

An aerial photograph of a vast, blue, mountainous landscape. The terrain is covered in dense, low-lying vegetation, creating a textured, undulating surface. Scattered across the landscape are numerous small, white, cloud-like patches, which appear to be snow or light-colored rock formations. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue, from deep cerulean to light sky blue, with the white patches providing a stark contrast.

Breathing Room  
The Language of Sky

Donna Kriekle

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Artist Catalogue: Donna Kriekle, Breathing Room - The Language of Sky  
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This catalog was created for the exhibition titled "Breathing Room"  
Presenting Donna Kriekle's sky paintings in the Picture Gallery at Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC  
May 8 - June 19, 2011

Commentary by Julie Oakes  
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RICH FOG



Micro Publishing  
Vernon Canada

# Donna Kriekle

May 8 - June 19, 2011

The Picture Gallery

HEADBONES GALLERY



### **Donna Kriekle - Breathing Room**

The sky as a subject is open to many interpretations, each as personal as subjectivity. The sky can serve as a metaphor for clarity, for freedom, for the sublime and exert its influence so strongly as to affect the emotions as it lifts or plummets the spirit.

The sky is relative to reflection. Not only is it a subject for thought but as a reference, it is used as an aid to thought. There is a gesture common

to mankind and not particular to social or cultural orientations; when a thought is sought for, we look to the sky. When guidance or help is desired, we look heavenwards. Contemplation with a backdrop of space aids in the clarity of rumination and from our earthly perspective (since it is crowded by natural and man-made edifices) the most accessible source of visual space is the firmament with its boundless openness, for even if the sky is cloudy, the awareness of the sky as clear still forms the backdrop to the clouded vista.

This idea of looking to the sky segues to the belief - a belief that has also crossed cultures and ethnicities - that the sky is the home to the Gods. A prayer for inspiration or aid is made with eyes closed and a concentrated plea to above. Whether it be a single God, or a grouping of benevolent and malevolent God forces, myth, religion and magic has housed many of the omnipotents in the sky like the silver-haired, fatherly figure of the Christian God, bestowing blessings from above or Thor when there is a storm and the electricity branches or sheets in spastic energetic outbursts, causing the soul to shiver. Tornados and hurricanes, with wind blowing havoc, spreading leaves, dust and branches or at the upper-most violent aspect of its nature tearing apart mankind's shelters without discrimination - originates in the sky. The sky has had a mysterious and enigmatic appeal that has been pictured throughout visual history for it embodies great visual drama.

But it is a more quotidian aspect of the sky that Donna Kriekle pictures. The sky on the open prairie is daily, even more present than elsewhere for it is unblocked by impediments such as the city skyline, mountains, forests or hills. Only at sea is this grand vista of overhead space as prevalent. Donna Kriekle is a prairie dweller and as an offspring of Saskatchewan, she relates intimately with her environment. She feels and paints the seasonal cycles in her watercolours for the seasons are clearly differentiated on the Saskatchewan prairies. It follows that Kriekle should paint the skies and she has given these skies masterpiece position with the respect due to their magnificence. Her oil paintings of skies

need no contender. They are usually free of extraneous objects although now and again a small glass bird is seen against the blue. Man has not yet been able to interrupt her clear open vistas. In Saskatchewan where there is little industrial pollution, the sky is one of the frontiers left unaltered by man and as a result it is also relatively visually untainted. It seems almost against Kriekle's nature to interrupt the vista of a sky with another object. Kriekle's skies can provoke reverence for the phenomena of 'sky-ness'.

Kriekle's sky paintings grant breathing room. They are a visual gift, like a breath of fresh air. Her work presents a simple visual proposition; right above us there is a wonderful phenomenon that can be used as a conduit to the spiritual. In keeping her sky paintings just unhindered skies, where the only components are endemic to the sky (clouds, rain, light, stars), Kriekle does not trespass. She honours the element.

