

ornamentum

Decorative Arts in Canada | Les arts décoratifs au Canada

SPRING | SUMMER 2018



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The Decorative Arts and Jewellery

Bruce Alexandor | Chasing the Art of Repoussé
Canadian Jewellery History | Homage | Raw Materials
Jewellery + Metal Arts Program | Peter Kochuta

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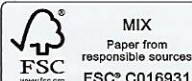
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HOMAGE:

Inspired by outstanding Canadian women

Donald A. Stuart C.M., O. Ont., RCA, MFA, AOCA

HOMAGE IS A COLLECTION of 40 framed neck-pieces that I created as a celebration and tribute to Canadian women, past and present. I used the familiar form of the necklace to explore history from a fresh perspective. Necklaces are one of the oldest forms of human adornment and were worn by both men and women. However, from approximately the 19th century onward they were predominately worn by women to denote style, status and wealth.

Necklaces are archetypal symbols of power and importance and are a fitting vehicle to represent seminal women in Canadian history. The choices of materials for each necklace are as varied as the women themselves, each infused with meaning and significance. The exhibition has been presented at a number of galleries across Canada. In each case, it received favourable and enthusiastic response due, in part, to the significant change in the role of women in Canada over the past few decades and the impact that they are having in many areas. In addition to paying tribute to and celebrating many exceptional women, this exhibition connects the arts with business, culture and heritage. The curator, Susan Benson RCA, sketched portraits of each of the women to accompany the pieces which, along with short biographies, add so much to the educational aspect of the exhibition. 



Donald A. Stuart C.M., O. Ont., RCA, MFA, AOCA - A native of Toronto, Don is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design (AOCA) in Toronto and the School for American Crafts (MFA) in Rochester, NY. He spent three years developing and initiating the internationally acclaimed Pangnirtung Weaving Studio on Baffin Island, which today successfully thrives and is the largest hand-weaving studio in Canada. This environment is the source of inspiration for many of his designs.

In 1972, he joined the faculty of the School of Design and Visual Arts at Georgian College, Barrie, Ontario. He taught a variety of courses culminating in founding the renowned Jewellery and Metals program. His passion for excellence has resulted in many national and international honours for his students, who now are making their own impact and contributions to the art world. When he took early retirement in 2001, Georgian College conferred upon him its inaugural Professor Emeritus position in recognition of his dedication.

Believing strongly that it is important to give back to the community, for over 40 years Don has been a committed volunteer, serving as a director of various provincial, national and international arts organizations. With the Canadian Executive Service Organization he has become an ambassador on assignments with Canadian native groups and with a variety of jewellery and craft-industry-related projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In recognition of his artistry and contributions, he has been honoured with a number of significant awards including the Order of Ontario, the Order of Canada, and membership in the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. His work is found in national, international, public, corporate, and private collections.



MALAYA AKULUKJUK
INUIT ARTIST
wool, sterling silver, caribou antler, soapstone, walrus ivory
15 x 35 cm



ELIZABETH ARDEN
DESIGNER
18K gold, pearls, diamonds (.215ct)
13 x 20 cm, pearl 4 x 2.5 cm



SONJA BATA PHILANTHROPIST
sterling silver, 14K gold, leather
24 x 20 cm



ELIZABETH BUSHELL PUBLISHING
Stylized antique printing blocks used in publishing spell out 'Halifax Gazette 1752'. The clasp is magnetic hidden under the letter 'z'.
various woods, sterling silver, copper, brass, steel
23 x 24 cm



