



THUNDER BAY
ART GALLERY

Newsletter

George McLean: *The Living Landscape*

September 9 to October 30, 2011

Curated by Virginia Eichhorn, Tom Thomson Gallery & Dr. Adam Harris, National Wildlife Museum of Art

Organized and circulated by the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Owen Sound, ON



George McLean, *Bald Eagle*, 1978, casein on composition board, 96.5 x 11.8 cm.; Collection of Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

George McLean has painted the landscape and animals around his home in Grey County for over 30 years. This exhibition surveys the artist's painting career, drawing in major works from private and public collections across Canada and the United States. The artist has documented many of the natural denizens of the boreal forest, both mammals and birds. Paintings are in a range of sizes, but many depict the animal as life-size—some preparatory works and drawings will also be included to give audiences a sense of the artist's process.

In its analysis of McLean's practice, this exhibition focuses on McLean's prowess as an accomplished draughtsman and painter of the landscape. Although all of his paintings include an animal or bird, the artist takes great care to faithfully depict the dramatic light, colour and atmosphere of these wooded escarpment sites, not far from the shores of Georgian Bay. Working in an opaque casein, akin to gouache, on prepped masonite boards, the artist builds painted surfaces that are both complex and evocative in their treatment. Often depictions of flora and fauna are so finely worked it is difficult to see the evidence of the artist's hand in the application. Through his careful study, the artist is able to capture the atmospheric beauty of all the seasons in Grey County, from the misty early spring snows to the clarity of the dense early spring woods to the golden heat of high summer meadows.

In this time of heightened concern about the natural world threatened by pollution and climate change, McLean's work conveys a subtle advocacy for people to reconsider how their activities impact on other creatures that share the landscape. McLean paints the animals and birds in their natural habitats, in scenes of action and drama that are a far cry from the "still life" type of painting one expects from his colleagues.

Please join us for the Opening Reception
Friday, September 16 at 7:30 pm
and George McLean's Artist Talk
Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 pm

Exhibition Presenting Sponsor:



See Yourself Here

FALL 2011

Craft Currents: Contemporary Craft in Northern Ontario

September 16 to October 30, 2011

Organized and circulated by the Ontario Craft Council



CraftCurrents: Contemporary Craft in Northern Ontario

Touring July 2011 - March 2012

Please join us for the
Opening Reception
Friday, September 16
7:30 pm

This juried travelling show features 44 pieces of craft reflecting the diversity and quality of work being created in Northern Ontario. All regions of Northern Ontario are represented, as well as various cultures. The pieces utilize a variety of media including bone, brass, ceramics, copper, driftwood, fabric, feathers, fleece, glass, gourds, leather, stainless steel, sterling, sweet grass, wasp paper and wood finely crafted into a wide range of objects.

Participating artists include: Kathleen Baleja, Paul E. Beebe, Bernadine Boissoneau, Sharon Breckenridge, Keith Campbell, Christine Charette, Joanne Critchley Browne, David Cureton, Carole Davidson, Jack Dunning, Murray Finn, Kris Goold, Erick and Lisa Hanson, Marke Henteleff, Ursula Hettmann, Susan Higgins, Cheryl Jonah, Noel Keag, Joanne Kelly, Alison Kendall, Jeff Martens, Judy Martin, Marni Martin, Zoë McDougall, Debbie Metzler, Sam Moligian, Jude Ortiz, Irene Peel, Kasia Piech, Tine Schrijvers, Denise Smith, Crystal Sohlman, Christine Williston and Cheryl Wilson Smith.

A full colour catalogue will be available at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's Gift Shop as well as on-line at the OCC's website: www.craft.on.ca

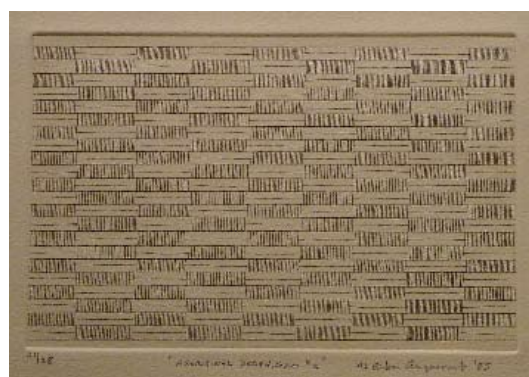
Line by Line: Ahmoo Angeconeb, Angelique Merasty, Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas and Michael Robinson

Permanent Collection exhibition: Meeting Room

August 31, 2011 to January 8, 2012

Curated by Suzanne Morrissette

Line by Line considers the formal gesture of line as it is featured in a selection of artworks by Ahmoo Angeconeb, Angelique Merasty, Norval Morrisseau, Roy Thomas, and Michael Robinson. From Angeconeb's organization of highly reduced lines arranged in complex patterns, to the constellation of dots made by Merasty's own bite marks into birch bark, to Morrisseau's frenetically drawn scenes comprised of simultaneous and non-linear narratives, to Thomas' vertically oriented copper figures etched on black paper, to Robinson's intricately outlined hunting scene, *Line by Line* demonstrates the expressive and descriptive qualities of even the simplest line executed across a variety of mediums.



