

DECEMBER 29, 2023

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
CANADIAN ART LIVES LIVED*Celebrated figures in Canadian art are remembered
by their colleagues, peers, and friends.*

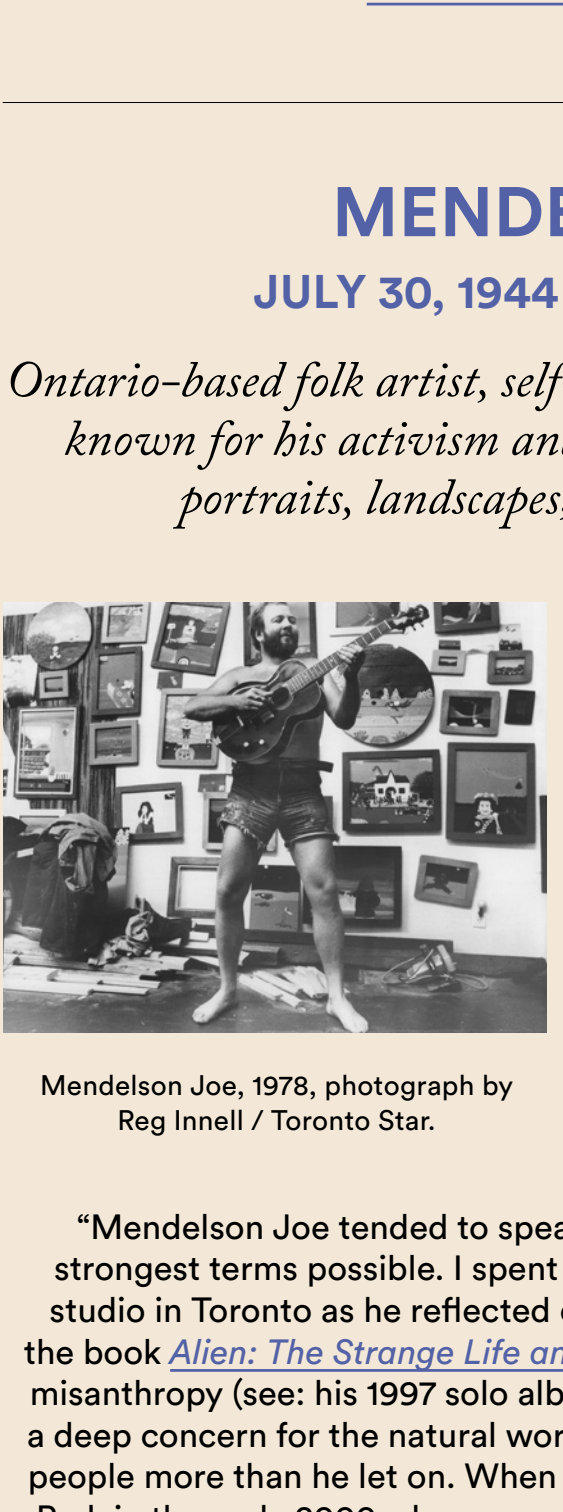
This year saw the passing of too many brilliant Canadian artists, curators, architects, and cultural leaders whose legacies will have an impact for generations to come. They transformed our country's cultural landscape during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries with their singular talent, innovative spirit, and remarkable achievements, and this week's newsletter is dedicated to them. Peers, friends, and colleagues offer heartfelt recollections of giants who are gone but not forgotten, their passion, intellect, warmth, and generosity embedded in the memories of those privileged to know them.

Sara Angel

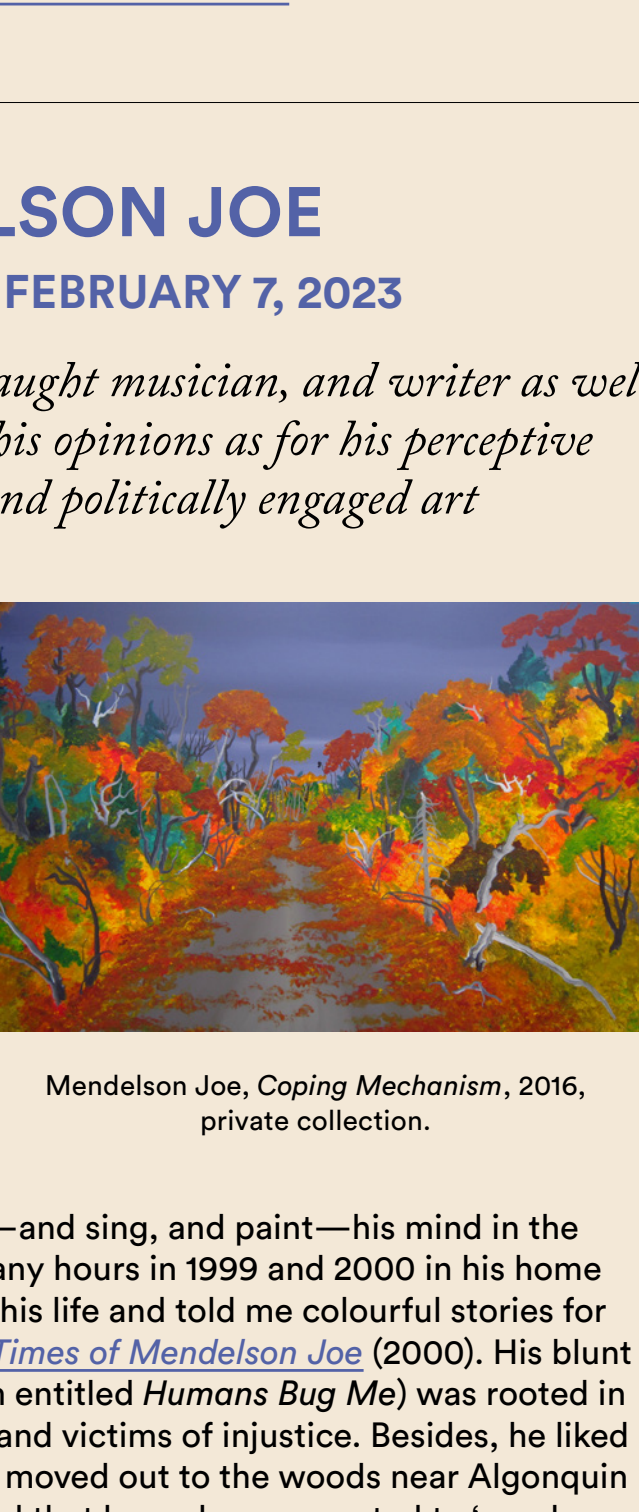
Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute

MICHAEL SNOW, CC, RCA

DECEMBER 10, 1928 – JANUARY 5, 2023

Globally revered pioneer of new media and Conceptual art whose career, which began in 1950s Toronto, encompassed painting, sculpture, video, film, photography, holography, drawing, writing, and music

Michael Snow poses in 1962 with a jumping figure cut-out and Green in Green (detail), courtesy of the Estate of Michael Snow.