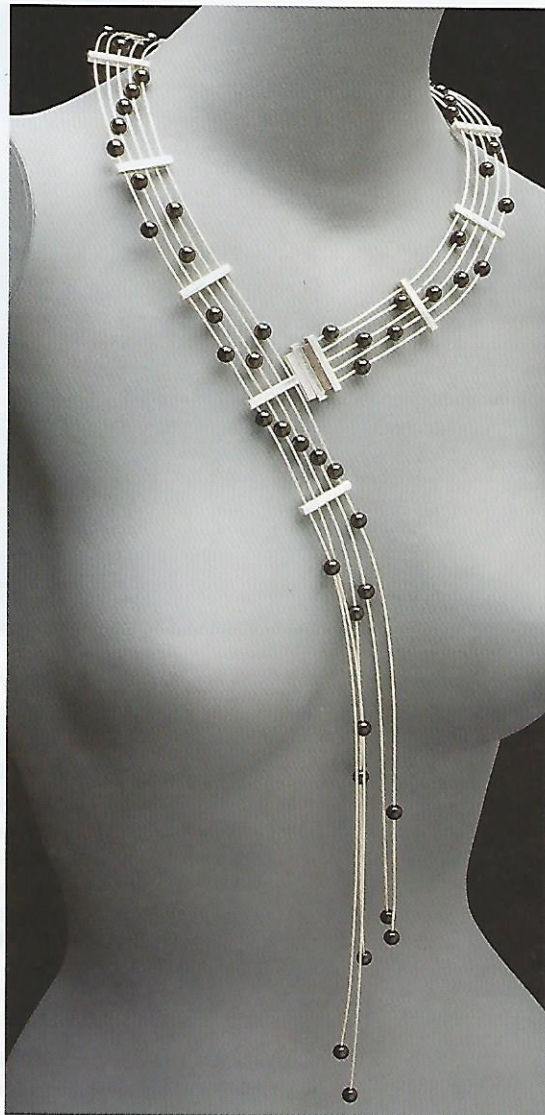
MARGARET ATWOOD
AUTHOR

sterling silver, Canadian diamond
(.17ct), 18K gold, rutilated
quartz, inlay of Chinese writing
stone, onyx
17 x 23 cm



KIM CAMPBELL POLITICIAN

sterling silver, 14K gold,
amethyst, lapis lazuli
20 x 30 cm



MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN
OPERA SINGER

An internationally acclaimed soprano, opera singer and concert artist, Measha Brueggergosman was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick. As a child, she sang in her local Baptist Church choir and studied voice and piano from the age of seven. As a teen, she spent summers on scholarships at the Boston Conservatory and a choral camp in Rothesay, New Brunswick. She received her B.Mus. from the University of Toronto and a master's degree from the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Germany. She has had leading roles in numerous operas and has performed with many prominent symphony orchestras. Measha won the Grand Prize at the 2002 Jeunesses Musicales Montréal Internationale Musical Competition and has been the prizewinner at many other international competitions since then. In 2008, she won a Juno Award for the Classical Album of the Year. The world heard her magnificent voice when she sang the Olympic Hymn at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

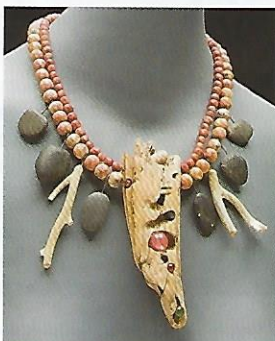
This necklace is in the form of a music score with the onyx beads representing the notes.

sterling silver, onyx
19 x 53cm



MARTHA BILLES
BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

sterling silver, 14K gold,
lapis lazuli, paper
(Canadian Tire 'money'),
steel drill bit, steel cable.
16 x 27.5 cm (pendant
10.5 x 13.5 cm)



EMILY CARR PAINTER

coral beads, fossilized coral,
driftwood, Vancouver Island
beach pebbles, jade, carnelian
17 x 25 cm



JOAN CHALMERS

ARTS ACTIVIST/PHILANTHROPIST
sterling silver, damascene (24K
gold, fine silver, copper, steel),
inlays of cocobolo wood, 14K gold,
silk, braided leather, lapis lazuli,
woven sea grass, sterling silver,
onyx, antique glass beads, ceramic
16 x 32 cm (pendant: 7 x 6.2 cm)



BETTY FOX MOTHER

*The necklace is a series of
interlocked memorial ribbon
forms which are embossed
with a lace pattern.*

sterling silver
19 x 31 cm



ANN HARVEY HEROINE

Many nautical references are conveyed with the stone disc as a life ring, the pulley, rope and the brummel hook clasp.