Ahmoo Angeconeb, *Aboriginal Design Series #2* (detail), 1985, ink on paper, 38 x 28.5 cm.

David Shaw: *The Last Personae* September 9 to October 30, 2011

If the persona is considered in terms of the masks that we wear in social situations, then the title of David Shaw's exhibition, *The Last Personae*, seems to suggest an uncertain future where the distinction between our private and public identities are called into question. Through his process-oriented references to the influence of technology on the formation of identities and social relations in contemporary society, Shaw contemplates the ways in which people construct their identities in a changing world of technological communications.

Shaw's approach intentionally engages with both manual processes, such as cutting, assembling, painting, and digital processes such as research and image sourcing, photography, and digital photograph manipulation. To compose each image, Shaw first posted an online invitation for participants to take part in his series as sitters for a single painting. His invitation received many responses from friends and strangers and who were invited to select from a collection of masks they felt best suited their overall personality and self-image. Each sitter then had their photograph taken, which Shaw later manipulated digitally, printed, and used to paint



David Shaw, *Amy*, 2011, watercolour on paper, 55.8 x 76.2 cm.

Exhibition tour with artist David Shaw
Saturday, September 17
2:00 pm

the final works. Working back and forth between digital and analogue processes, and on-line and in-person interactions, Shaw questions: the way that people present themselves; how they are represented by others; and the methods by which people interface with one another in various social situations.

To create the masks depicted in his paintings, Shaw culled and pre-fabricated masks from a host of online sources. In this way, each individual had the opportunity to express their preference out of a selection of masks. Interestingly, this choice is similar to "like" functions on Facebook, a popular social media network, which enables users to interact with and show their preferences of data posted by other users .

While the colourful and graphic masks depicted in Shaw's paintings provide a literal representation of the persona, each sitter also presents aspects of their character through their expressions, postures, clothing, and general grooming. Their presence in the paintings range from demure, to cheerful, to contented, to confrontational.

Similar to the way a hat functions to an actor on stage, masks offer the opportunity to changeably "put on" and "take off" new characters or roles at will. The graphic shape of these masks donned by Shaw's subjects, and the images they depict, contrast with the contours of each sitter's face, neck, and upper torso. As a result, the character, or persona, portrayed by the mask, and the subject enacting the character, are visibly separate. While masks can be worn to disguise or alter a person's appearance or identity, the masks worn by Shaw's subjects sit noticeably over each individual's cheekbones and forehead, leaving evident other more expressive and personable features – the eyes and mouth. These reveal other aspects of each sitter's identity replete with emotion and individual expressiveness. Like Shaw's subjects, we too can consider the ways in which our expressions, the clothes that we wear, the gestures we enact with our body language, and the images we present of ourselves, pervade (and arguably comprise) the fabric of our everyday interactions. While Shaw suggests that these technological changes will impact and alter the ways in which we interact with one another face-to-face, we can only speculate for ourselves.

Born in Thunder Bay, David Shaw now lives and works in Montreal.

Permanent Collection Spotlight:

Arthur Shilling

September 6 to November 27, 2011

Curated by Suzanne Morrissette

Foyer Wall

During his lifetime, Shilling's art posed a series of canonical conundrums for historians and the general public alike by challenging conventions of Aboriginal art and perceptions of what it meant to be a contemporary Aboriginal artist. By producing images that at that time did not read as distinctly "Indian", but that were based in Ojibwa stories and beliefs, Shilling (perhaps inadvertently) posed the question: in what ways can our cultural affiliations factor into art? His distinctive style broke from those of other prominent artists, such as the Indian Group of Seven, who popularized the Woodlands School in and around the same time period. Rather, Shilling's work established an entirely different aesthetic approach than his contemporaries, prompting many to instead point to the Expressionistic qualities of his work and speculate as to the European influence of his painterly process. Looking back at his art today, it is evident that Shilling worked within a period of tremendous change for Aboriginal people which affected his art practice just as he, in turn, affected and enriched the historical legacy of Aboriginal art.

Generously sponsored by:



Chippewas of RAMA
First Nation



Arthur Shilling, *Untitled (Child)*, c. 1978, pastel on paper,
76.2 x 58.4 cm.

