

Peter Deacon R.C.A – Artist Statement

Fascinated with human constructs to measure, contain or understand the world we live in, Peter has this to say about the series of paintings he calls “Prime Elements”. These have changed and evolved over the last decade, but he continues to pursue meaning in these concepts.

“The pieces are based upon the interplay of components that I refer to as Prime Elements. The components such as geographic location, personal experience, prime numbers, and primary colors etc. are “irreducible” in the sense that I regard them as being absolute.

- Prime Numbers (those numbers that are divisible only by themselves and the number one)
- The primary colors of red, yellow, and blue often used as successive glazes as well as direct application.
- References to the “Continental Divide” – the watershed whereby precipitation flows either to the west (Pacific) or east (Atlantic) oceans. The Continental Divide is used as a metaphor for the complex relationship between the left- and right-hand sides of the brain.
- The use of references to methods of visual communication such as postcards; references to writings, personal images, and images from historical sources serve as personal and universal symbols in the context of the illusiveness of memory.

Biographical Notes

Peter Deacon is a well-known Canadian artist and is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. His work is represented in dozens of major public and corporate collections and numerous private collections. These include the Canada Council Art Bank; the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, England; the Glenbow Museum and the Nickle Museum in Calgary.

Peter is a Professor Emeritus of Art at the University of Calgary and has served as a faculty member in the Department of Art since 1975. The recipient of many honors, including the prestigious Prix De Rome, he was also, in 2004, a recipient of the Alan Blizzard Award, presented in Ottawa for cross-disciplinary innovations in higher education.

Prior to this, he served as “Fellow in Fine Art” at the University of Nottingham in England. He currently works as co-chair of the Committee responsible for the permanent Art Collection of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary and is an active supporter of the new KOAC Arts Centre in Calgary and the Alberta Society of Artists.

His artwork is influenced by the geographical and metaphorical significance of the Continental Divide and the process of autobiographical “mapping” through the use of geometry and personal iconography.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Peter Deacon R.C.A.

Professor Emeritus of Art, University of Calgary

- Born in England, 1945
- Canadian Citizen, 1979

SCHOOLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

1963 - 67 Portsmouth College of Art; England.

Awarded Diploma in Art and Design *(B.F.A equivalent)

First Class Honours. (Dip. A.D.)

1967 - 68 University of Wales, School of Art Education; Cardiff, Wales.

Awarded – Art Teacher's Diploma. (A.T.D.) * (MEd equivalent)

1968 - 70 Slade School of Art, University College, University of London, England

Awarded – University of London Higher Diploma in Fine Art.

(H.D.F.A. London * (MFA equivalent)

AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS (from 2000)

2014 - 02 Various University of Calgary Research and Travel Grants

2007 Visiting Artist, Red Deer College, Alberta.

2005 Visiting Artist, Grande Prairie College, Alberta.

2004 Co-Recipient of the Alan Blizzard Award, Ottawa.

Granted on an annual basis by the Society for Learning and Research in Higher Education
in recognition for contributions to multi-disciplinary learning and research.

2003 Awarded a one -year Fellowship, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Calgary for designing and implementing a new
program in “Problem Solving through Visualization

2000 University of Calgary Sabbatical Research Grant.

WORK COMPLETED / APPOINTMENTS (selected)

2015 Appointed Professor Emeritus of Art, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

2012 Appointed Acting Head, Department of Art, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

2011 - 12 Appointed Policy Advisor to the Department of Art University of Calgary, Calgary Alberta Canada.

2004 - 06 Fine Arts Advisor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Calgary, Canada.

2002 - 04 Duties as Fine Arts Director, Faculty of Engineering, University of Calgary, Canada

1999 - 01 Co-ordinator Painting Area, Department of Art, University of Calgary, Canada.

1999 - 02 Graduate Co-ordinator, Department of Art, University of Calgary, Canada.

1994 - 01 Co- Owner and Director, Deacon/Ulrich Fine Arts Gallery, Calgary, Canada.

1990 Appointed as Full Professor, Department of Art, University of Calgary; Canada.

1975 - 76 Sessional Instructor, Department of Art, University of Calgary; Calgary, Canada.

1973 - 75 Appointed Fellow in Fine Art (Artist in Residence), Nottingham University;
Nottingham, England.

Part-time Lecturer in Fine Art, Trent Polytechnic; Nottingham, England.

Visiting Lecturer, Derby College of Art; England.

Visiting Lecturer, Byam Shaw School of Art; London, England.

