years of experience. She is also a Chaplain at St. Boniface Hospital and works with patients and staff alike. Fallis submitted a photograph of the Chapel and an open urn to the 5th Juried Staff exhibit at the Buhler Gallery. Both her submissions have a spiritual focus to them, and represent the deep and rich history of compassion and care at St. Boniface Hospital.

“The urn is a symbol for what happens in the hospital and stories of several souls who have walked the halls of St. Boniface,” she says.

“It is a symbol of life and death.”

Inscribed with over a hundred words suggested by her colleagues, the urn, in essence, reflects the spirit of the chaplains’ work and relationship with patients as they experience a range of emotions during their stay in hospital, including joy, grief and loss. The same can be said of the photograph of the chapel. Both pieces show St. Boniface Hospital as a part of Canada’s mosaic. The 5th Juried staff exhibit will be open to public at staff until September 10, 2017.

Helen Victor, a Microbiology Medical Lab Assistant, works in mixed media such as water colours, ink and pencil. Her artwork was also selected to be a part of a juried staff exhibit in 2010 titled ‘Oasis’.

The theme for Buhler Gallery’s 5th Juried Staff Exhibit ‘Canada150’ inspired Victor to explore her immigrant roots and through her art to tell the story of how her parents moved from war-torn Poland and began their new lives in Canada. She wanted to highlight the values of the Canadian culture that helped her parents feel accepted in a foreign nation.

“I wanted my art to focus on the freedom, inclusiveness, peace, and opportunity that life in Canada affords. My series ‘Home of the Brave’ is both a homage and memorial to the cores of immigrants who settled in Canada post World War II,” says Victor.

“I wanted my art to focus on the freedom, inclusiveness, peace, and opportunity that life in Canada affords.”

Anthony Chiarella is a Clinical Engineering Technician at St. Boniface Hospital. A lifelong artist, Chiarella has practiced many forms of artwork such as acrylic painting, stained glass, carving, and mixed media and so on. His favourite, however, is sculpturing because it is the medium he works often with.

His first submission to the Buhler Gallery, ‘Law of Love’, is a wooden cross he carved for a friend five years ago. The lace like design over the cross represents love and the human form of Christ. Chiarella wanted to focus on the emotional oneness an individual feels with their faith.

In honour of Canada150, Chiarella wanted to focus on the values that helped build St. Boniface Hospital, the first hospital in Western Canada. His submission represents the Grey Nuns and their contribution to the Manitoban community. “The lace like wood carving on the cross is representative of Christ and relates to the Christian mission of Grey Nuns; to care for every individual with compassion and love,” he adds.

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