BIOGRAPHY:

Canadian Aboriginal artist Arthur Shilling (b. 1941 – d. 1986) was born and spent most of his life in Rama First Nation Reservation, Ontario. Shilling's work has been exhibited widely including group exhibitions at the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto), and the Museum fur Völkerkunde (Germany). He has held solo exhibitions at the MacLaren Art Centre (Barrie, Ontario), Roberts Gallery (Toronto, Ontario), and Whetung Art Gallery (Curve Lake, Ontario) as well as numerous others. Shilling was a self-taught artist, though he received a scholarship to attend the Ontario College of Art for a brief time in 1959.

Curator in Residence Suzanne Morrissette



The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is pleased to announce the appointment of our Curatorial Resident, Suzanne Morrissette. Suzanne began her full-time, two year contract position on July 18, 2011.

Suzanne received her BFA from Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design University in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2009. She recently earned her MFA in Criticism and Curatorial Practice with a focus on contemporary Aboriginal art, from OCAD University in Toronto, Ontario in June, 2011.

Suzanne has contributed to curatorial projects in Canada including *You Are Here* at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, and *past now* at the Graduate Gallery in Toronto, which later travelled to the MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie, Ontario. Morrissette comes to this position from her experience in artist run centres, specifically as former intern at both Urban Shaman Gallery and aceartinc. in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This residency was made possible by the generous support of:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Skilled Instructors

Art Classes - Fall 2011

Quality Materials

To Register Call 577-6427**SONGBIRDS AND SHAKERS****Ages 4 - 6**Saturdays, September 24 - October 29
1 - 2 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Draw, paint and sculpt to the sounds of music. Students will create works of art based on musical compositions. Musical instruments will be made.

Gallery Members - \$45; Non-Members - \$55

ART ADVENTURES WITH WILDLIFE**Ages 6 - 8**Tuesdays, September 20 - October 25
6 - 7:30 pm

Instructor: Andrew Dorland

From dinosaurs to moose. Learn to draw large animals in their habitat. Class will be inspired by our exhibition of wildlife paintings. If you love animals, this class is for you.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

THERE'S STILL LIFE IN STILL LIFE**Ages 9 - 12**Saturdays, September 24 - October 29
2:30 - 4 pm

There's a lot to learn in this class! Participants will be surprised each week with a new still life to draw or paint. Drawing from life is valuable to young artists. Mixed media will be included.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

EXPLORING BEAUTY & ART FOR GIRLS**Ages 10 - 15**Wednesdays, September 21 - October 26
6 - 7:30 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Back by popular demand! Participants will use artistic expression to discuss topics including inner beauty, self-esteem, positive body image and healthy choices. Art lessons include painting, mixed media and sculpture.

Gallery Members - \$65; Non-Members - \$80

BOOK BINDING FOR ADULTSThursdays, September 22 - October 27
6 - 7:30 pm

Instructor: Laura K. Preston

Instruction on a variety of bookbinding techniques, including the long running stitch, stiff leaf structure, and hard cover book design.

Gallery Members - \$70; Non-Members - \$85 + HST

FAMILY DAY AT THE GALLERYSunday, October 2
1 - 4 pm

Come out and enjoy a free creative afternoon in celebration of Canada-wide CULTURE DAYS. A variety of art projects will be available for children to try. A great Family Fun Day!

Family Day generously sponsored by:



For what matters.

The Gallery Supports Pro Kids

**GALLERY POLICY ON ART CLASS REFUNDS**

No refunds for cancellations made less than one week prior to the beginning of class except as a result of unmitigated circumstances.

All refunds will be subject to a 10% administration fee regardless of when cancellation occurs.

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery reserves the right to cancel under-registered classes where numbers warrant. Refunds made because of Gallery cancellation will not be subject to the 10% administration fee.

Upcoming Events

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery cordially invites you to the following sensational affairs...

Pitch Forks & Wine Corks Friday, September 30

This is the Gallery's inaugural wine tasting event—the first in a series of themed tastings. Join us for an educational exploration of Ontario VQA wine and harvest-season food. This event is generously sponsored by Generator, LCPS Accountants, Thunder Bay Xerographix, Wisk Air and Belluz Farms.

THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY PRESENTS

HELICOPTER TOUR RAFFLE!
COURTESY OF WISK AIR

AN INAUGURAL TASTING

pitch Forks
AND
Wine Corks

5 LBS.

SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2011

WITH LOCAL SOMMELIER **Jeanie Dubois**

\$75 PER PERSON
FOR AN EXTRA 5 DUCKS -
Include your set of license plates
and/or ride on our bus

WINE & APPETIZERS 7 pm

Belluz Farms

THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY • 807-577-6427
Proceeds support the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's
exhibition and education programs.