Julie Oakes  
Headbones Gallery - Vernon, BC, 2011



Alderamin    Alpha Cephei    "the right arm"  
Oil on canvas, 7" x 7", 2011



Alnair Alpha Gruis "the bright one"  
Oil on canvas, 9" x 9", 2011





Sdachbia    Gamma Aquarii    "lucky star of hidden things"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



Naos Zeta Puppis "ship"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011



Nashira    Gamma Capricorni    "fortunate one"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



Sadalbari Mu Pegasi "good luck of the excelling one"  
Oil on canvas, 9" x 9", 2011



Mira Omicron Ceti "wonderful"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011



Chara Beta Canum "joy"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011



Hao Epsilon Scorpis "queen"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



*Source*  
Oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 2008





Caput Trianguli    Alpha Trianguli    "head of the triangle"  
Oil on canvas, 9" x 9", 2011



*Time*  
Oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 2008



Spica Alpha Virginis "ear of grain"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



Gienah Epsilon Cygni "wing"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011



Caph    Beta Cassiopeiae    "hand"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011



Matar Eta Pegasi "rain"  
Oil on canvas, 9" x 9", 2011



Polaris    Alpha Ursae Minoris    "of the pole"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



Diadem Alpha Comae "crown"  
Oil on canvas, 12" x 16", 2011





Peacock Alpha Pavonis "peacock"  
Oil on canvas, 10" x 10", 2011



Sadalsud Beta Aquarii "luckiest of the lucky"  
Oil on canvas, 9" x 9", 2011



Algieba    Gamma Leonis    "the forehead"  
Oil on canvas, 7" x 7", 2011



*Vantage Points 4, oil & acrylic on board, 48" x 8.5", 1987*



*Vantage Points 2, Sea of Japan, oil & acrylic on board, 48" x 8.5", 1987*



*Dawn 2, oil & acrylic on board, 48" x 8.5", 1987*



*Dawn 3, oil & acrylic on board, 48" x 8.5", 1987*

## Donna Kriekle

### EDUCATION

- 2000 -2005 Streaming Video, Soil Digital Media, Neutral Ground  
Flash, Dreamweaver, SOIL, Neutral Ground  
Quick Books Pro, SIAST  
Flash, Dreamweaver, Intermediate Adobe Photoshop, Web for Photographers, SIAST  
Streaming Video, Soil Digital Media, Neutral Ground  
Final Cut Pro Workshop, Saskatchewan Filmpool  
Streaming Video Workshop, Apple Canada
- 1998 Visual Design for Multimedia & AVID Basics , Banff Centre Pagemaker, SIAST
- 1997 Instructional Design for New Media, Banff Centre Scriptwriting, SMPIA
- 1996 Interactive Screen, Deep Web, Surf's Up, Banff Centre  
PDI Workshops (SMPIA): Documentaries, Safety on the Set, Finance for the Independent  
Producer, Pitching, Art Direction
- 1995 Digital Video Editing (Adobe Premier), Adobe Photoshop Basics, Adobe Illustrator Basics, SIAST  
Multimedia Authoring (Macromedia Director), Banff Centre for the Arts; workshops in  
Strategic Planning, Marketing, Art Direction and Pitching, SMPIA
- 1985 Printmaking (Photo lithography), University of Regina
- 1970 - 1971 Directed studies, The History of Art & Religious Studies, Concordia University
- 1969 B.A. - Fine Arts, University of Regina

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Breathing Room, Headbones Gallery, BC
- 1993 L I F E L I N E S, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina
- 1989 Prairie Wool /Time Capsule, Installation, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina
- 1988 Woltjen/Udell Gallery, Vancouver
- 1988 Nancy Poole's Studio, Toronto
- 1986 - 1987 Artists With their Work, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina
- 1986 Susan Whitney Gallery, Regina
- 1982 Susan Whitney Gallery
- 1881 Susan Whitney Gallery

### COLLECTIONS

- Saskatchewan Arts Board  
Canada Council Art Bank  
Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina  
Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina  
Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery, Oshawa  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatchewan Telecommunications  
Saskatchewan Potash Corporation  
City of Regina  
Regina Board of Education  
Esso Resources, Calgary, Alberta  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation  
Saskatchewan Power Corporation  
Private collections in Canada, USA, England, Japan

