

Ken Tolmie

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EDUCATION

1962 BFA (First Class Honours), School of Fine Arts, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

HISTORY

1962 to 76 Painted and exhibited in England, Spain, and Canada

1977 Began the *Bridgetown Series*, a group of over 200 paintings that form a narrative about the life of a rural Nova Scotian town

1978 Opened the Tolmie Gallery in Bridgetown, NS; the Gallery subsequently moved to Mahone Bay, NS (1993) and Toronto, ON (2000)

1978 to 1984 Involved in the artistic and cultural affairs of Nova Scotia: acted on the Board of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; founded the James House Museum in Bridgetown; and donated several pieces to support cultural causes

1985 to 1993 Began phase one of the *Window Series* in Toronto, transforming his earlier narrative realist technique into more technically and thematically complex engagement with urban environments and modes of perception

1993 to 1999 Returned to Nova Scotia, and founded Tolmie Productions to make films on Canadian art

2000 to 2004 Moved to Toronto and began phase two of the *Window Series*, undertaking larger and more ambitious works in oil; exhibited commercially in Austin, Texas and in Eastern Canada

2005 to present Resides and works in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

DOCUMENTARY FILM

PAINTING HILDA, Tolmie Productions, shot in Nova Scotia and Toronto, 24-minute documentary on one of the *Bridgetown Series*' major paintings, 2003

YES, WE DO WINDOWS, CBC & Tolmie Productions, 10-minute documentary on Ken's *Window Series*, for the CBC national network program ZED, 2002, and shown subsequently on national networks

IT'S FOR YOU, 90-minute film shot in DVcam, transferred to film, shot in Toronto and Barcelona, produced in the Tolmie Studio, Toronto, 2002; shown in many international film festivals; Ken Tolmie Executive Producer

THE MASSIVE MIRROR, TVOntario, for their series Visions, The Critical Eye, 1983, 30-minute documentary including Tolmie's work and views.

THE HUMAN LINK, TVOntario, for their series Visions, Artists and the Creative Process, 1982, 30-minute documentary on Ken Tolmie, Joe Fafard, and Esther Warkov

PROFILE OF KEN TOLMIE, CBC-TV, for the national series, Seeing It Our Way, 1981, 30-minute documentary

KEN TOLMIE, CBC-TV, for the programs Newsday, Profile, Take Thirty, and View from the Atlantic, 1981, 30-minute documentary

THE NATIONAL, CBC-TV, on January 4th, 1981, at 9:00 p.m. and at 11:00 p.m., carried a short on the *Bridgetown Series* paintings

NOVA SCOTIA AS IT IS, CBC-TV, a 30-minute documentary shown on the national network on October 10, 1981, contained a five-minute interview with Tolmie on the *Bridgetown* paintings

BOOKS

Author & illustrator

Tale of an Egg, Oberon Press, Ottawa, 1974

Selected by the National Library of Canada as one of the ten best Canadian children's books 1974

Author

A Rural Life, Oberon Press, 1986.

Contains 60 colour plates of the artist's paintings

EXHIBITIONS

Due to severe illness in his family, Ken did little exhibition work from 1996 to the present, though he continued to paint. From 2001 to 2005, he operated an open studio and art gallery, and a film centre in the Morrow Avenue complex in Toronto. He sold a number of large paintings privately.