SPONSORED BY



THEAG.O.CA

Member's Evening at the Gallery

Thursday, October 6

Join us for an interactive visit to the Gallery, complete with a tour led by seasoned Gallery staff, and a hands-on workshop to delight your inner artist. Refreshments will be served. The Gift Shop will be open, offering a discount for Members and their friends.



Saturday & Sunday, November 12 & 13

Our annual festive tour of lovely homes decorated in traditional and non-traditional styles. Choose from the Saturday evening Candlelight Tour, featuring appetizers and wine at the Gallery or the Sunday Tour, ideal for taking your time to glean inspiration.

Update on Renewal Project

The Renewal Committee of the Gallery's Board of Directors is continuing its due diligence, following up on the recommendations of the Feasibility Study and examining opportunities that exist to resolve the space issues facing the Gallery.

At present, the Board is considering two options—an expansion of our current facility on the campus of Confederation College, or a new building on Thunder Bay's waterfront

On June 27, Gallery President Heidi Uhlig and Director Sharon Godwin made a deputation to Thunder Bay City Council. Heidi and Sharon asked Councillors for their support to begin formal discussions with City Administration to determine opportunities that may exist for relocation of the Gallery to the newly developed Waterfront. A report will be presented by Administration at the end of November 2011.

Once the Board has completed the exploration of both options, they will be in a position to make a decision about the future of the facility.

Members or others who have questions or comments about the Renewal Project should call Gallery Director Sharon Godwin at 577-6427 or contact her by email at segodwin@theag.ca.



Thunder Bay Art Gallery

GARDEN TOUR

This year's Garden Tour was a blooming success! Featuring a little bit of everything from sweeping, landscaped outdoor living spaces and flower beds, to petite and versatile perennial gardens. We could not be more pleased with the variety of the gardens, the graciousness of the gardeners & volunteers and the tenacity of the Garden Tour Committee. Thank you to everyone who participated in this self-guided Garden Tour. And a special thank you to our generous sponsors and partners: CIBC, Landale Garden Centre, Safeway, Vaillant Florist, Thunder Bay Master Gardeners, Musician Pat Towell, and Judi Vinni from Willow Springs Creative Centre.

Generously Sponsored by:



For what matters.



Join our Facebook fan page. Just click "like".

Art on the Water Canoe Raffle

Tickets for the canoe are on sale now at the Gallery.

Ticket Price: \$5 or 3 for \$10

Draw Date: December 15 at the Gallery

License #: M00644046



Canoe on display at Fort William Historical Park

Volunteer Spotlight Bingo Volunteers



The Thunder Bay Art Gallery and community bingo go way back, and these committed bingo volunteers have been with us since the beginning. Without their quick wit, patience and math skills, bingo wouldn't be the same! Thank you Maria Danielewski, Paul Olsen, Susan Landversitch and Karen

Gallery Gifts Specialty items for all occasions!



SZABO DESIGN

These original and unique works of hand painted glass objects are made, designed and signed by well-known Canadian artist Marlena Szabo.

Season Sponsor

The Chronicle Journal
THE NEWSPAPER OF THUNDER BAY

Annual Sponsor

First General Services

Free Wednesdays Made Possible by:



Thunder Bay Art Gallery

PO Box 10193
1080 Keewatin Street
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T7
On Confederation College campus
Phone: (807) 577 - 6427
Fax: (807) 577 - 3781
info@theag.ca
www.theag.ca

Gallery Viewing & Gift Shop Hours

Tuesday - Thursday
Noon - 8 pm
Friday - Sunday
Noon - 5 pm

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm

Admission

Adult \$3 +HST
Seniors & Students \$1.50 + HST
Children under 12 FREE
Members FREE

Admission Free on Wednesdays

**CITY OF
Thunder Bay**
Superior by Nature



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Funding & Ongoing Support

Thunder Bay Art Gallery is a registered charity supported by the City of Thunder Bay, Department of Canadian Heritage, The Canada Council for the Arts, FedNor, Ontario Arts Council, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, and private and corporate donations.

Thank you to Confederation College Starbucks Coffee Co. and Signal Resources for their ongoing support.



Staff

Jennifer Bullock - Registrar
Brenda Gilham - Administrative Assistant
Sharon Godwin - Director
Pat Gombola - Finance Officer
Cathy Krelove - Front of House Supervisor
Nadia Kurd - Curator
Alastair C MacKay - Communications & Marketing Coordinator
Suzanne Morrissette - Curatorial Resident
Socorro Woodman - Development Officer
Vivian Wood-Alexander - Educator
John Swartwout - Installation Officer

Front Desk Attendants

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Thea Books
Camille Malek
Dayna Olsen