



mámawihitowin | Ganaagishkwadaadiwin | Asenbli | Rencontre | Gathering
On exhibit March and April 2023



MANITOBA CRAFTS MUSEUM AND LIBRARY Year End Report 2023



MCML GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Vision: Manitobans inspired, engaged, and connected through craft

Mission: The mission of the Manitoba Craft Museum and Library is to:

- Collect, preserve, and hold historical and contemporary craft in trust
- Celebrate craft through exhibits, presentations, and programs
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and build interest in and appreciation for craft

Values:

Honouring the handmade | MCML recognizes the inherent value of creating and appreciating craft

Organizational excellence | MCML endeavours to maintain the highest standards in developing and preserving its collection and in providing services

Exchanging knowledge | MCML values learning in all its forms and strives to offer and support opportunities for growth and increased understanding of craft and its cultural roles

Fostering participation | MCML aims to ensure that its collection and programs are accessible to all

Ensuring transparency | MCML is accountable to its membership and its community and operates openly and intentionally

Commitment to diversity and inclusion | MCML strives to be inclusive and welcoming and to ensure diversity throughout the organization and its operations

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library is located in what we now know as Manitoba, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Dene, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Inuit Peoples, and the national homeland of the Red River Métis.

These lands include territory subject to Treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10.

Craft occupies a space that has the hand and the handmade at its centre. It rejoices in sharing knowledge and solving problems. It stems from, creates, and nurtures community. It allows us to build bridges a through shared action, but also fosters courage, empathy and connection.

We acknowledge the deep harm caused by settlement, and we look forward to using craft in our efforts towards reconciliation and positive change.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Dear MCML members,

Thank you for your continued support of the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library!

We would like to start this report by thanking the people that make our work with the board, and the work with MCML so enjoyable and rewarding. Our appreciation to all the members of the board who not only attend our meetings but who step up to volunteer for events and “odd jobs” as needed. Special thanks to Cynthia Boehm and Rob Shaw who will be stepping down this year. We hope to see you often in the future. MCML could not function without our remarkable and hardworking curator, Andrea Reichert. In addition to planning programs and exhibits, managing the organization, mentoring our students and interns, Andrea is an amazing grant-writer which enables us to obtain the financial support we need to do our work and plan for the future. We would also like to thank all the staff that have worked here this past year and our many volunteers.

2023 was an extremely busy year highlighted by several milestone achievements at MCML. With pandemic restrictions lifted, MCML was finally able to return to regular programming and saw many visitors to our shows as well as a high level of participation in our programs. At the same time, we continued to build our online presence enabling us to develop our reach into the local community and beyond. We also continued our work on the collections, implementing our strategic plan including our work on reconciliation, equity and inclusion and upgrading our financial and communications functions.

A true highlight of the year was receiving the Governor General’s Award for Excellence in Museums for our efforts toward reconciliation relating to our collaborative exhibit with Ross House. Kudos to Andrea, Eric Napier Strong, Ross House Museum Curator, and Margaret Firlotte, Project Coordinator.

We hope you will visit our exhibits, participate in our programs, try out our fabulous new library system, volunteer and donate as you are able. MCML is a unique institution which you help to build and maintain.

Please join us at the Annual General Meeting and visit MCML’s two current exhibits. “the quilt show” which speaks to a resurgence of interest in this art form. The exhibit showcases over 15 full size bed quilts and woven blankets, along with several smaller art quilts, and quilting samples from our collection. Don’t miss “Diversified” the exhibit in the Heritage Gallery showcasing our recent acquisitions from BIPOC makers. This is part of our effort to make the MCML collections more diverse and inclusive, better reflecting Manitoba’s demographic richness.

We look forward to 2024 and hope you will continue to join us as we work to inspire, engage, and connect through craft.

Marieke Gruwel and Judith Huebner
Co-Presidents

CURATOR'S MESSAGE

This past year truly felt like the first successful post Covid-19 year. With no restrictions, no cancellations, and much less hesitancy amongst our audience, staff and volunteers, we were able to return to fantastic exhibits and activities that we enjoyed pre-2020. Everyone was so eager to resume MCML activities. Almost everything we offered was well attended and well received. It felt like we were finally (after over three years of intermittent disruptions) engaging with our visitors again, making progress on essential EDI work, and reaching a wider audience.

The highlight of the year had to be receiving the Governor Generals Award for Excellence in Museums for our amazing project, completed in partnership with Ross House Musuem.

mámawihitowin | Ganaagishkwadaadiwin | Asenbli | Rencontre | Gathering was amazing in so many ways. The exhibit was beautiful, the programming was excellent, we made new connections, and worked to make so many works more accessible to community.