Michael Snow, 61-62, 1961-62, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

"We had the honour of working with Michael Snow in 2020 when the Art Gallery of Hamilton organized the exhibition *Early Snow*. The show focused on his prodigious early career and presented a body of art that highlighted the intellectual independence and experimental nature of a groundbreaking artist whose work would change and redefine itself over the next 50 years—and make him one of Canada's most important voices. This ability of Snow to improvise, experiment, and work in a variety of genres reflected his love of jazz. And, much like jazz, his impressive and singular body of work seduces us with familiar patterns only to disrupt our expectations."

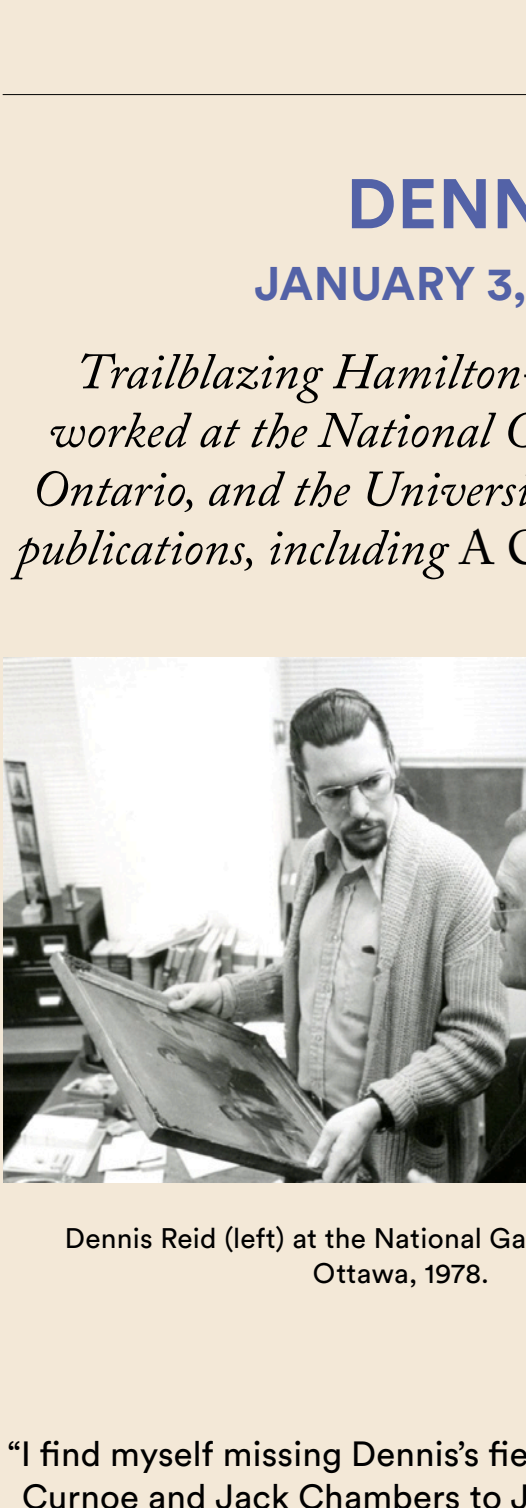
—Shelley Falconer, President and CEO, Art Gallery of Hamilton

Learn more in ACI's

[Michael Snow: Life & Work](#) by Martha Langford

PETER A. HERRNDORF, CC, OONT

OCTOBER 27, 1940 – FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Considered the godfather of Canadian arts; a widely influential and visionary cultural leader who rejuvenated Ottawa's National Arts Centre during his long tenure as President & CEO

Peter Herrndorf, photograph by Tony Hauser.



Exterior facade of National Arts Centre, Ottawa, photograph by Doublespace Photography.

"Peter was a champion of journalism and the arts in Canada for 60 years. After being selected to design the transformation of the National Arts Centre in 2011, I was summoned to his office for what I assumed would be a polite, introductory chat. As I waited for the meeting to begin, I could see him through his open door, pacing and making notes. As the clock ticked past our scheduled time—15 minutes, then 30 and 45—I began to imagine the worst. Were we being fired before we even began? But once we started talking, I realized that Peter had been organizing his thoughts. What followed was the most thoughtful discussion about project ambition I've ever experienced. Over the course of our collaboration, he had complete trust in our design skill while never wavering from his core objectives. Peter's superpower was creating the conditions for excellence."

—Donald Schmitt, CM, Founding Principal of Diamond Schmitt Architects

[Learn more about Peter Herrndorf](#)

MENDELSON JOE

JULY 30, 1944 – FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Ontario-based folk artist, self-taught musician, and writer as well known for his activism and his opinions as for his perceptive portraits, landscapes, and politically engaged art

Mendelson Joe, 1978, photograph by Reg Innell / Toronto Star.



Mendelson Joe, Coping Mechanism, 2016, private collection.

"Mendelson Joe tended to speak—and sing, and paint—his mind in the strongest terms possible. I spent many hours in 1999 and 2000 in his home studio in Toronto as he reflected on his life and told me colourful stories for the book *Alien: The Strange Life and Times of Mendelson Joe* (2000). His blunt misanthropy (see: his 1997 solo album entitled *Humans Bug Me*) was rooted in a deep concern for the natural world and victims of injustice. Besides, he liked people more than he let on. When he moved out to the woods near Algonquin Park in the early 2000s, he announced that he no longer wanted to 'see, hear or smell' his neighbours, but in 2016, he put out a book of carefully observed portraits titled *Joe's Neighbours*. I was saddened to learn he had chosen MAID earlier this year, but it was very much in Joe's character—he was fiercely attached to his freedom to choose his own destiny."