sterling silver, agate, amethyst, steel, rope
17 x 32 x 1.7 cm



ANNE GOLDEN PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCATE

This bold necklace, with no clasp, represents Anne's continuous involvement in social issues; the silver and gold plaques tell of her many contributions to society.

sterling silver, 18K gold, onyx, lava, jasper
28 x 28 cm



THE FAMOUS FIVE: HENRIETTA EDWARDS, NELLIE McCLUNG, LOUISE MCKINNEY, EMILY MURPHY, IRENE PARLBY SUFFRAGETTES

In 1927, the Famous Five launched the "Persons Case" contending that women were indeed persons under the law and therefore eligible to sit in the senate. They won the case, which contributed greatly to the cause of feminism in Canada. Most of their active careers were spent in western Canada, particularly Alberta. In 2009, the Famous Five were named Canada's first honorary Senators.



Henrietta Muir Edwards (1849-1931), born in Montreal, worked closely with women's missionary societies, advocated public libraries, mother's allowance, equal parental rights, equal grounds for divorce and penal reform. She co-founded the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Nellie McClung (1873-1951), born in Chatsworth, Ontario, was a writer, feminist, politician and social activist. Since Premier Roblin of Manitoba opposed giving women the vote, McClung wrote *The Women's Parliament*. This satirical play was enthusiastically received and helped lead to his defeat in 1916, when the Liberals came to power and gave women the vote.

Louise McKinney (1868-1931), born in Frankville, Ontario, was the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 1917, becoming the first woman to do so in the British Empire. She was a tireless supporter of stronger liquor control, women's property rights and the Dower Act.

Emily Murphy (1868-1933), born in Cookstown, Ontario, was a journalist and author and became the first woman magistrate in the British Empire. She pressured the Alberta government and, in 1916, the Dower Act was passed allowing women legal rights to one-third of their husbands' property.

Irene Parlby (1868-1965), was born in London and came to Canada in 1896. She held a seat in the Alberta Legislature for 14 years and was the first woman cabinet minister in Alberta. She improved public health care services and established municipal hospitals as well as mobile medical and dental clinics.

The black represents the writing that these women did to lobby for women's rights. The coloured stones represent the suffragette colours: green, white and violet for "Give Women the Vote".

14k gold, black onyx, sugilite, pearl, chrysocolla
16 x 18.5 cm



MARTHA HENRY ACTOR

The variety of materials and textures is to represent the dramatic and moving roles that Martha has played in the theatre.

14K gold, onyx, pearls, carnelian, rock crystal, lava, silk, ebony
15 x 18.5 cm



LYNDA HAVERSTOCK POLITICIAN

sterling silver, freshwater pearls, vermeil, metallic fibre
17 x 33 cm



MADELEINE DE VERCHÈRES HEROINE

The necklace is in the form of a wooden pallisade with the hematite beads representing musket balls.

various woods, hematite beads, sterling silver
26 x 26 cm



MAY IRWIN ACTOR

Numerous images are represented in this piece: May was a star when film was only in black and white; the light bulb was invented by Edison and of course, there's the kiss!

sterling silver, 14K and 10K gold, onyx, glass, polymer clay
16 x 21.5 cm



JUDY GINGELL KWANLIN DŪN ELDER



The eldest of eight children, Judy was born on her grandparents' trapline at Moose Lake, south of Whitehorse, Yukon. For more than 40 years, Judy has promoted and advanced Aboriginal rights and governance in the Yukon. As chair of the Council of Yukon First Nations, she was instrumental in self-governance and land-claims negotiations with the Government of Canada. In 1995,

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien named her Commissioner for the Yukon Territory, the first native person appointed to this position. Judy is renowned for her ability to build bridges between peoples, notably by raising awareness of First Nations culture by creating the annual Commissioner's Potlatch, which was endorsed by the Yukon Elders' Council as a happy occasion. As a leader and elder of Kwanlin Dūn First Nation, she has ensured that First Nations communities are key players in the territorial economy.

