



Making an Impact in Canadian Society

An important way to love another person is to provide opportunity for them to give their gift. We want each person in a L'Arche community to be recognized for their unique way of giving and contributing. This Bulletin celebrates the remarkable gift of some L'Arche people who are artists. "Art" is one of the unexpected results of your financial support. Thank you. And enjoy meeting some of L'Arche's artists from across the country!

- Nathan Ball, Executive Director

In Brief...

iBelong!

Our new website on friendship for young people with intellectual disabilities continues to garner praise. The ministries of education in seven provinces and the Yukon are already encouraging its use in schools. As well, Radio-Canada was inspired to include it in its February 14th "C'est ça la vie" television broadcast on friendship, and to feature an interview with two friends, one with and one without an intellectual disability. Please take a look at www.ibelong.ca if you have not already.

L'ARCHE HAMILTON'S art studio was invited to contribute 8 works to a show at the "True City" conference, the theme of which was "justice," because, in the words of the conference's organizer, "the process of your community members making art is an act of justice."

CELEBRATING THE ART OF L'ARCHE MEMBERS

When Jean Vanier visited institutions, before he started L'Arche, he was disturbed not only by the loneliness of people with intellectual disabilities but also by the aimlessness of their lives. They might well sit all day in a barren room with no activities and little interaction with others. Fundamental to the vision of Jean and L'Arche is that people with intellectual disabilities should have meaningful daytime work and opportunities for creativity.

Art is one way for some L'Arche members, like others in our society, to express their vision, their feelings, hopes and dreams, and to inspire others. Across the country many L'Arche communities have well-developed art programs. Some of the individuals in these programs are quite artistically gifted. Their works are being displayed both in L'Arche-hosted exhibits and in respected public venues.

Recently the nine communities of L'Arche Ontario together created the L'Arche Ontario Art Show which was mounted in the rooms of Ontario Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable David C. Onley. The exhibit was viewed by many prominent guests of the Lieutenant Governor over a nine

The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and Kim Lageer of L'Arche Daybreak at the opening of the L'Arche Ontario Art Show in the Lieutenant Governor's suite, Queen's Park. Below: One of the walls of the Art Show.



month period from last June until February of this year.

Jacquie Boughner, a professional artist and long-time L'Arche board member and friend has helped us put words to the experience of viewing the work of L'Arche artists.

On the Art of L'Arche Members

All art is an extension of the body, and the body is something L'Arche understands.



Jacquie Boughner

I heard a choreographer once describe the act of creating as "the body in a free fall and then being caught" --that sensation of letting go and trusting. We don't intellectualize this work as a narrative - we physically feel this work as a gesture. L'Arche artists know and celebrate this, allowing the deepest impulse of our human reality to happen, to be expressed in creativity. To be

creative is a part of being human.

Each artist has a distinctive voice and style. Kim Lageer is a musician, with the gift of perfect pitch and talented expressive movement. Her art has a lyrical quality with colours that are jewel-like in tone, and her work sings with a freshness and clarity that speaks directly to a feeling of awe and infinite hope. Her art is created within a community that values and empowers the weakest and trusts that in the vulnerability of being human is the treasure of community -- that each of us has the gift of creativity and the ability to build relationship.



Kim Lageer of L'Arche Daybreak painted this "Tree of Hearts," which was presented as a gift to the Lieutenant Governor

Jacquie Boughner has been a consultant with the Ontario Arts Council, is a past Vice-President of the Print and Drawing Council of Canada, and is a curator, most recently of the L'Arche Ontario Art Show at the Lieutenant Governor's suite, Queen's Park, Toronto.

UPCOMING L'ARCHE ART EVENTS



L'Arche Montreal's

L'Atelier Alizé will contribute works to an art show in the Quartier Marie-

Uguay library, 6052 boulevard Monk, during April.

L'Arche Comox Valley has work by 6 artists on display at the Gatehouse Bistro and Gallery, 3272 3rd. Cumberland, BC, throughout April.

L'Arche Daybreak's "With our Own Hands" art show runs through April at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts with a theatre gala on May 8th, 7:30 pm.

L'Arche Halifax's Second Annual Art Show: April 20-22, at the Monsignor Leo Day Auditorium, St Agnes Church, 6903 Mumford Road, Halifax. Other L'Arche communities in the region will contribute works as will an art group for young adults with Down Syndrome.

Sol Express (L'Arche Toronto) received funds from the Ontario Arts Council to prepare a show in June showcasing their work in a project called MASK. Check for updates: www.larchetoronto.org.

SOME RECENT EXHIBITS

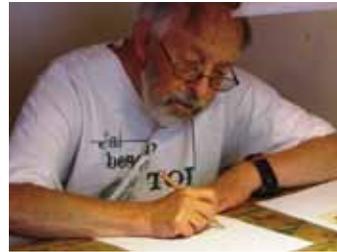
L'Arche Vancouver (at the National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre); L'Arche London (at their annual banquet); L'Arche Beloeil (at the Centre Culturel de Beloeil); L'Arche Joliette and L'Arche Montreal (at events for "La Semaine Québécoise de la Déficience Intellectuelle").

Quebec: Artists of L'Arche Beloeil

Charles Pennefather is a member of Le Pot-en-Ciel, a group of L'Arche Beloeil artists. His self-portrait reflects the personal themes he chooses. It is engaging and vivid and it invites us to get to know him.

Claude McLean also of L'Arche Beloeil has produced highly valued religious and Christmas art over the years, as well as whimsical mobiles of birds—treasured gifts for visitors to his L'Arche home.

Le Pot-en-Ciel holds an annual fund-raising art exhibit and sale. At this year's event 11



(above) Claude McLean beginning a sketch (right) Charles Pennefather: "Self-Portrait"



artists contributed their work. Quebec comedian Marie Tifo animated the gala opening. This well-presented exhibit contributes to social inclusion and changes the public perception of difference.

Western Canada: The Work of Dora Punch, L'Arche Edmonton

Dora Punch is a treaty Indian of the Slavey tribe. When she was 11 she left the reserve for a residential school where she developed her art and needlework skills. She loves sketching with pen,



Dora Punch - coloured images

pencil or marker. Her pictures are big, bright and expressive; some are Chagall-like. The subjects for her pictures are the people and animals and familiar sites from her village in the North. She has lived for many years in L'Arche Edmonton, which she chooses as her home, but she makes periodic visits to her village. There, early in the morning she can be found outside, taking in the scene. Dora does not speak much and sometimes draws pictures to communicate or respond to questions.



Dora working on duvet cover

Atlantic Region: Dennis Murphy of L'Arche Cape Breton

Dennis Murphy writes, "I like to draw animals, boats, and ships, reptiles, fish and dolphins, whales and sharks.



Amphibians and reptiles too, and stuff they eat. I draw them out with pencil first, then I colour them in. I use special markers with paint in them. I draw them out of a book so that I get the measurements of them, like how long it is, where it lives in the world, the



"Tractor" by Dennis Murphy

colours. The most important thing is the time I take at my pictures, that I don't make mistakes. I keep on practising, trying to get better. It makes me feel good.



"Hummingbirds" by Dennis Murphy

I'm from the Cabot Trail, Ingonish. I've been living in L'Arche for almost 20 years. I'm glad I came to L'Arche. I like being around the folks I live with. "

Published by

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