—Nadia Halim, writer, bookseller, and cultural event organizer

Learn more about Mendelson Joe at

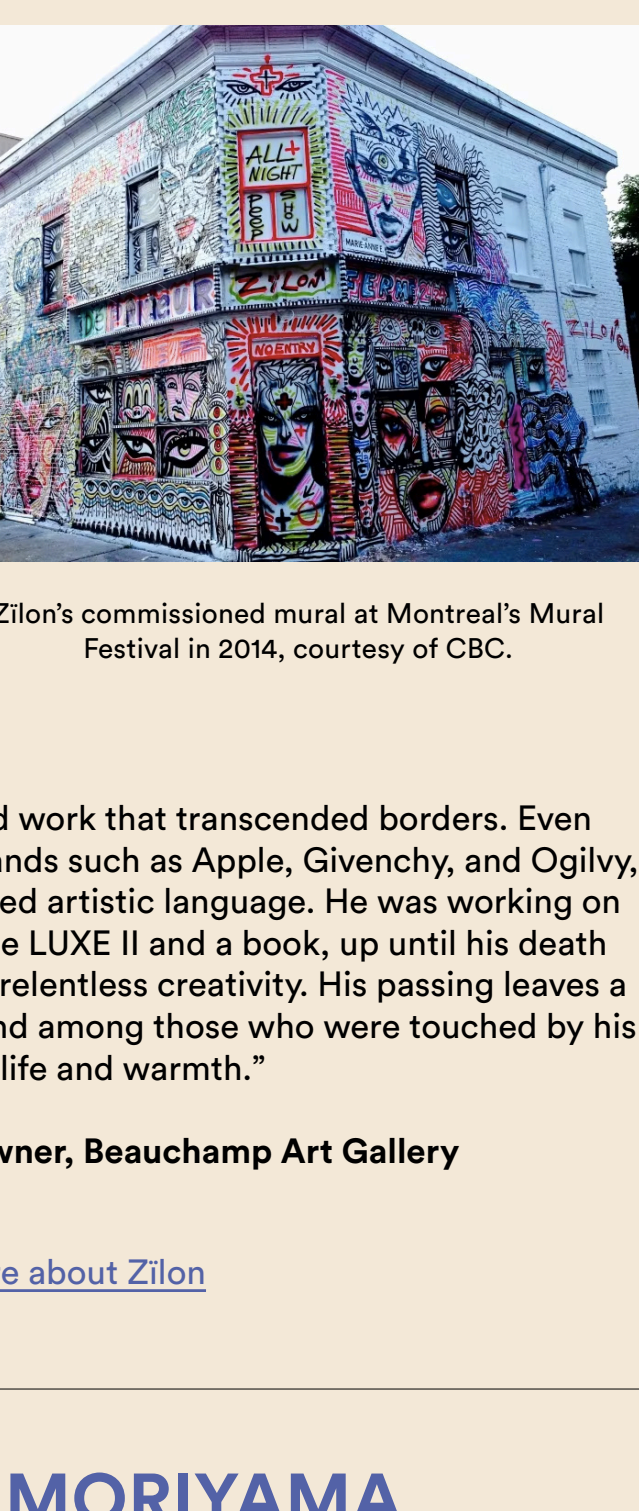
[Karen Robinson Gallery](#), which represents the artist's work

TONY SCHERMAN, RCA

AUGUST 13, 1950 – FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Eminent Toronto-based figurative painter celebrated for his psychologically charged portraits and sumptuously coloured still lifes

Tony Scherman in front of his own painting, 2016, courtesy of Joy von Tiedemann Photography Inc.



Tony Scherman, Ciao Gaia, 2005, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