We were recognized for our efforts towards reconciliation, how we engaged with Indigenous audiences, and the wide partnerships we forged. We were honoured in Ottawa at several events including Question Period of the House of Commons, a fancy reception at the Canadian War Museum, and the awards Ceremony at Rideau Hall. It was all a bit surreal, but it's been both humbling and satisfying to receive the award. We are proud of this wonderful achievement for MCML and for Ross House, two of the smaller museums in Winnipeg.

All of the successes at MCML are due to a huge group effort, our fantastic staff, our dedicated volunteers, and wonderful colleagues at the Manitoba Craft Council. Thank you to everyone who helps to make great things happen at MCML! I'm looking forward to another successful year in 2024.

Andrea Reichert
Curator



Above: Margaret Firlotte, Her Excellency Mary Simon, Andrea Reichert

Right: Andrea Reichert, Margaret Firlotte, Eric Napier Strong (Ross House Museum Curator)



EXHIBITS

Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery

March - April

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With work from the following artists: Bronwyn Butterfield, Meaghen Fillion, David Heinrichs, Tashina Houle-Schlup, Shauna Ponask

With work from the following museums: Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library, Ross House Museum, Fort Dauphin Museum, Fort La Reine Museum, Hillcrest Museum, Le Musée de St. Boniface, Manitoba Museum, Sam Waller Museum, Seven Oaks House Museum, Transcona Museum, Winnipegosis Museum and Historical Society

July - August

Threads: Clothing with Hand Work

This exhibit celebrated clothing that includes at least one kind of handcraft technique. Whether decorated with hand embroidery, embellished with bobbin lace, needlelace or tatting, constructed entirely with knitting or crochet, or made using hand woven fabric, these pieces of clothing showcased garments that are customized for the wearer.



With works from the collections of the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library and the Costume Museum of Canada, the pieces spanned over 200 years of fashion.

November - December

Winipīhk (Muddy Waters)

The land in which Winnipeg sits has been a historic meeting ground where craft has been traded for centuries. Initially through thriving and active Indigenous cultures for over 11,000 years, and later in a colonial settlement for the past 200 years. The City of Winnipeg was officially founded in 1873. The vital farming land and central Red River and Assiniboine trading posts were seen by Canadian colonists to be the start of a thriving major city. From beading to rug hooking to hand woven sarongs, Winnipeg is represented through its crafters. We explore some of the local communities and Winnipeg through pieces from the MCML collection.

Curated by Syd Caldwell

Heritage Gallery

Just a Needle and Thread | Embroidery from the MCML Collection

To help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild, we curated an exhibit of embroidery from the MCML Collection.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

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Programming related to this project included:

- Five Viewing Sessions of Beadwork, Embroidery and Quillwork reserved for Indigenous visitors
- Artist Talk with Meaghen Fillion and Tashina Houle-Schlup
- Introduction to Quillwork, with instructor Mona Moquin
- Pointed Toe Moccasin Workshop, with instructor Cynthia Boehm (pictured right)

Special Events Programming

- Doors Open – with demonstration of beadwork by David Heinrichs
- Culture Days/Nuit Blanche – with drop in rug hooking activity, with instructor Maureen Winnicki Lyons



MCML Workshops & Programming

- Shisha Embroidery, with instructor Nisha Desai (pictured left)
- First Friday Mending Drop-In, with facilitator Theresa Shaw
- Accessibility for Pattern Markers and Users, by Joanne Seiff
- Kumhimo, with instructor Susan Styrchak
- Relief Printing without a Press, with instructor Suzie Smith
- Parol Making, with participants from Aurora Family Therapy Centre, with instructor Ana Ilagan (pictured below)



MCML IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY

Loans to other Institutions

Two Inuit works were featured in *Inuit Sanaugangit: Art Across Time*, at the Winnipeg Art Gallery from April 2023, and will be there through early 2025.

We loaned Mary Maxim related items to the Ukrainian Museum of Canada - Manitoba Branch for *The Mystery of Mary Maximchuk*, July and August 2024.

Two garments were included in *Mimicry and Adaptation: Tracking the influence of traditional Ukrainian on clothing on contemporary fashion*, at Oseredok from November 2023 through March 2024.



Join us for the EXHIBITION OPENING of

INUIT SANAUGANGIT

Art Across Time

Friday Mar 31, 2023 | 7:30pm FREE
WAG-Qaumajuq
300 Memorial Boulevard

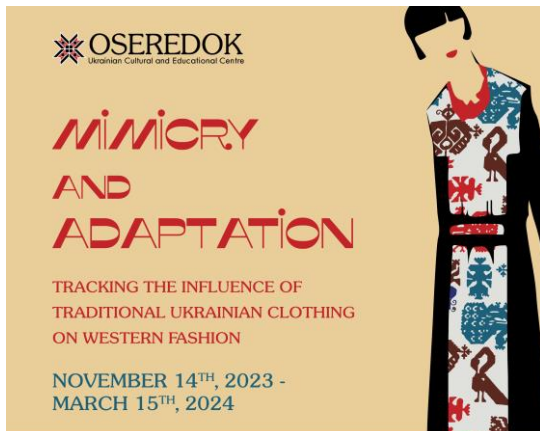
Featuring
Music by The Kaptain
Throat Singing by Goota Ashoona

This exhibition will be a celebration of sanaugangit (sa-now-gan-eeet or sa-now-gah-knee), "art by Inuit"—a survey of artistic expression from approximately 200 BCE until the present day.