Judy Gingell was awarded a Commissioner of Yukon Public Service Award in 2001, a National Aboriginal Achievement Award – Community Development in 2005, the Order of Canada in 2009, and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 in recognition of her life-long contributions. She lives in Whitehorse, Yukon.

The necklace celebrates Judy's First Nations' heritage through the use of traditional materials (moose hair tufting, leather, beading, caribou antler) and her strong ties with the Yukon (mastodon ivory, gold nuggets and local stones). The imagery is the magnificent Yukon landscape with the Aurora Borealis in the star-studded night sky.

Sterling silver, 14K gold, placer gold nuggets, leather, moose hair, wood (pine), glass beads, inlays of Yukon stones, mastodon ivory and caribou antler
18 x 20 cm



LEONORA KING MEDICAL MISSIONARY

Jade is highly revered in China and the fish is a traditional Christian symbol. The cross has both medical and religious symbolism. My great grandfather was a Methodist missionary in China during the same period as Dr. King. My grandfather was born there and the Chinese coin used in this necklace belonged to him.

jade, brass, sterling silver,
old Chinese jade carving and coin
17 x 30 cm



CATRIONA LE MAY DOAN OLYMPIC ATHLETE

The Olympic symbol of 5 intersecting coloured rings represents the main regions of the world. This necklace has 5 strips of silver woven together with circles inlaid with coloured stones from different parts of the world.

sterling silver, inlays of sugillite,
chrysocolla, azurite, agate
15 x 32.5 cm



LYNN JOHNSTON CARTOONIST

ebony, Formica, sterling silver
20 x 20 cm



DIANA KRALL JAZZ SINGER AND PIANIST

The antique piano keys were an obvious choice of material. One ebony key creates the sliding clasp. The gold inlays represent the music.

antique piano keys, 14K gold
inlays, sterling silver, walnut
22 x 22 x 3.5cm



ANNE MURRAY SINGER

Anne got her major start on Sing Along Jubilee, a CBC television program where bolo ties were the necklace of choice for many of the performers.

sterling silver, 14K gold, pearls
15 x 43 cm



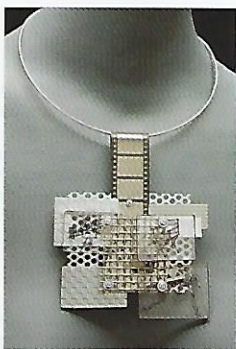
JULIE PAYETTE ASTRONAUT
18K and 14K gold, sterling silver,
steel cable, diamonds, moonstone,
various inlays
23.5 x 23 cm



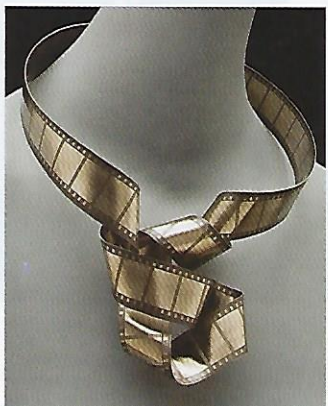
SUSANNAH OLAND BREWER
sterling silver, brass,
recycled bottle caps
170 cm long



ELSIE PICONE SMALL BUSINESS PROPRIETOR
The glass apples are the colours of the Italian flag, Elsie's heritage. In addition to her business acumen, Elsie Picone was known for her apple pies, which she baked for politicians on the campaign trail - municipal candidates to prime ministers - bringing much attention to Dundas.
sterling silver (cast apple branches),
14K gold, glass, carnelian
23 x 23 cm



SARAH POLLEY ACTOR/DIRECTOR
Sarah is a multi-faceted and multi-layered artist, actor, director and activist. The piece conveys that with the use of contemporary materials and sketches.
stainless steel, copper,
aluminum, plastic
15 x 25 cm



MARY PICKFORD ACTOR/PERFORMER
stainless steel
16 x 22cm



OLIVIA POOLE INVENTOR
sterling silver, patinated
steel, malachite
15 x 36 cm



KAREN KAIN PRIMA BALLERINA

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Karen Kain is one of the world's greatest classical ballerinas. She has appeared with many major ballet companies and is also one of Canada's foremost arts advocates. While principal dancer with the National Ballet of Canada, her superb dancing brought international acclaim, which elevated the National Ballet to the world stage. Karen was awarded the Order of Ontario in 1990 and became a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1991.