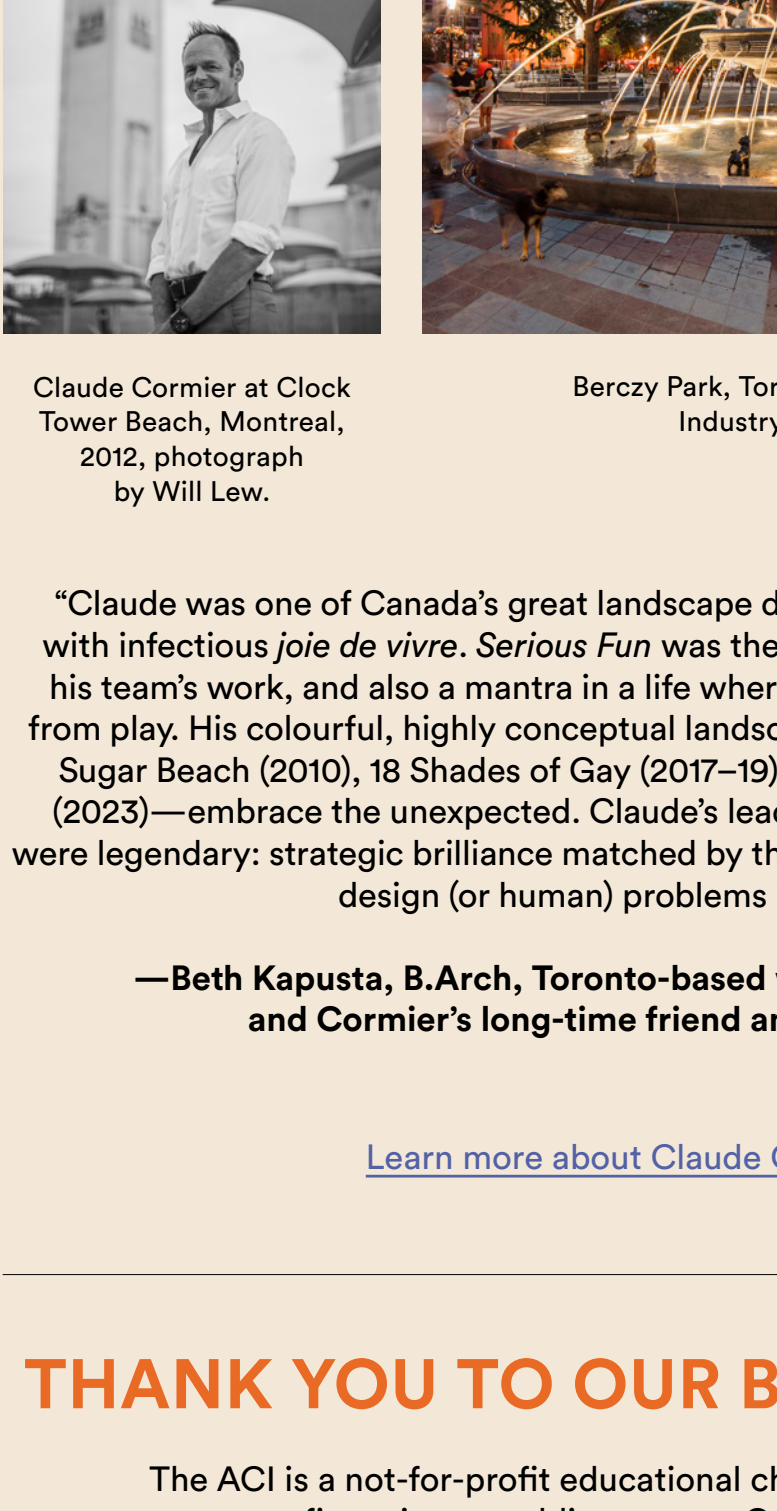
"Tony knew great painting. He grew up in Paris, went to art school in London, and communed with artists from those cities. By the mid-1970s, he had adapted Jasper Johns's encaustic technique for his own gestural purposes. Based out of his Toronto studio, he created post-Pop works that looked back to Caravaggio, Jean Siméon Chardin, Edouard Manet, and Paul Cézanne, while forcing Francis Bacon's linear stroke into his cogulate waxy mix. Tony explored the epic sagas that underpin our civilization, leaping from Ovid to Shakespeare, and finding his truest motif in the face of Napoleon, plumbing the depths of the emperor's many visages. The Art Gallery of Ontario acquired its first Scherman painting in 2005 (above right), a vertical canvas depicting an ascending atomic plume. What once looked retrospective and cautionary returns today with prescient relevance."

—David Moos, PhD, David Moos Art Advisory

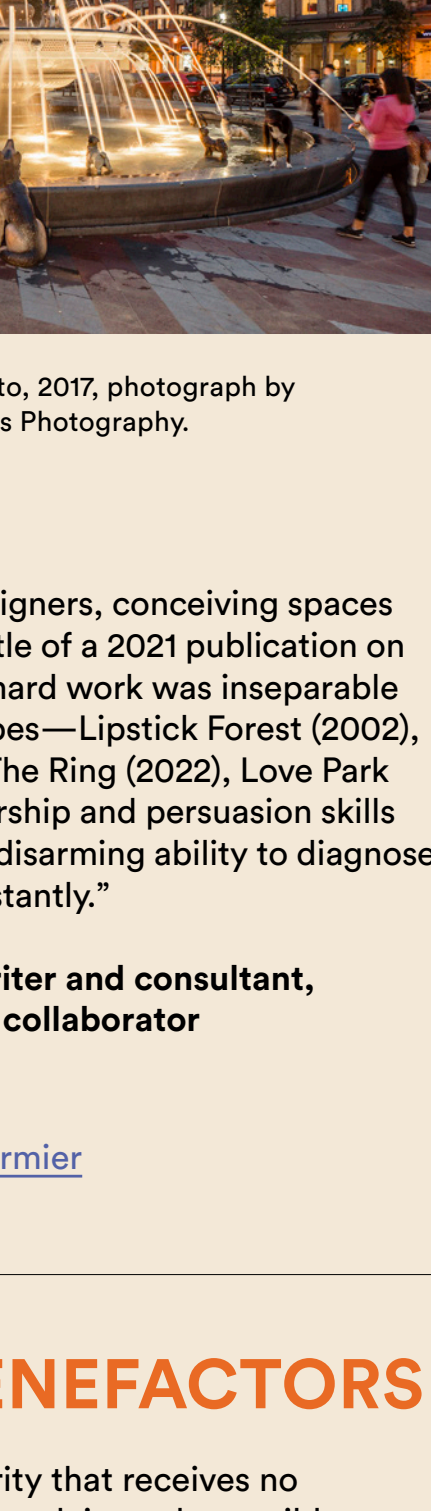
[Learn more about Tony Scherman](#)

DENNIS REID, CM

JANUARY 3, 1943 – APRIL 27, 2023

Trailblazing Hamilton-born curator of Canadian art who worked at the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the University of Toronto and authored numerous publications, including A Concise History of Canadian Painting

Dennis Reid (left) at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, 1978.



Cover of Dennis Reid, A Concise History of Canadian Painting, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2012).

"I find myself missing Dennis's fierce advocacy for Canadian artists—from Greg Curnoe and Jack Chambers to Joyce Wieland, Cornelius Krieghoff, and Emily Carr—his passion underpinned by a deep knowledge of Canadian art history. His many friendships with artists, scholars, and writers were important too, as he helped to build the web of support and belonging that sustains creativity. His long career encompassed great changes in the way we interpret art, from formal connoisseurship rooted in stylistic analysis and influence to a more socially and politically engaged history of art. In many ways Dennis was ahead of his time. Consider *From the Four Quarters: Native and European Art from Ontario, 5000 BC to 1867 AD*, which he curated with Joan Vastokas at the Art Gallery of Ontario in 1984. The title says it all."

—Sarah Milroy, CM, Executive Director & Chief Curator, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario

[Learn more about Dennis Reid](#)**Share** this newsletter with friends who love Canada's art, or invite them to [sign up here](#) for our weekly dispatch.

DOROTHY KNOWLES, CM, SOM, RCA

APRIL 6, 1927 – MAY 16, 2023

A highly accomplished landscape artist based in Saskatchewan who, in the 1960s, decided to pursue painting from nature and discovered the importance of celebrating place

Dorothy Knowles working at a canvas, January 30, 1975, photograph by Creative Professional Photographers.