Cash Bar | Wheelchair accessible & available
Learn more at wag.ca/exhibitions/inuit-sanaugangit

wag qaumajuq

Siva Tabaki Alibek. Woman Wearing Beaded Amulet (Lithat), 1993. Stone, beads on string, fabric. Collection of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Gift of George Swinton and his daughters, G-95-350, photo: Ernest Meyer.



And, the Prairie Barnacles were part of *Prairie Interlace: Weaving, Modernisms and the Expanded Frame, 1960-2000*. This is a touring exhibit curated by the Nickle Galleries at the University of Calgary, and toured to four different venues in 2022 through 2024.



Book publications

Companion books were published for Inuit Sanaugangit and Prairie Interlace, and MCML's objects were included in both.

And two of MCML's pieces were featured in *Western Voices in Canadian Art*, by Patricia Bovey

MUSEUM & LIBRARY COLLECTION



The MCML museum collection continued to grow. Notable additions include a collection of ceramic pieces by the late Robert Archambeau (right) and a Quilt made during the Second World War as part of the war effort (left).

We also started the process to purchase work for the collection by BIPOC and Queer artists. A paper cutting by Paul Robles is one of these works (below).



The Gladys Chown Memorial Library went through a transformation in 2023!

We transitioned from an older in-house database for managing the book holdings to an on-line system that allows us to share the 3,500+ books with anyone who has internet access. We implemented barcodes on the book, library cards also with barcodes, and a new way to search and sign out books on-site.

C2 SHOP

Highlights for 2023 include:

- The C2 Shop now represents over 70 artists.
- New artists were added in the spring, after the annual call for submission.
- A successful holiday ornament sale was held in November and December
- In December we partnered with Women Helping Women, providing a venue for them to sell works beaded by women currently or recently in the a correctional facility, allowing them a connection to culture and a way to earn funds for their families.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

MCML worked on several special projects through 2023.

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This project, which was started in 2022, included an research, photography, a feature exhibit in the Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery, public programming and a long-term on-line resource. This project we undertaken in partnership with Ross House Museum.

This project was funded by the Community Museums Project Grant (Province of Manitoba) and the Winnipeg Foundation Centennial Grant.

Winnipeg 150

During this project, we developed a feature exhibit in the Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery, curated by MCML summer student Syd Caldwell. We also produced a set of blog posts and a number of social media posts that celebrate Winnipeg's 150.

This project was funded by Young Canada Works (Canadian Heritage) and the Heritage Grants Program (Province of Manitoba).

Library Database and Barcodes

During this project we researched & finalized the choice of on-line software, prepared the collections records for migration, migrated the data and inputted the membership information, reviewed the data in the new software & completed clean up tasks, added barcodes to all the books & sent new library cards, integrated the links into our website, revised our library manual and communicated to our members & broader audience about the change in service.

This project was funded by Arts, Culture and Sport Grant (Province of Manitoba)

On-line Content Creation: Celebrating a Diverse Manitoba

This project, which continued into 2024, produced a series of blogs, and social media posts all with a focus on underrepresented communities. We are also producing 8-10 oral history interviews with BIPOC and/or queer artists, or those with a disability.

This project was funded by the Community Museums Project Grant (Province of Manitoba)

Public Programming Planning 2023-2025

This project, started in fall 2023, is a continuation of our efforts to resume public programming post Covid-19 and specifically with a focus on diversity. It will continue through 2024.

This project was funded by Young Canada Works (Canadian Heritage) and the Heritage Grants Program (Province of Manitoba)

Covid-19 Recovery

This Covid-19 Recovery project focuses on customizing our contact management program to be most effective, on planning for fundraising and donor relations, and on developing a strong communications plan and process. It will continue into 2024.

This project was funded by the Community Services Recovery Fund (Government of Canada)

FUNDERS REPORT

Regular Operating Funders

The Winnipeg Foundation; Province of Manitoba-Community Museums Grant

Special Project Funders

Province of Manitoba – Heritage Grants Program; Province of Manitoba – Community Museum Project Grant, Province of Manitoba – Arts, Culture and Sport Grant, Department of Canadian Heritage-Young Canada Works, Department of Canadian Heritage-Museums Assistance Plan, and The Winnipeg Foundation – Community Grants and Centennial Fund.

