

Allan MacKay

Professional Experience Summary

Over the span of his visual arts career, he has accumulated extensive and multifaceted credentials as gallery director, curator, arts administrator and professional artist.

Graduating from the Nova Scotia College of Art in 1967 he began his arts administration and curatorial career in 1970.

Positions in visual art organizations have included CEO and senior management positions in a variety of administrator, curator, project manager and consultant roles from 1970 to present.

His experience has been national in scope having lived and worked professionally in 5 provinces.

He has served on various municipal, provincial and national cultural boards, committees and juries and chaired regional art gallery associations in eastern and western Canada. (ex: Canadian Museums Association, Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization, Canadian Conference for the Arts, Canada Council for the Arts, Atlantic Provinces Art Gallery Association, Western Canada Art Association, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Saskatchewan Arts Council, Toronto International Festival, etc.)

The leadership roles he has served in throughout his career has informed and enhanced his credentials, resulting in a seniority of experience and hands on knowledge in the workings of art museum senior management responsibilities and organizational oversight: budget preparation and management, program development and funding, collection stewardship and enhancement, staff relations and supervision, trustee relations and community communications.

Key Senior Administration and Curator Career roles include:

Curator/Director, Centennial Art Gallery in Halifax 1969 (precursor of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia)

Director, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Nova Scotia College of Art & Design 1970-75

Founding Director/Curator, Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Lethbridge, Alberta 1975-79

Director/Curator, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon - 1979-83

Consultant, Canada Council - 1985

Consultant, Art Gallery of Windsor - 1986

Director, Art Metropole, Toronto - 1988

Director, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery at Harbourfront, Toronto - 1989-91

Acting Director, Laurentian University Art Gallery and Museum, Sudbury - 1992-3

Project Manager, The Barnes Exhibit, Art Gallery of Ontario - 1994

Contract Curator, Glenbow Museum - 1996

Contract Curator, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies - 1998

Curatorial & Collections Consultant, Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery - 2002-2009

Art Advisor to Regent Park Public Art Project - 2010

In addition to maintaining a highly productive and dedicated institutional career he has carved out a reputation as a practising artist.

He has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally and undertaken numerous public art commissions. The Canada Council Art Bank, National Gallery of Canada, Confederation Centre Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Art Gallery of Alberta, and Kunstmuseum Bern Switzerland have acquired works as well as corporations and private collectors in Canada and Switzerland. He has served as a visiting artist, resident artist and lecturer at several Canadian universities, art colleges, public galleries and national conferences. He has been awarded numerous artist grants by the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Alberta Foundation of the Arts.

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