Dorothy Knowles, Approaching Storm, 2002, courtesy of Michael Gibson Gallery, London.

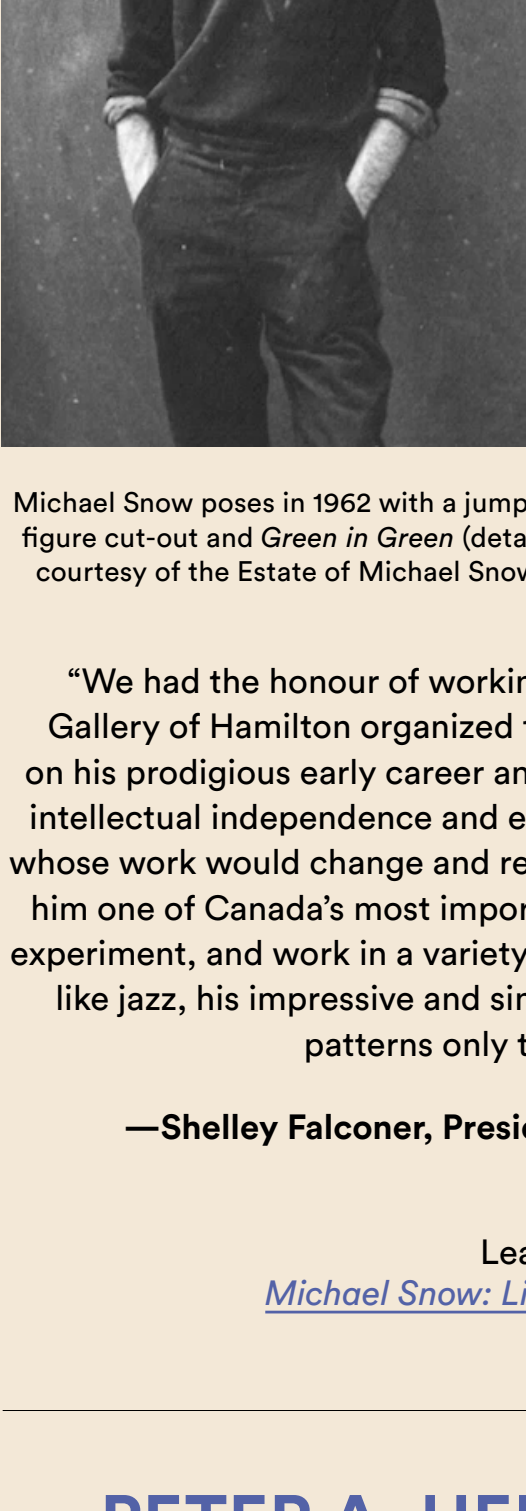
"Dorothy was very much a pure artist, and a significant influence on the Canadian landscape painters who followed her. On the day when I had my first proper studio visit, Dorothy asked if I would like to go to The Keg for dinner with the family. The dinner and conversations were memorable, and I felt obliged to return their kindness by secretly paying for the meal. When Dorothy realized what I had done she was quite taken aback by my 'eastern' money. I learned a lot from Dorothy that evening."

—Michael Gibson, President, Michael Gibson Gallery, London, Ontario

[Learn more about Dorothy Knowles](#)

GERDA HNATYSHYN, CC

AUGUST 14, 1935 – JULY 14, 2023

Leading Winnipeg-born patron of the arts who was dedicated to supporting emerging and established artists as President of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Foundation; viceregal consort of Canada (1990–95)

Gerda Hnatyshyn, courtesy of Galleries West.



L'énormé (Devil's Punch Bowl, Oregon), from the Underworlds series, 2019–20, digital photography (inkjet printing on photographic paper). 2021 recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award.

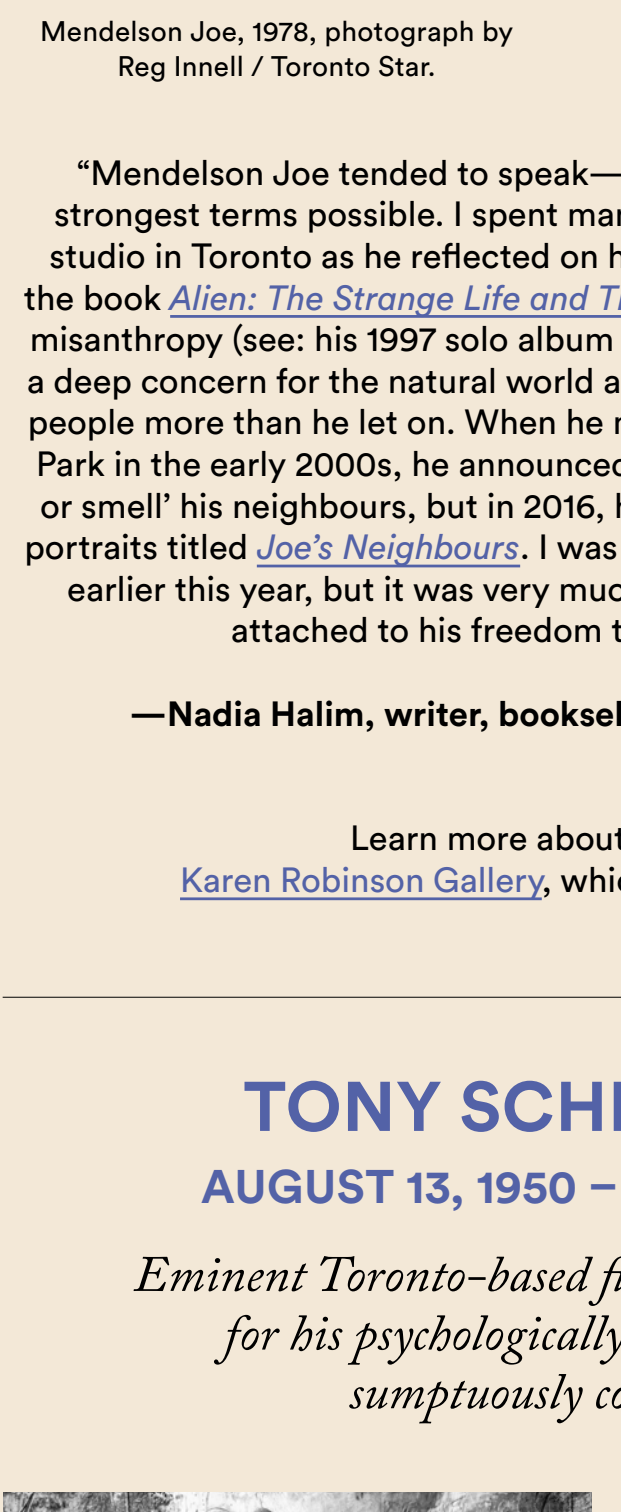
"Gerda Hnatyshyn was one of the first Ottawa people to befriend my wife, Sharon, and me when we arrived at Rideau Hall. There is no owner's manual that a new Governor General and spouse can consult to manage Rideau Hall and navigate the many relationships that connect the office to the world beyond. Gerda was a thoughtful and warm adviser. As well, and especially, she was a courageous leader and advocate of the arts in Canada, importantly when it came to supporting young musicians and visual artists. Her work changed the lives of countless talents and is carried on through the Hnatyshyn Foundation, the National Arts Centre, and the National Art Gallery. She is greatly missed."