Course Structure Advisor to Colleges of Education offering the University of
Nottingham Degree of Bachelor of Education in Art.

1972 - 73 Part-time Lecturer in Painting and Sculpture, Portsmouth College of Art;
Portsmouth, England.

Part-time Tutor, Stanhope Adult Education Institute; London, England.

Visiting Lecturer in Painting, Hornsey College of Art; London, England.

1970 - 72 Resident Painter, British School at Rome; Rome, Italy. (Abbey Major Scholarship).

1968 - 70 Part-time Art Teacher, Sir John Cass Secondary School; London, England.

SELECTED CONTRIBUTORY EXHIBITIONS (from 2000+)

- 2019 *The Artist's Choice* the Alberta Society of Artists, New Central Library, Calgary, Alberta
- 2019 *The Artist's Lens* The Alberta Society of Artists, New Central Library, Calgary Alberta
- 2017 *Impulses: Selections from the Permanent Collection* Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Centre for the Arts, Alberta
- 2016 *Signs and Symbols* Alberta Society of Artists, Art Point Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
- 2016 *Landscapes Reconstructed* Whyte Museum, Banff, Alberta Canada
- 2016 *Bridges: 85th Anniversary* Alberta Society of Artists, Leighton Centre, Millarville, AB
- 2016 *50th Anniversary Exhibition* Nickle Museum, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta
- 2016 *Signs and Symbols* Alberta Society of Artists, Art Point Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
- 2013 *Film Works* Willock & Sax Gallery, Banff, Alberta
- 2013 *Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Exhibition* Willock & Sax Gallery, Banff, Alberta
- 2013 *Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Exhibition* Agnes Bugera Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2013 *Made in Calgary, 1970's A Retrospective Exhibition* Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta
- 2013 *Made in Calgary, 1980's A Retrospective Exhibition* Museum of Contemporary Art, Calgary,
- 2014 *Observe and Distill* (Feature Artist) Willock and Sax Gallery, Banff, Alberta.
- 2014 *Exploring Saturation: Color* ArtPoint Gallery, Calgary, Alberta. Alberta Society of Artists.
- 2015 *Creative Obsession* A Celebration of the RCA Members of the Alberta Society of Artists. Whyte Museum, Banff, Alberta Canada.
- 2011 *Artorama* The Triangle Gallery of Visual Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2011 *Connections to Collections: The Artists Circle of Calgary* Triangle Gallery of Visual Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2011 *Artist's Choice* Alberta Society of Artists, Lougheed House, Calgary, Alberta
- 2011 *Alberta Landscape* Alberta Society of Artists, Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, Crowsnest, Alberta, Canada

- 2011 *Print Portfolio Exhibition* In support of the new Museum of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta
- 2011 *The 25th Annual Celebration of the Arts* Kiwanis Gallery, Red Deer, Alberta
- 2010 Annual December Exhibition, Agnes Bugera Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 2009 *Absolute Art* a privately organized group exhibition at Davis LLP Calgary, Canada
- 2009 *Images and Reflections"* Artists Circle of Calgary Group Exhibition, Triangle Gallery of Visual Art, Calgary, Canada.
- 2008 *Images and Reflections: The Artists Circle of Calgary* Group Exhibition:
 State Gallery of Contemporary Art in Sopot Poland;
 Jesuits Gallery of Contemporary Art in Poznan, Poland;
 BWA Contemporary Art Gallery in Kalisz, Poland;
 BWA Galeria Zamojska, Contemporary Art Gallery in Zamosc, Poland;
 ZPAP Gallery Pryzmat in Krakow, Poland
- 2007 *Images and Reflections: The Artists Circle of Calgary* Contributing Artist.
 Galerie "G" in Olomouc and Galerie "Kruh" in Ostrava, Czech Republic.
- 2006 *Twenty-Seven Years* contributing artist, Virginia Christopher Fine Art, Calgary, Canada. An exhibition celebrating 27 years of Canadian Art.
- 2006 Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Contributing Artist, U of C Faculty, Students and Alumni,
- 2006 Alberta Office of the Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C. U.S.A.
- 2006 *Emerging Canadian Artists Initiative* organized by Cenera, Calgary Tower Calgary, Canada. Personal contribution for fundraising purposes.
- 2006 *Peter Deacon - Fragments* a travelling exhibition organized by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts; multiple venues within Alberta, Canada.
- 2005 *Peter Deacon and Dale Kirschenman* A two-person, two-year touring exhibition organized by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.
- 2005 *Feature Artist, Fall Season* Virginia Christopher Fine Art, Calgary, Canada.
- 2004 *Alexander, Deacon, Lindoe and Rivet* A four-person exhibition. Virginia Christopher Fine Art, Calgary, Canada.
- 2002 Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Canada. A fundraising exhibition for Hospice, Calgary, Canada.

