

# 2007-2008 New Brunswick Art Bank Acquisitions Exhibition

*Be inspired! Explore the visual arts*

## Tour guide for middle and high schools • Look and Find Places, Spaces and Ideas

The artworks in this exhibition were created by New Brunswick artists. Discover interesting places, spaces and ideas by exploring the artists' artworks. Check out the display cases and preliminary drawings, objects and materials that show some of the artists' ideas and their working methods.

*What we see \* What we feel \* How it was made*

*Your Artist's Eye –When looking at works of art in all media, look for these:*

Elements of Art - lines, shapes, colours, texture, space. These are the building blocks to create an artwork.  
Principles of Art - pattern, balance, repetition, unity. These are the guidelines all artists use to create an artwork.



### Chris Lloyd

*Cliff and Waterloo, 2007*

Use your Artist's Eye to see the shapes, lines and colours in the artwork. What is repeated? How do you think the artist feels about his neighbourhood? How an artist interprets a place or idea is more significant than creating a "real" image of a place.

Compare cartoons or storybook illustrations to this artwork. What is the same or different? The artist uses the cloud as a symbol – what do you think it represents?

### Jack Bishop

*Kitsch Rest Stop, 2006*

What everyday activity is being depicted in the painting? Jack Bishop looks at kitsch\* and materialism\* and how consumer goods can relate to ideas of happiness. From the painting, how do you think the artist feels about this? Look for repetition of the colour red – advertisers use red to attract the eye. What other colours are popular in advertising? Think about our sense of community. How is community created?

*\* Kitsch - Art considered to be glittery ornamentation or in bad taste.*

*\* Materialism – An excessive interest in and desire for money or possessions; the belief that only the material world (objects, needs, and considerations) exists.*

### Threats lead to armed standoff



*Threats lead to armed standoff, 2006*

This work is a collage\* of images and words. What connects them? If the words or objects are changed, does the message change? The artist mixes ordinary objects in an unusual context, giving new meaning to familiar things. Perspective, or the way in which objects appear to the eye, is also used in an unusual way.

Why do you think Tim Horton is represented in the artwork? Can this picture be an advertisement? Why or why not?

*\* Collage - A picture created by adhering flat elements (newspaper, wallpaper, printed text and illustrations, etc.) to a flat surface.*



### Dennis Austin Reid

*Shortest Route, 2005*

How are *Shortest Route* and *Kitsch Rest Stop* alike or different? Where Bishop depicts the urban landscape as a place of hectic activity, Reid explores symbols of modernism (highway and overpass) as empty spaces. As a volunteer fireman, Reid believes highways provide a way to reach people in danger. What effect does the size of the painting, the use of perspective, and the colour have on the mood?

What effect, if any, would there be with people in the painting or with different colours?

### Mario Doucette

*1755 (Se réfugier dans la forêt II), 2007*  
*[1755 (Taking Refuge in the Forest II)], 2007*

Imagine you are in the picture. What do you feel? Mario Doucette explores an historical event in a new way - the 1755 Deportation of the Acadians which forced them from their homes and land. How is this reflected in the decorative forest with its fine lines and soft colours? Why are the figures almost invisible?



Through patterns and transparent figures, an illusion is created. Rather than destruction, Doucette imagines another result. What do you think the artist imagines?

### Peter Manchester

*Old Sackville School House, 2007*

How real do you think this picture is? Making pictures of things and places that are easy to recognize has been a focus for artists for hundreds of years. How does the artist convey his ideas and feelings about this building? Consider the soft golden light and the shadows. How do they affect the mood of the painting?



Compare the painting with the photographs in the display case. What do the different images tell you about how people see things?

## Jennifer Bélanger

*Friendships are time sensitive, 2006*  
*[L'importance du facteur temps dans l'amitié], 2006*  
*Qui veut noyer son chien, l'accuse de rage*  
*[Give a dog a bad name and hang him], 2006*

What do the titles suggest to you? Jennifer Bélanger uses proverbs to tell stories. She also says that "Childhood. It's a jungle." What does this mean? Do you agree? The figures in many of her artworks are young girls, often presented as victims and aggressors.

How do the pictures make you feel? The embroidered handkerchiefs and needlework are traditional women's crafts. Why do you think the artist used these materials? How would you depict bullying?

*\*Proverb - A short statement about wisdom, truth, morals, etc. handed down from generation to generation.*



## Anna Torma

*Rondo, 2006*

In music, "rondo" means a recurring theme repeated at least three times. Anna Torma has filled the entire surface of the artwork with lines, shapes, colours and patterns. What are the recurring images or themes? What anchors the artwork?

Think about how you can convey meaning by repetition. Like a piece of music that you must listen to closely to hear the rhythm, look for images that repeat or are consistent. What effects are created using fabric that are different than paint?

Find out more about the artists and their work at [www.gnb.ca/culture](http://www.gnb.ca/culture)

2007-2008 New Brunswick Art Bank Acquisitions is organized by the New Brunswick Art Bank, Arts Development Branch, Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport.

## Geordie Millar

*Walking #6, 2006*

What does the image of a moose symbolize to you? (Consider nature, food, wilderness, etc.) What other animals are symbols? Consider the parallels between the physical energy the artist used to create the image, and the energy of the animal itself.

If this is one of a series of images of the same moose walking, what would the other images look like? Think about the idea of creating movement through repetition, as in animated cartoons.



## Craig Schneider

*Hope, 2007*

What does a boat shape symbolize to you? (Consider journey, protection, speed, etc.) Symbols can mean different things in different cultures. Think about boats in terms of immigration, war, and exploration. What other things have a similar shape? (Suggestions: cradle, bathtub, manger, etc)



Consider the materials used (clay, metal) and how the boat is presented. Is this boat ready to be launched, in a dry dock, or is it an idea? What do you think Craig Schneider means by the title?

## Jacques Arseneault

*La barque de Dante, 2006*  
*[Dante's Boat], 2006*

Look carefully at the artwork to find a map of the city of Paris, figures in a boat, insect wing patterns and circles. Think about the layers of meaning in the picture - the title refers to Dante, an Italian poet who wrote about a mythical boat journey; the figures refer to a painting by French artist Eugene Delacroix; and the insect shape refers to the damselfly, a type of butterfly. What do you think the picture is about?

Jacques Arseneault's artworks combine complex images, meanings and artistic technique. Can you see radial symmetry\*? Can you imagine insect sounds, the texture of round bumps, the movement of a boat? The artist asks you to use all your senses!

*\* Radial symmetry - similar parts regularly arranged around a central axis.*



## Elizabeth Grant

*Landscape #22, 2007*  
*Landscape #19, 2007*

What does your eye focus on in these paintings? How does the artist force the viewer to look closer at the buildings and vehicles? Elizabeth Grant is fascinated by ordinary places she knew growing up in Saint John. Are these landscape paintings of beautiful, scenic places? Why or why not?

What do you think factories and industrial work sites represent? Can they be beautiful? Why or why not? What feelings do you get looking at these places? Think about different interpretations of "beauty".