In May 1998, the French government named her an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. She has been the recipient of numerous other awards, including the Governor-General's Award for Lifetime Achievement, the first Canadian recipient of the Cartier Lifetime Achievement Award and several honorary degrees. Since retiring from dance in 1997, she has been very actively involved in the arts in many capacities including chair of the Canada Council for the Arts and is the current artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada.

Based on the Elizabethan ruff, the piece is meant to be theatrical and regal much as Karen's major dance roles have been.

sterling silver, 14K gold, silk, pearls, amethyst,
natural pink coloured fresh water pearl drop
18 x 25 x 11 cm



PAULINE JOHNSON INDIGENOUS POET

A writer and performer popular in the late 19th century, Pauline Johnson (1861-1913) was born on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ontario. Johnson also used the Mohawk name Tekahionwake as her father was Mohawk, her mother English. Celebrating her First Nations heritage, Pauline was well known for her poetry performances, which she gave across Canada in an attempt to raise money to support her writing. She began her performances in an English ball gown, and would break half-way through to transform herself into a Mohawk princess, wearing a costume of skins, scalps, and a hunting knife. One of her most famous and most anthologized poems is *The Song My Paddle Sings*.

The first Indigenous poet to be published in Canada, her work was also published in the United States and Great Britain. She died of breast cancer, at the age of 52 and is the only person to have ever been buried in Vancouver's Stanley Park. She is one of a generation of popular writers who helped define Canadian literature.

The feather is an iconic symbol used by the First Nations. The quill pen was used for writing before other tools, such as the typewriter, were invented.

sterling silver, 14K gold
15 x 16.5 cm



BELINDA STRONACH
BUSINESS EXECUTIVE/PHILANTHROPIST
stainless steel, gilded brass,
copper, bronze mesh
18 x 18 cm



LAURA SECORD HEROINE
14K gold, pearls, carnelian
24 x 26 x 2.5 cm



BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE FOLK SINGER
sterling silver, various inlays,
wood, pearls, glass beads
14 x 14 cm



EMILY STOWE & JENNY TROUT PHYSICIANS

Their necklace is in the form of a stethoscope. In the centre is a stylized tree of life inlaid with various 'healing stones'. The background represents the Red Cross and is inlaid with labradorite.
sterling silver, velvet, inlays of labradorite and various healing stones (gold ore, silver ore, sugilite, onyx, opal, 14K gold, lapis lazuli)
18 x 31 cm



BERTHA WILSON SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

A stylized judge's collar with black to represent the robes, the necklace is simple in form yet complex in nature to symbolize the intricacies of judicial proceedings.
sterling silver, black agate
16 x 16 x 18 cm



HALEY WICKENHEISER OLYMPIC ATHLETE

A celebrated athlete, Hayley Wickenheiser is best known for helping lead the Canadian women's hockey teams to repeated Olympic gold medals. In the form of a hockey stick, her necklace is in Canadian colours and with embossed maple leaves. The inlay of Ontario gold ore represents a puck as well as the many gold medals she has earned.
sterling silver, anodized aluminum, Ontario gold ore, ebony
16 x 24 cm



EIRA THOMAS
GEOLOGIST/BUSINESS EXECUTIVE
18K gold, Canadian diamonds (.51ct), fancy yellow natural diamond (1.25ct), granite, rutilated quartz.
17 x 19 cm



GUDRID THORBJARNATDOTTIR MOTHER
The Vikings loved heavy silver jewellery - a form of portable wealth - with one of their favourite pieces being the torc. The finials have four different inlaid designs, are magnetic and become the clasp.
sterling silver, various inlays
15.2 x 15.2 cm

Sketches: Susan Benson, RCA
Photography: Andre Beneteau