- 2002 *Royal Canadian Academy of Arts*, members exhibition, Little Gallery, University of Calgary, Canada
- 2002 *The Canadian Connection Contemporary Aspects of Canadian Work*, Virtuel - Visuell, Potsdam, Germany.
- 2001 *Surfaces* Bugera K-met Gallery, Edmonton, Canada. A two - person exhibition.
- 2001 *Indian Summer* Artspace Gallery, Calgary, Canada. Peter Deacon, Bernd Hessbrugges and Jim Ulrich. A three - person exhibition.
- 2001 *2001 An Art Odyssey* Recent acquisitions to the Contemporary collection, Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Canada.
- 2000 *The Artist Circle* exhibition, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2000 *The Artist Circle* Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2000 *ABGESTELLT!* Kunst-Kanal, Dorsten, Germany.
- 2000 *Austellung: VORGESTELLT!*, Kanadische Kunstler in Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.

ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS (from 2000)

- 2017 *The Prime Elements* Willock & Sax Gallery, Banff, Alberta
- 2014 *Observe & Distill* Willock & Sax Gallery, Banff, Alberta
- 2013 *The Prime Elements* Bugera Matheson Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2010 *Fourteen New Collage Works* Virginia Christopher Gallery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2007 *Solstice* Virginia Christopher Fine Art, Calgary. An Exhibition of a major new work comprised of 37 components and accompanied by 6 other works.
- 2006 *Facing West - Looking East: Landscape and Memory* Faculty of Fine Arts Gallery, University of Calgary, Canada.
- 2005 *Fragments: New Work by Peter Deacon* Agnes Bugera Gallery. Edmonton, Canada.
- 2005 *Landscape and Memory* The Prairie Public Art Gallery, Grande Prairie, Canada.
- 2003 *Fragments: New Work by Peter Deacon* Virginia Christopher Fine Art, Calgary, Canada.
- 1999 *Facing West* organized by the Muttart Public Art Gallery for Trans Alta, Calgary, Canada.
- Facing North - Looking South* the Boswell Gallery, Little Rock, AR., U.S.A.

The Divide organized by the Muttart Public Art Gallery for Enmax HQ, Calgary, Canada.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2004 *Fostering Creative Problem Solving in a Multi-disciplinary Environment*
A co-authored paper published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
- 2003 *The Depiction of Objects in Space* A co-edited book published by Prentice - Hall.
Reference material for Engineering students.

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada.

Art Gallery of Brant; Canada.

Calgary Contemporary Art Society

Canada Council Art Bank; Canada.

East Midlands Arts Association; England.

Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Canada

Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, Canada

Mackenzie Art Gallery, University of Regina; Regina, Canada.

Nickle Arts Museum, Calgary, Canada.

Prairie Public Art Gallery, Grande Prairie, Canada.

Southern Alberta Art Gallery, University of Lethbridge, Canada.

University of Alberta, Health Sciences Centre; Edmonton, Canada.

University of Calgary: Library Collection; Information and Communications Centre;
Faculty of Fine Arts; Dept of Religious Studies; Dept of Psychology.

University of Lethbridge, permanent collection, Lethbridge, Canada.

Victoria and Alberta Museum; England.

Winchester Group of Companies; Calgary, Canada.

Winnipeg Art Gallery; Winnipeg, Canada.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1998	Member, Muttart Public Art Gallery, Calgary
1995	Appointed to the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts
1991	Appointed Honorary Life Member, Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Canada
1991	Founding Member Artists Circle, Triangle Gallery, Calgary (Calgary Contemporary Arts Society)
1989	Member, The Leighton Foundation
1977 - 19	Member, Alberta Society of Artists
1977 - 79	Chairman, Review Committee of the Alberta Art Foundation (Calgary)
1976	Member Print and Drawing Council of Canada.
1975 - 76	Executive Committee Member, Midland Group Gallery; Nottingham, England
1975	Member, College Art Association of North America
1974	Appointed Honorary Member, Midland Group Gallery; Nottingham, England (Arts Council of Great Britain)
1968	Member, National Society for Art Education; England