

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**December 18, 2009**

**On January 5, Gallery Connexion's Annex Gallery reveals a curated exhibition titled "This Land is Your Land"** showcasing a selection of works by Fredericton artists Sharon Hicks, Kathy Tidswell, Roland Mansfield and Dorothy Connors. This collection, curated by Fredericton artist WhiteFeather, ranges from watercolour paintings, to thread appliqué wall works and thread paintings, to meticulous, coloured pencil drawings, to acrylics on canvas. The works explore the aesthetics of landscape, both natural and urban or architectural, representing the beauty that may be found in each.

Each artist in the exhibition is either entirely or partly self-taught, some identifying as hobbyists and some as professional artists, and all display an impressive degree of skill and development with their particular techniques. All of the artists work from photographs, taken themselves, by their family members, or in some cases, found on postcards and in magazines.

Roland Mansfield is a retired military paratrooper and electrical contractor. During his leisure hours hunting and fishing in the wilderness, Roland discovered his interest in painting. He pursued painting more seriously by studying with Newfoundland artists Ed Roche, Manny Buckheit and Ish Humber, and his work displays a fine eye for careful detail.

Kathy Tidswell is a juried craftsperson, artist and Fibre Arts teacher. She has studied drawing, watercolour and oil painting, quilting, and machine embroidery. Kathy developed her own methods of painting on fabric and free motion sewing to produce unique thread paintings, wearable art and quilted wall hangings that are sold and collected internationally.

Sharon Hicks is a life member of the Fredericton Society of Artists, a past member of the Sackville Art Association and a new member of the Colored Pencil Society of America. Sharon works in very fine detail, layering coloured pencil to produce photographic-like works, often combining imagery from several photos to create her own striking compositions.

Dorothy Connors has shown and sold her paintings at the Saint John Arts Centre, and with the Saint John Art Society, as well as the Fredericton Playhouse previously. She also belongs to the Turps Club in Fredericton. Dorothy is completely self-taught, having taken up painting after raising her four children, and works in her own developed style in oil and watercolour.

Curator WhiteFeather is a multi-award-winning Fredericton-based fibre artist, who instructs at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, is Director of Arts Development at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre and writes for various national arts publications. WhiteFeather also sits on the executive board of Gallery Connexion and CARFAC Maritimes. This is WhiteFeather's third curatorial project.

*This Land is Your Land* opens at the Annex Gallery located in the Playhouse at 686 Queen Street on Tuesday, January 5 at 5pm. Please join us for an opening reception. The exhibition will run until January 20, 2009.

The Annex Gallery is an initiative between Gallery Connexion and the Fredericton Playhouse to provide a juried exhibition space for Gallery Connexion members and for the Playhouse to include programmed exhibitions in its galleries.

*The Annex Gallery is organized by a Gallery Connexion committee and facilitated by the Fredericton Playhouse. For more information, contact Rita Sassani at [ritasassani@gmail.com](mailto:ritasassani@gmail.com)*