

January 7 – January 31, 2002
East & West Gallery

Social Consciousness in Canadian Art

Selections from the Hart House Permanent Collection

Inspirational Art at Hart House

Each January the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery is pleased to exhibit selections from the permanent collection of Canadian art cared for by Hart House, University of Toronto. This year will be no exception and to introduce the 2002 exhibition season "Social Consciousness in Canadian Art" will feature a number of contemporary treasures including pieces by General Idea, John Scott, Jane Ash Poitras, Micah Lexier and Sheila Butler, among others.

More than bringing together art concerning such themes as ecology, sexual diversity, feminism and peace/conflict issues, "Social Consciousness in Canadian Art" will examine the role of art as a contributing means to generate awareness of social issues and motivate for positive change. An added interest to this exhibition is that its curator Milena Placentile has included comments drawn from her interviews with several of the artists involved to share with viewers as reflections upon the exhibition's theme.

Inspired in particular by art that is self-aware and conceptually motivated, Placentile believes that the role of art as a tool to study and remark upon society is something that should be celebrated. "Art is an exciting way to introduce new ideas," she says. "Viewers are drawn to an image for any number of reasons but the more time they spend considering the work of art in relationship to themselves and the world around them, the more opportunities for discovery become available." Milena Placentile is an undergraduate student of Art History at the University of Toronto and in addition to her work with the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery she is active as an independent curator and consultant.

"Social Consciousness in Canadian Art" will be on display at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery from January 7 - 31, 2002. The curator wishes to announce her availability for interviews and can be reached via the telephone number below.

For further information:

Judi Schwartz, 416-978-2453

Gallery Hours:

Monday to Friday: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

<http://www.utoronto.ca/gallery>

Admission is free