—The Right Honourable David Johnston, CC, CMM, COM, CD, former Governor General of Canada

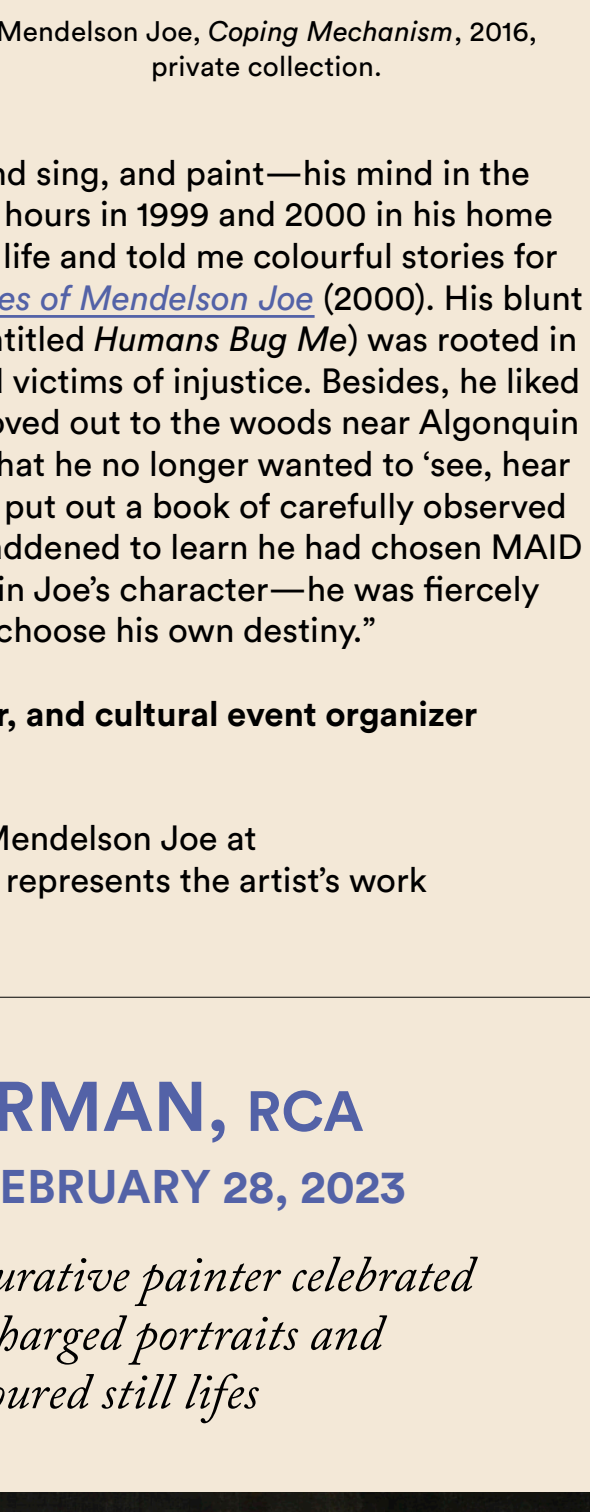
[Learn more about Gerda Hnatyshyn](#)

ANN KIPLING, LLD

FEBRUARY 26, 1934 – AUGUST 30, 2023

Victoria-born artist known for gestural landscapes drawn from nature and expressive, detailed, and energetic linework; recipient of the inaugural Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement (2004)

Ann Kipling, photograph by Lincoln Clarkes.



Ann Kipling, Manfred Quandt, 1984, City of Burnaby Permanent Art Collection.

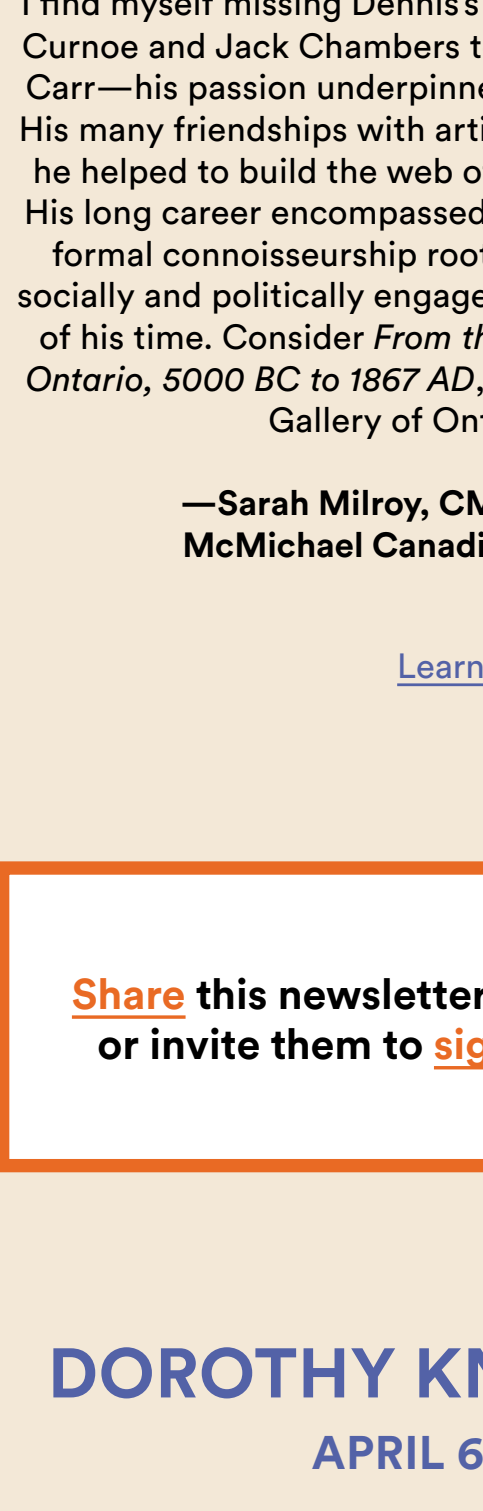
"Ann and her husband, the ceramicist Leonhard Epp, first visited the Marion Scott Gallery in the spring of 2016. I distinctly remember her calming presence and how encouraging, spirited, and sincere she was in her interactions. Ann was intensely focused and committed to her drawing practice and held a deep connection with her subjects, from people and animals to nature and its changing patterns. She provided the Canadian art canon with an invaluable perspective, artistically and personally."

