



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Phyllis Godwin

Drawer's Selection

February 4, - March 11, 2006



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Phyllis Godwin

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

Phyllis Godwin has always been a drawer and her fanciful dolls and fairies co-existed within the milieu of The Regina Five (she is married to Ted Godwin). This form of fanciful, flat, yet detailed depiction of figures with an invented ethnicity and style have come under scrutiny and garnered significant recognition recently in the work of the new drawers, The Royal Lodge and Marcel Dzama for instance. Phyllis Godwin's stylized and decorated females, enduring with admirable consistency as the rest of the art scene changed several times around her, ring with a truth that is as honest as Ukrainian eggs and braided bread.

There is an implied narrative but only the initiated can completely decipher Phyllis Godwin's secret story line. There is an aura of lore with ritual practices that these spindly sprites partake in for they are dressed up and either ready to go or well on their way. There is a common sense of costume, but it can't be traced to a specific culture. Phyllis Godwin has invented a cross between fashion and protection, a feminine armor. There are leg pads that seem to button behind, protecting the fairies' long legs so that they can continue to perform amazing contortions, twisting upon themselves like Celtic knots or macramé. Ropes, ribbons, laces, braids, florets and baubles form patterns with symmetry and ordered design displayed in absolute repetitive perfection. There is a perspective akin to the shallow dimension that was understood when the shift was first made from medieval to renaissance - a Giotto-like space. There is a formality that holds the flitting, happy, whimsical dolls in check with the order imposed by formal gardens where trees are trimmed into circles or the world is held in place by meticulously rendered borders.

There is no sense of time, no historical definition for these airy females. The dress is a mixture of ancient and modern, the stylization is as contemporary as comics and yet seemingly rooted in traditions. It is a world occupied by feminine delight.



Three Little Maids Are We
watercolour and graphite
24 x 18 in
1984



Jack and Jill
graphite and pencil crayon
25.5 x 19.5 in
1987



Whimsical Dolls
graphite and pencil crayon
25.5 x 19.75 in
1997



Three Whimsical Dolls
graphite and pencil crayon
19.75 x 25.5 in
1999



Two Whimsical Dolls
graphite
25.5 x 19.75 in
1987



Painted Doll
graphite and crayon
23 x 17.5 in
2002



Gemini #16
graphite and crayon
25.5 x 19.75 in
2002

Phyllis Wanda Godwin

EDUCATION

Teacher's College University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
Alberta Institute of Technology & Art, Calgary - Alta.

CHRONOLOGICAL

- 1955 Married Ted Godwin
- 1964 One Man Show Norman MacKenzie Art gallery, Regina, (concurrent with Ted Godwin One Man Show)
- 1965 Two-Man Show (Esther Warkov) London Art Gallery, London, Ontario
- 1965 One Man Show - Western Canada Art Circuit touring
Civic Library Gallery Moose Jaw, Sask.
Allied Arts Council Brandon, Man.
Alberta College of Art gallery Calgary
Library Gallery Prince Albert, Sask.
University of Victoria Gallery B.C.
Allied Arts Council Calgary, Alta.
Art Society Kelowna, B.C.
Gallery on the Roof SPC Regina, Sask.
- 1966 One Man Show - Ontario Art Circuit touring
Art Institute of Ontario
Ryerson Polytech Institute
Alma College, St. Thomas
Huron Park Secondary School, Downsview
Richview Public Library
Seneca College of Applied Art & Tech.
McDonald College - P.Q.
University of Western Ontario
Orillia
Oakville Centennial Library
Crouch Branch Library , London
- 1966 One Man Show - Lord Beaverbrook Gallery Fredericton, NB
- 1968 One Man Show - Elliott Lake Centre Continuing Education
- 1970 One Man Show Lethbridge University gallery
One Man Show Dunlop Art Gallery - Regina, Sask.

- 1973 Two Man Show with Ted Godwin Kenny.s Gallery Galway
- 1973 Three man Show M. L. Cook & A. Safruk (sisters) Mendel Art Gallery
Saskatoon Sask.
- 1974 One Man Show University Gallery Regina, Sask.
Two Man Show (Ted Godwin) Un. Art Gallery Waterloo Out
- 1977 Two Man show (Ted Godwin) Lefebvre Gallery Edmonton
Three Man Show Dunlop Art Gallery Regina, Sask.
- 1980 Watercolour Painting In Saskatchewan 1905-1980, Mendel Art
Gallery Saskatoon, Sask.
- 1981 Two Person Show Assiniboia Gallery Regina, Sask.
- 1983 Two person Show Assiniboia Gallery Regina, Sask.
- 1985 Two person Show Assiniboia Gallery Regina, Sask.
- 1993 Three Person Show Assiniboia Gallery Regina Sask. November
- 1997 Three Person show Assiniboia Gallery Regina Sask., February
- 1998 Xmas Show Bau-Xi Gallery 340 Dundas Street Toronto Ontario
- 1998 Xmas Show Wallace Gallery Calgary, Alberta
- 2002 Phyllis and Ted Godwin recent work Assiniboia Gallery
- 2005 A Family Affair Ted, Phyllis, and Teddi in exhibition Assiniboia Gallery

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

- 1976 Husband and Wife series - Arts West
- 1990 Biographical Dictionary of Saskatchewan Artists - Marketa Newman
- 1997 Treasured Moments - John and Monica Kurtz

MAJOR COLLECTIONS

Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver B.C.
 Lord Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton, N.B.
 Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery Regina, Sask.
 Saskatchewan Arts Board
 Alberta Art Foundation
 Shell Oil
 Gulf Oil
 Imperial Oil
 Alberta Energy
 Esso
 ArtDec
 Saskatchewan Supply & Services
 SaskTel

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