



April 2020  
Issue 4

# FEATURED ARTIST

Brenda McKenzie

For this month, Winnipeg River Arts Council revisits previously featured visual artist and author Brenda McKenzie. Since 1971, she has lived in Pinawa. She said, "But, before that, as an 'army brat,' I lived in various places." Her favourite medium includes acrylics, water colour, and occasionally, pen and ink. When asked about what inspires her art work, she said, "Colour is my first inspiration, and then how light defines an object or creates a mood."



In the 1960's, she took lessons at Winnipeg Art Gallery, and, in junior high, she participated in an art club with her teacher John Esler. At the University of Manitoba, she studied in the Faculty of Interior Design, learning from H. Adaskin and other staff. She said, "It was an intensive education in design of images, display, and colour."

In Pinawa, she worked for five decades with well-known artist and high school art teacher, Vivian Thomson. When Thomson retired, McKenzie took over her classes. Prior to being hired for this fulltime art specialist position, she worked, for more than thirty years, as a substitute teacher in Pinawa schools. She also taught private art lessons for both adults and children. During the quarantine, she's doing Skype art classes with two girls in England.

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McKenzie's work has been exhibited at Crea8ery Gallery in Winnipeg's Exchange District, Selkirk's Fox Gallery, Pinawa's Art 211 Gallery, and numerous Juried Art Exhibitions in the Winnipeg River district, and has been shown and sold at markets in Beausejour and Lac du Bonnet. Her photography, oil painting, and acrylic painting have won awards at Juried Art Exhibitions in Pinawa, Lac du Bonnet, and Beausejour. Last summer, WRAC included her "Aurora Path" paddle painting in their popular art auction.

Given all her years of teaching and creating, it's no surprise McKenzie has become involved in local arts projects, including ART 211 Gallery, Juried (and Judged) Art Exhibitions, and Winnipeg River Arts Council. After years as a board member, she now serves as WRAC president and contributes countless volunteer hours to the council's stated mission of "connecting people through art."

Like many local artists, her work reflects the natural surroundings of Eastman, in all four seasons. But she prefers the winter light to harsher summer sun and shadows.

She said, "My ultimate work is portraiture – both animals and humans." In 2017, McKenzie's portrait of her mother-in-law won a prize at Lac du Bonnet Juried Art Exhibition. This picture portrays the older woman gazing into a past that has been clouded by Alzheimer's.

Related to this topic, McKenzie's first book, *Loving You*, was a memoir about finding help for her mother-in-law's dementia. It sold independently across Canada and throughout Manitoba. She has just finished her second book, over 350 pages long, and she awaits reviews from her critics/readers.

McKenzie's favourite art quote comes from Pablo Picasso: "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."



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## PADRE X

**Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Venue: TBA**

ROYAL  
**MTC**



A story of bravery and beauty, this Fringe hit by Winnipeg writer Marc Moir brings to life the journey of John Weir Foote. As the only Canadian chaplain to win the Victoria Cross during the Second World War, Foote's heroism shines as he chooses to stay behind with his unit during the Dieppe raid.

Padre X has received awards from Fringe Festivals across Canada including Best of Fest and Outstanding Drama. Critics have called it "a pure triumph" and "a beautiful performance".

# Things to do at home!

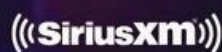


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View all upcoming livestreams and find links to watch here on our website

<https://nac-cna.ca/en/series/canadaperforms>

<https://nac-cna.ca/fr/canadaperforms>



**Follow Choir! Choir! Choir!  
on Facebook or youtube.**

**They are holding weekly live sing a longs.  
Next event is April 11, 2pm CST in support  
of the Canadian Cancer Society.**



Tour current exhibitions at the WAG!

<https://wag.ca/art/stories/category/waghome/>



<https://www.fieldtrip.art/field-trips>

## Libraries

<https://pinawapubliclibrary.com/>

<https://www.lacdubonnetlibrary.ca/>

<https://allardlibrary.com/>

<https://www.nvcl.ca/library-in-your-living-room>

[https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?  
categoryID=77](https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=77)

## Podcasts

[https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcastplaylist/art-  
podcasts-that-pop-1.3927869](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcastplaylist/art-podcasts-that-pop-1.3927869)

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## Manitoba Rural & Northern Art Show

Westman | Eastman | Central | Parkland | Interlake |  
Northern Artists

### The Edge Gallery and Urban Art Centre

611 Main Street, Winnipeg

September 3-20, 2020

Artwork can include but are not limited to:

- painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, watercolour, oil, acrylic, mixed media.
- limit one submission per artist

#### To Apply:

send image with your name, contact info, region, concept, size, date  
of completion and medium  
to [visualarts@mbartsnet.ca](mailto:visualarts@mbartsnet.ca)

Please put **R&N Submission** in the subject line.

All entries will be selected by an external jury

**Deadline: Submit your image by June 15, 2020**

# 2020 Art Auction

The theme for this years fundraising art auction is **water**.

If you are interested in creating a piece of art please contact Jennifer at  
204 340 0889 or [winnipegriverarts@gmail.com](mailto:winnipegriverarts@gmail.com)

The pieces of art will be displayed throughout the region & online during  
the spring and summer, with the online auction running August 1 - 27.

Artists will receive 30% of the funds raised on their individual piece of art.

**Apply Now**

**Manitoba Showcase**

October 23 & 24, 2020

Gimli, Manitoba

**Deadline Extended to May 15!**

manitoba **arts network**  
connect · showcase · promote

Applications are now open at [iWantToShowcase.ca](http://iWantToShowcase.ca) for performers of all types; musicians, dance and theatre groups. Manitoba Showcase 2020 will be held from October 22-25 in Gimli, Manitoba. Fifteen to twenty performing artists will be selected to perform on October 23rd or 24th.

Add a little bit of body teSelected by a jury, artists will perform for an audience of arts presenters seeking to bring artists to their communities. The Manitoba Arts Network coordinates block booked tours of Showcasing Artists based on interest generated by presenters (art organizations) who attended Manitoba Showcase.

Besides being an opportunity to showcase, the conference features seminars, workshops, one on one meetings, art exhibits, a contact room and networking events, focused towards connecting artists, agents, industry professionals and arts presenters.

Manitoba Arts Network is the only organization that showcases and coordinates tours in Manitoba, generating \$120,000 – \$180,000 in artist fees throughout the year. Showcasing artists can receive up to four years of on-going bookings based on their performance at Manitoba Showcase.

For any questions on applying to Manitoba Showcase, please contact Leah at [performingarts@mbartsnet.ca](mailto:performingarts@mbartsnet.ca)