

# Communiqué

## MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL

### MAJOR ARTS GRANTS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

June 1, 2009 – Winnipeg:

The Manitoba Arts Council is pleased to announce that five established Manitoba artists have received Major Arts Grants totaling \$121,528. The grants, worth up to \$25,000 each, will enable the artists to concentrate on a significant project for up to one year. The grant covers living expenses, project costs and travel expenses. "We are very pleased to offer Major Arts Grants to our senior artists. By providing funding to the arts, our government is acknowledging the tremendous impact our artists and organizations have on the creative economy of Manitoba," says Dr. Judith Flynn, Chair of Council.

Major Arts Grants were awarded to the following senior Manitoba artists:

**Christina (Tina) Keeper** (\$21,528) is an Aboriginal activist, actress and former member of the Canadian House of Commons. While best known for her role as RCMP officer in the CBC Television series *North of 60*, Ms Keeper began her artistic journey with a Native theatre group 30 years ago. With her Major Arts Grant she will use a video journal process to explore the idea that the "circle is not round" any longer within a remote Oji-Cree community in northern Manitoba.

**Erika Macpherson** (\$25,000) uses video and electronic media to investigate the intricate relationship of choice and chance. Her visually poetic non-fiction narratives explore the phenomenal circumstance of being human. Ms Macpherson's pieces have screened internationally at festivals from the San Francisco Gay Lesbian to Transmediale in Berlin, Vancouver International to The Edinburgh Fringe. From her home in Manitoba she also facilitates the creation of others peoples stories as a writer, videographer, editor and workshop facilitator.  
[www.erikamacpherson.com](http://www.erikamacpherson.com)

**Bev Pike** (\$25,000) is a Winnipeg painter of large metaphorical landforms. Her research includes theories about gendered landscapes, baroque spectacle and its political contexts, feminist eccentricity and the performative viewer. Under this grant, Pike will create a new work entitled *Hymenal View of Ice* after attending the *Living Landscapes* conference on environmental performance art in Wales in June.

**Sheila Spence** (\$25,000) has dedicated her craft to the exploration of portraiture investigating issues around personal relationships, identity, and notions of community for over 20 years. Her portraits have been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally and are included in public and corporate collections across Canada. Over the course of her career, Ms Spence has received numerous grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Manitoba Arts Council, and the Winnipeg Arts Council.  
[www.sheilaspencephtography.com](http://www.sheilaspencephtography.com)

**Diana Thorneycroft** (\$25,000) is a Winnipeg visual artist known mostly for her photographs. She is the recipient of numerous awards and has exhibited various bodies of work across Canada, the United States and Europe as well as Moscow, Tokyo and Sydney. She is currently working on a series called *Group of Seven Awkward Moments* which will be shown at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection this summer. [www.dianathorneycroft.com](http://www.dianathorneycroft.com)

For more information about the Manitoba Arts Council, please visit the website at [www.artscouncil.mb.ca](http://www.artscouncil.mb.ca).

The **Manitoba Arts Council** provides funds to professional artists and arts organizations. It is an arm's-length agency of the Government of Manitoba and is funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport.

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CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA  
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