—Charles Bateman, former Senior Associate, Marion Scott Gallery, Vancouver

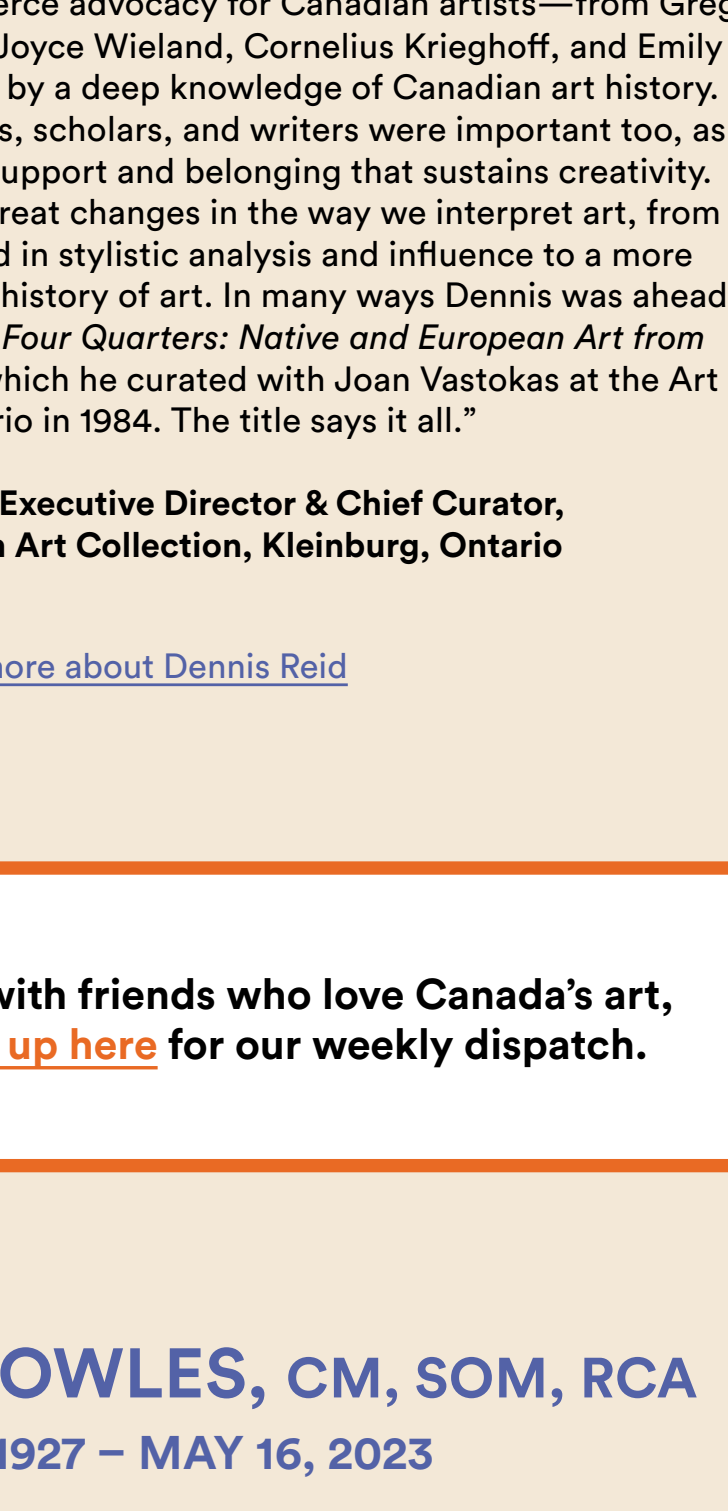
[Learn more about Ann Kipling](#)

ZILON

JULY 25, 1956 – JULY 25, 2023

Street-art legend and iconic figure in Quebec counterculture since the 1970s; known for his technicolour murals featuring androgynous figures and his signature "Z" artist tag

Zilon standing in front of his commissioned mural at Montreal's Mural Festival in 2014, courtesy of Stéphanie Allaire / CBC News.



Zilon's commissioned mural at Montreal's Mural Festival in 2014, courtesy of CBC.