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 Bouquet, The University Club, University of Regina,  
2009 For Emily, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina. SK  
Back to the Garden, Headbones Gallery, Toronto  
2008 Aligning with Beauty, The Varley Art Gallery, Markham, Ontario  
Garden Folk, Dunlop Art Gallery at Sherwood Village Library, Regina  
www.women, The Drawers, Headbones Gallery, Toronto  
2007 Erotica, The Drawers, Headbones Gallery, Toronto  
2005 - 2011 Gallery Artists, Nouveau Gallery, Regina  
2005 - 2011 Gallery Artists, The Drawers - Headbones Gallery, Toronto & B.C.  
1980 - 2005 Gallery Artists, Susan Whitney Gallery, Regina  
2005 Smaller, Neutral Ground, Regina  
2002 - 2004 Toronto International Art Fair (Susan Whitney Gallery)  
2001 Anatomy of a Garden, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina  
1999 Treasures from the Vault - Regionalism Reconstructed, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina  
North American Botanical Society Annual Exhibition, University of British Columbia  
1995 - 1998 Survivors: in Search of a Voice, (video installation). Venues: Royal Ontario Museum,  
Toronto; Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; Mackenzie Art Gallery,  
Regina; Government Conference Centre, Ottawa; Thunder Bay Art Gallery; Mayo Clinic, Rochester,  
Minnesota, King of Prussia Plaza, Philadelphia; Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas,  
(Detroit, Los Angeles, Johannesburg, Hartford)  
1995 Call and Response, Neutral Ground, Regina  
1995 In Search of Feminism, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, B.C.  
1991 - 1993 Earthlines, Deadlines, Lifelines, toured Western Canada, California  
1992 1982 - 1992, Neutral Ground, Regina  
1990 Art LA `90, Los Angeles Convention Centre, Los Angeles, California  
1990 Small Matters, Neutral Ground  
1990 Living Canadian Artists, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina  
1988 Invitational 1988, Nancy Poole's Studio, Toronto  
1987 - 1989 The Farm Show - A Documentary, A.K.A., toured Saskatchewan  
1986 Living Nature, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa  
1986 Saskatchewan Pavilion, Expo `86, Vancouver, B.C.  
1986 A Sense of Place, Rosemont Art Gallery, Regina  
1986 - 1990 Gallery Artists, Woltjen/Udell Galleries, Vancouver & Edmonton  
1986 An International Correspondence Art Exhibition, Neutral Ground  
1985 The Second Generation, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina  
1982 Saskatchewan Open, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon

## COMMISSIONS

Saskatchewan Parks Series of botanical watercolor and acrylic paintings of Boreal Forest  
Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Saskatchewan 1900 - 4' x 32' diorama, Saskatchewan Landing.  
Government of Saskatchewan, Regina Court House, portrait of Lt. Governor Frederick Johnson,  
University of Toronto, A Gifted Globe - International conference on Gifted Learning, visual identity.  
The Saskatchewan Writers Guild - 25th Anniversary, visual identity.

## DIGITAL ARTS

### Snowball

1 min short

Winter games trilogy: Prisoner of Winter, Swoosh, Snow Bunnies

Screenings: Screening Under the Stars, CVAF, Regina SK, May 2011

### winter games

3 video loops - 1 min. shorts

Prisoner of Winter, A slice, Swoosh

Screenings: You tube @ eyeq2011

### Reflections

17 shorts (ranging from 28 seconds - 3 minutes)

A wave from the past - early 20th century life on the plains, from the Saskatchewan Archives.

Screenings: SCN, 2007 - 2011

### im`pulse (Migration)

video performance - 4 min.

Canadian Winter Sports Series - palettes of ice ~ skating through a universe of color.

Screenings: Opening, Canadian Conference for the Arts - Annual Conference, 2004  
Neutral Ground, April, 1999

### Hearts of Fire

video loop - 4 min.

In `vitro dance performance

Screenings: Soil, Neutral Ground, Feb 14, 1998  
Susan Whitney Gallery, Dec 1997  
SMPIA, Reel Revel, Nov 1997

### One in 9

video loop - installation - 4 min.