Individual Donors – to MCML Directly and to Manitoba Heritage Fund

Lee Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Norma Bergman, Katrin Buschhausen, Paul & Doreen Bromley, Diana Cooper, Donna Earl, Kerry Fast, Marieke Gruwel, Diana Haglund, Amanda Harding, Emma Hill Kepron, Judith Huebner, Melanie Lewis, Delza Longman (Estate), Louise Love, Catherine MacDonald, Jeanette Mockford, Lee-Anne Penner, Andrea Reichert, Shirley Richardson (estate), Helen Russell, Jennifer Smith, Marilyn Stothers, Gerdine Strong, Susanne Sulkers, Susan Styrchak, Rise Thompson, Brenda Toutant, Bernice Turner, Sheri Turner, and Brad Wolfe.

In-Kind Fundraisers

Toad Hall Toys, Cynthia Boehm

In-Kind Donations – Museum Collection

Meridel Archambeau

Membership Benefit Supporters

Thank you to our membership partners: McNally Robinson, Prairie Studio Glass, and Wolseley Wool who provide discounts to MCML members.

Heritage Fund

The Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library Heritage Fund continues to grow with generous support from MCML members and supporters, and extended through a 1:2 matching formula.

In 2023 the fund grew from about \$64,000 to about \$82,000!

MCML Fundraisers

Fundraisers this year included a Puzzle Race, two raffles (spring and year end), Made in the Middle and a Craft Destash event (held jointly with MCC).

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT

1. Grow membership and organizational involvement - expand and diversify the membership of MCML as well as increasing value for membership and program participation

Achievements:

- a. Programming has resumed post Covid-19, with more emphasis on diversity. Over 50% of workshops and events included significant content or involvement of underrepresented artists or communities.
- b. We started a project in 2023, which will continue through 2024, to further establish programming in a post Covid-19 era, and that also stresses diversity.

2. Grow organizational capacity – generate sustainable income and ensure capable and supported human resources

Achievements:

- a. Met our \$75,000 goal for the Heritage Fund
- b. Are working on a Covid-19 Recovery project with a focus on fundraising and member/donor development.

3. Increase MCML's inclusivity, diversity, and connectivity - make MCML more accessible by engaging with underserved communities, building and expanding partnerships, and removing barriers to participation

Achievements:

- a. Purchased ten works for the MCML Collection by underrepresented artists, using funding from the Delza Longman bequest and a targeted fundraising drive.
- b. Have initiated a programming pilot with Aurora Family Therapy for newcomer programming, which will continue through 2024.
- c. Have plans to host an exhibit and related programming to showcase Filipino craft in summer 2024.

HOURS OF OPERATION & VISITATION STATISTICS

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday – Saturday, 12pm – 4pm daily

Days open to public in 2023: 193 (784 hours)

Visitors:

1,177 onsite casual visitors

1,374 onsite events

323 off-site events

31 on-line events

1,829 YouTube viewers

Total: 4,411

2023 MCML TEAM

Board Executive

Judith Huebner, Co-President; Marieke Gruwel, Co-President; Emma Hill Kepron, Secretary; Sabrina Janke, Treasurer

Members at Large

Cynthia Boehm, Rob Shaw and Brad Wolfe

Staff

Andrea Reichert, Curator

Shaneela Boodoo, Community Engagement Coordinator (September – November)

Caley Dyck, Archives Assistant (June - December)

Margaret Firlotte, Beadwork Project, Project Manager (January - May)

Sonia Gaiess, Collections Management Assistant (January - August)

Syd Caldwell, Assistant Exhibit Curator (May – December)

Ana Ilagan, Communication and Engagement Assistant (October – December)

Debbie Girard, Bookkeeper

Sandra Simpson, Cleaner

Committees

Made in the Middle Committee: Janet Carroll, Susanne Sulkers, Rise Thompson

Fundraising Committee: Marieke Gruwel, Cailyn Harrison, Sabrina Janke, and Robert Shaw

Exhibit and Programming Committee: Marieke Gruwel, Theresa Shaw

Collections Committee: Norma Bergman, Emma Hill Kepron, Heather Meiklejohn

C2 Shop Committee (Joint with MCC): Lily Despic

Volunteers

The following 21 volunteers contributed a total of 525 hours during 2023. Thank you!

Katryna Barske, Norma Bergman, Cynthia Boehm, Janet Carroll, Lily Despic, Pam Green, Marieke Gruwel, Leona Herzog, Emma Hill Kepron, Judith Huebner, Sabrina Janke, Naila Janzen, Nina Laquette, Rob Shaw, Theresa Shaw, Jennifer Smith, Susanne Sulkers, Rise Thompson, Ginny Toni, Maureen Winnicki Lyons and Brad Wolfe.



2023 C2 Volunteer Appreciation
Hosted at Seven Oaks House Museum