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| 2007 | <i>A Tribute to Alex Colville: Then and Now</i> Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, May 12 – August 26, 2007, invitational group exhibition
<i>Miniatures in Oil</i> Austin Galleries, Austin, Texas, August – September, 2007 |
| 2006 | <i>Group exhibition</i> , Austin Galleries, Austin, Texas, USA |
| 2003 | <i>Group exhibition</i> , Austin Galleries, Austin, Texas, USA |
| 2001 | Tolmie Gallery, Toronto, ON: <i>The Window Series (solo exhibition)</i> |
| 1996 | Lunenburg Public Art Gallery, Lunenburg, NS <i>The Window Series (solo exhibition)</i>
Zwickers Gallery, Halifax, NS <i>The Window Series (solo exhibition)</i> |
| 1977 to 1996 | Tolmie Gallery, Bridgetown and Mahone Bay, NS (<i>annual summer exhibition</i>) |
| 1986 | Kaspar Gallery, Toronto, ON (<i>solo exhibition</i>)
Beckett Gallery, Hamilton, ON (<i>solo exhibition</i>) |
| 1982 to 1984 | <i>Ken Tolmie: The Bridgetown Series</i> , sponsored by the Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, and National Museums of Canada
Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB (May 10-June 15, 1982)
Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, NS (July 15-August 22, 1982)
Galerie Restigouche, Campbellton, NB (September 6-25, 1982)
Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, Charlottetown, PEI (October 11-November 14, 1982)
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS (December 1-30, 1982)
New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, NB (January 15-February 15, 1983)
McIntosh Art Gallery, University of Western Ontario, London, ON (July 27-August |

- 28, 1983)
 Regina Public Library and Art Museum, Regina, SK (September 10-October 16, 1983;
 Centre d'exposition l'imagier, Aylmer, PQ, October 18-November 23, 1983;
 January 15-February 20, 1984)
 Centre d'exposition de Mont Laurier, Mont Laurier, QC (March 1-31, 1984)
- 1975** Wells Gallery, Ottawa, ON: *Paintings by Ken Tolmie* (solo exhibition)
- 1974** Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford, ON: *Contemporary Canadian Graphics* (group exhibition)
 Wells Gallery, Ottawa, ON: *Paintings by Ken Tolmie* (solo exhibition)
- 1973** Burnaby Art Gallery, BC: *Burnaby Biennial* (group exhibition)
 McIntosh Gallery, University of Western Ontario, London, ON: *Canadian Society of Graphic Arts* (group exhibition)
- 1966** National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON: *Canadian Watercolours, Drawings, and Prints* (group exhibition)
- 1964** Public Library and Art Museum, London, ON: *Magic Realism In Canadian Painting* (group exhibition)
 National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON: *Canadian Watercolours, Drawings and Prints* (group exhibition)
- 1963** Dorothy Cameron Gallery, Toronto, ON: *Ken Tolmie* (solo exhibition)
 Banfer Gallery, New York, NY: *New Images from Canada* (group exhibition)
 The Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK: *Royal Academy Juried Exhibition* (group exhibition)
 The Galleries, London, UK: *New English Art Club Juried Exhibition* (group exhibition)
- 1962** Zwickers Gallery, Halifax, NS: *Works on Paper by Ken Tolmie* (solo exhibition)
 Zwickers Gallery, Halifax, NS: *The Art of Ken Tolmie* (solo exhibition)

AWARDS

Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation, 1999

Artist's publishing grant from Canada Council via Oberon Press, Ottawa, 1974

CBC Zed Program Grant, 2002

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
Confederation Centre and Art Museum, Charlottetown, PEI
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS
Nova Scotia Art Bank, Halifax, NS
National Portrait Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB
MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON
McIntosh Gallery, University of Western Ontario, London, ON
Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, BC
University College of Cape Breton, Sydney, NS
Carleton University Art Centre, Ottawa, ON
WCalifornia College of Arts, Oakland, CA
Husky Oil Ltd., Calgary, AB
GWN Systems, Calgary, AB
Crownx (Extendicare), Toronto, ON
Slater Steels Ltd., Toronto, ON
Dofasco, Inc., Toronto, ON
Proctor and Gamble Ltd., Toronto, ON
Liquidity Wines, Victoria BC
Stewart McKelvey Stirling LLP, Saint John, NB
Beacon Securities, Halifax, NS
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, Toronto
Blois Nickerson Palmetier & Bryson LLP, Halifax, NS
Nova Scotia Light & Power, Halifax, NS

And other corporate, public, and private art collections in North America and Europe