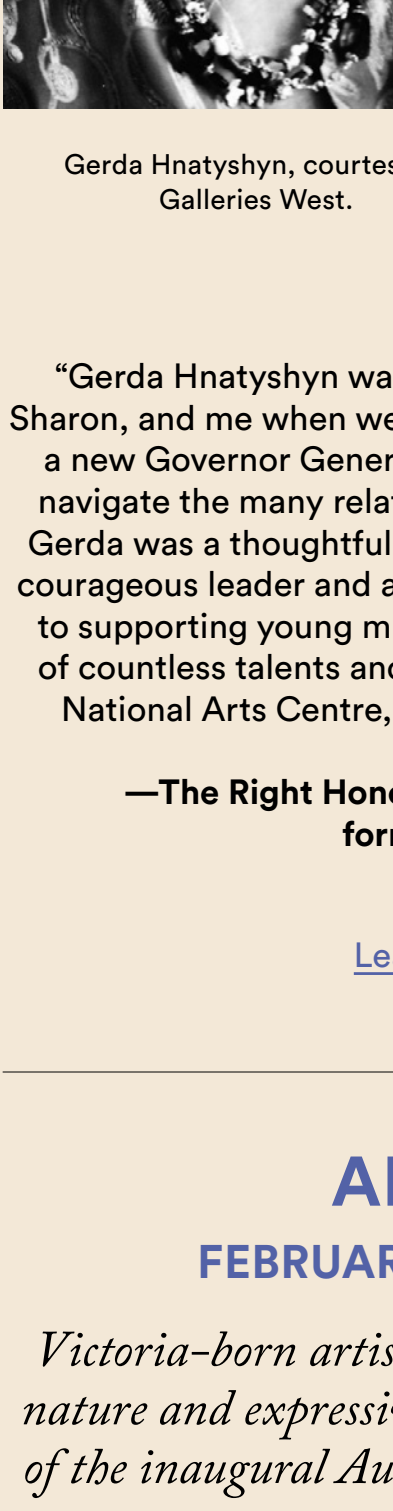
"Born Raymond Pilon, Zilon created work that transcended borders. Even through global collaborations with brands such as Apple, Givenchy, and Ogilvy, he maintained his unique punk-inspired aesthetic language. He was working on new projects, including VANDALE de LUXE II and a book, up until his death and they now stand as tributes to his relentless creativity. His passing leaves a profound void in the art community and among those who were touched by his extraordinary life and warmth."

—Vincent Beauchamp, owner, Beauchamp Art Gallery

[Learn more about Zilon](#)

RAYMOND MORIYAMA, CC, FRAIC, OONT

OCTOBER 11, 1929 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Distinguished Japanese Canadian architect who designed many of the country's most ambitious and iconic buildings; founder of Moriyama & Teshima Architects

Raymond Moriyama, courtesy of Moriyama Teshima Architects.



Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, designed by Raymond Moriyama and Moriyama & Teshima Architects, courtesy of Ottawa Tourism Board.

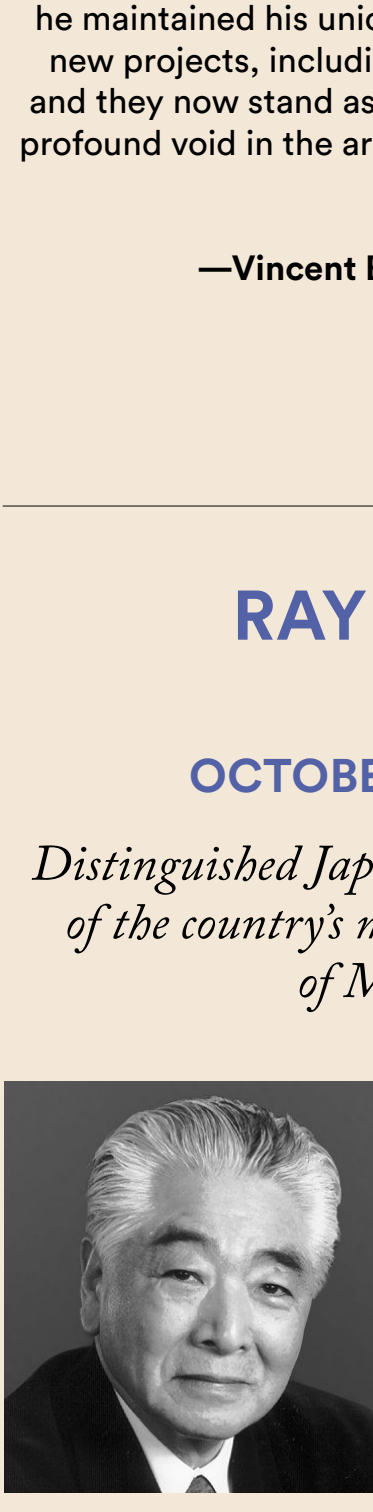
"Raymond Moriyama was a visionary architect who, along with 22,000 other Japanese Canadians, had been interned during the Second World War as an 'enemy alien.' Raymond managed to transcend his anger to make the world a fairer place. From the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the Ontario Science Centre, to the Toronto Reference Library and the Canadian War Museum, he designed spaces that welcomed everyone. His loss is profoundly felt, but we celebrate his inspiring vision, the magical imperfection of his work, his fighting spirit, and his impactful legacy woven into Canada's cultural heritage."

—Bruce Kuwabara, Founding Partner, KPMB Architects, Toronto

[Learn more about Raymond Moriyama](#)

CLAUDE CORMIER, FCSLA, AAPQ, OALA, FASLA, HON. FRAIC, CQ, RCAA

JUNE 22, 1960 – SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Brilliant Canadian landscape architect known for creating playful and unconventional public spaces; founder of the Montreal-based firm CC&A

Claude Cormier at Clock Tower Beach, Montreal, 2012, photograph by Will Lew.



Berczy Park, Toronto, 2017, photograph by Industrious Photography.

"Claude was one of Canada's great landscape designers, conceiving spaces with infectious *joie de vivre*. *Serious Fun* was the title of a 2021 publication on his team's work, and also a mantra in a life where hard work was inseparable from play. His colourful, highly conceptual landscapes—Lispick Forest (2002), Sugar Beach (2010), 18 Shades of Gay (2017–19), The Ring (2022), Love Park (2023)—embrace the unexpected. Claude's leadership and persuasion skills were legendary: strategic brilliance matched by the daring ability to diagnose design (or human) problems instantly."

—Beth Kapusta, B.Arch, Toronto-based writer and consultant, and Cormier's long-time friend and collaborator

[Learn more about Claude Cormier](#)

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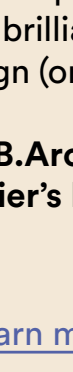
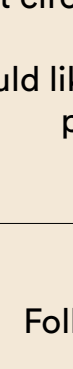
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