Navigating the odds of Breast Cancer

Screenings: See Group Shows, Visual Arts - "Survivors in Search of a Voice".  
SMPIA Showcase, 1995. Experimental Award nomination

### Eye Openers

video - 16 min.

Visual literacy training Questioning strategy - for teachers, exhibition guides, interpreters, viewers

Based on photographer Courtney Milne's exhibition of photographs The Sacred Earth.

Screenings: A Saskatchewan Education Learning Resource

## **PUBLICATIONS**

H2. \* Explorations in Watercolor . Foundation distance learning text, developed for the University of Regina, with assistance from the Saskatchewan Department Education & the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

See [www.eyeq.cc](http://www.eyeq.cc)

Jenkner, Ingrid. LIFELINES, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina Public Library, 1993

Marzolf, Helen. Case Installation Series, Dunlop Art Gallery, 1990.

McConnell, Clyde. The Prairies; Recent Exhibits in Alberta and Saskatchewan, The Art Post, Vol. 2, No.5, Mar/Apr. 1985.

Perreault, W. Saskatchewan: A Sense of Place, Rosemont Art Gallery, 1986.

Perry, Meta. Artist Muses on Grasshoppers' Perspective, Regina Leader Post, Oct. 30, 1986.

Zepp, Norman. Donna Kriekle - Artists With Their Work, Mackenzie, Art Gallery, 1984.

Zepp, Norman and Park-Taylor, Michael. The Second Generation: Fourteen Saskatchewan Painters, MacKenzie Art Gallery, 1985.

## **AWARDS**

Saskatchewan Arts Board Grants - 1979, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1991, 1998

MacKenzie Art Gallery - Honorary Life Membership - 1990

## **RELATED**

2006 - 2011

Board Member, Neutral Ground

1999 - 2001

Alternate Regional Director, Independent Film & Video Alliance (IFVA/IMAA)

1996 - 1998

Issues & Advocacy Committee, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association (SMPIA)

1997 - 2000

Communications Committee, SOIL, Neutral Ground

1997 - 1998

Board of Directors, Art School Saskatchewan

1990 - 1991

Board of Directors, Program Committee Chair, Neutral Ground, Regina

1990 - 1991

Visual Arts Editor, Windscrip, Saskatchewan Writers Guild

## **AFFILIATIONS**

Nouveau Gallery, Regina

Headbones, B.C.

(Susan Whitney Gallery, Regina)

Neutral Ground, Regina

Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina

CARFAC Sask (Canadian Artists Representation)

Saskatchewan New Media Developers Association (SNMDA)

Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA)

Saskatchewan FilmPool



## IN DEVELOPMENT & PRODUCTION

Painting Lab (working title)

Series of 13 half hour videos/DVDs - exploring the creative act through painting in watercolor and acrylic.

shov`elle

video loop - 4 min.

Series - Winter Games - palettes of snow

les fleurs des neige eternelles ~ the art of shovelling

vital Signs

24 - 1min video - projection loops

Synapse series - Interactive orbits of cognition & ignition .

Image, symbol, text, light, audio mix, based on the installation "Lifelines"

w i l l

Installation & multi platform - game of ID\*entity.

Design & align . Y`OUR time frame . + v`is`ion

S o u p O p e r a

Soup or woman? An electronic sp`ice kitchen ,digital dance party.

A web-sight of e`motions... responding to the flight of superwoman...

`other

1/2 hr video travelogue /doc

The rights & wrongs of pass`age in the evolution of memory. Mapping the territory between the content & intent, myth & reality of - m`other (1907 -1994)



# Headbones Gallery

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Tel: 250-542-8987

W: [www.headbonesgallery.com](http://www.headbonesgallery.com)

E: [info@headbonesgallery.com](mailto:info@headbonesgallery.com)

Hours: Tue-Sat 12-6pm

## BREATHING ROOM

May 8 - June 19, 2011

### Picture Gallery

**Donna Kriekle** - *Sky Paintings*

### Drawers Gallery

**Robert Farmer** - *"Splatstick" Paintings*

### Paper Gallery

**Daniel Hanequand** - *Miniature Paintings*

**Opening Reception**

**Saturday, May 14, 2-5 PM**