

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Brian Holden**

visual artist/ printmaker/arts educator

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## Artist Statement

My perception of the physical world and emotional response to it is the basis of my art, interpreted by drawing, painting, carving & printing onto paper. Employing careful observation I explore the delicate interplay existing between structure, form, colour, shadow and light.

Landscape and the natural world are the prominent components in my work. Time spent in northern wilderness areas through my life has established a strong personal relationship to the land. The region I reside in harbours an amazing biodiversity found in the wilderness. I've chosen to illustrate an interconnectedness that exists between the landscape, living things and the elements. These studies might serve as an archive as forces of change proceed to alter these habitats and ecosystems.

Source material is acquired from photographs and sketches. This is translated via a variety of printmaking disciplines. Time is spent developing the image and no matter what discipline is employed, each presents a set of challenges forcing me to think and learn from, to expand my levels of skill with that medium. I use various techniques that include serigraphy, relief block, photopolymer and acrylic plate intaglio, and collagraph. I also implement traditional hand printing methods with current non-toxic materials in the studio and add painting to some of the work.

My belief is that I am a guest in the wilderness and it is not my intention to disturb the delicate balance established by nature, but to relay my observations and experiences through my artwork.

Brian Holden

## Bio

Brian Holden is a Thunder Bay based artist and arts educator. His work is highly influenced by his surroundings and this is reflected in studies of the landscape and flora/fauna of this region. He was born in Northwestern Ontario and during his youth had the opportunity to live around the province in a variety of small communities that bordered on wilderness (boreal forests of Northern Ontario) and less populated rural regions of southern Ontario. In his childhood and teen years he spent time exploring the woods and fields which forged a deep respect for and love of nature. This has continued to be the source of inspiration for the imagery he creates. Brian studied the basics of visual art for a one year period at Sheridan College in Brampton Ontario. After this he made the decision to undertake an independent direction with his creativity. He took the basics of visual arts fundamentals he learned and through self-teaching has expanded his skill and understanding of a range of various mediums.

He has called Thunder Bay his residence since 1980 and this is where his artistic explorations began with detailed graphite drawings on paper followed later with landscape and still life studies in watercolour and acrylic. In 1983 he rediscovered printmaking and began producing small silkscreen studies. These works made their way into different venues around the city of Thunder Bay and introduced him to the public as an emerging local artist. The first recognition came in 1981 when he won the coveted first place award in drawing at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition. This was followed in 1984 when he received an honourable mention for a small detailed graphite drawing titled *Boreal Road*. His study was chosen by a jury of 3 noted Canadian artists as one of thirty works representative of visual art being produced in this region. A tour titled *Art Affairs North* followed and exhibition in public galleries across Canada ensued.

Since that time Brian went on to display artworks in many collective artist shows in Northwestern Ontario. In 2010 he was invited to be part of a trio show at Gallery Stratford in an exhibition of print based studies that examined the role of water in the environment titled *Watermark*. This was followed later that same year with his first solo exhibition in series of multidisciplinary prints titled *Wilderness* at the Pictograph Gallery in Atikokan ON. From Jan - April 2012 this same solo exhibition made its debut at the noted Thunder Bay Art Gallery. This was accompanied by an artist talk and two printmaking workshops. Brian presented a series of miniature size prints Sept 2012 in an exhibition titled *Look Closer* at the Baggage Building Art Centre Gallery in Thunder Bay. Brian also displays his work online in a website and has a blog dedicated to his artistic pursuits.

Printmaking has been his focus for the past two decades and various methods used to make a print have provided the stimuli and challenges to keep his attention focused towards this art form. He has employed a variety of printmaking disciplines in his studio practices that include relief block printing, serigraphy (silkscreen), intaglio processes (etching) plus collagraph and monoprint. Recently he has been exploring the application of relief engraving. His painting skills also are applied into some of the print imagery through hand colouring. Brian has a firm belief that printmaking can retain its traditionalism but can also welcome and incorporate new technologies.

He is active in the local arts community and has been a long-time member of a local art collective. He is also a strong supporter of non-toxic printmaking practices. Not only is Brian a studio based artist but he has been active sharing his knowledge and expertise as an arts educator in the educational system through provincial and regional funded Community Arts and Heritage programming and also through the Ontario Arts Council Artist in Education program.

## **Education**

1978 - Sheridan College, Brampton Ontario, Visual Art Fundamentals  
1980 to present day - self taught

## **Exhibition**

2012 - Look closer - solo printmaking exhibition - Baggage building arts centre, Thunder Bay ON  
2012 - Wilderness - solo printmaking exhibition - Thunder Bay Art Gallery  
2011 - Wilderness - Caligo Coffeehouse - Thunder Bay, ON  
2010 - Wilderness - solo printmaking exhibition - Pictograph Gallery - Atikokan ON  
2010 - Water Mark - trio printmaking exhibition - Gallery Stratford - Stratford ON  
2009 - Lakehead Visual Arts - annual group exhibition (ongoing since 1984) - Thunder Bay ON  
2008 - Definitely Superior Gallery - 20th Anniversary Members show (juried) - Thunder Bay ON  
2008 - Ottawa School of Art - Biennial Miniature Print Invitational - Ottawa ON  
2008 - International Miniature Print Exhibition - Grafisk Vaerksted Print Studio Naestved, Denmark  
2007 - Definitely Superior Gallery - Change (regional juried exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
2007 - Art in the Park, Magnus Theatre - Thunder Bay, ON  
2006 - Thunder Bay Art Gallery - Thirty Points of light (curators selection juried exhibition)  
2006 - Definitely Superior Gallery - Contact (regional juried exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
2004 - Thunder Bay Art Gallery - Art for All (regional exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
1992 - Emergence/See Definitely Superior and Marina Galleries - organizer/participant - Thunder Bay ON  
1991 - Emergence/See - Definitely Superior and Marina Galleries - organizer/participant  
1989 - Jonathon Bancroft Snell - private exhibition and sale - London ON (solo)  
1984 - Thunder Bay Art Gallery - Art Affairs North (regional juried exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
1983 - St. Joseph's Heritage - Art Happening (regional exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
1982 - St. Joseph's Heritage - Art Happening (regional exhibition) - Thunder Bay ON  
1982 - Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (juried) - Thunder Bay ON

## **Awards/honours**

2013 Quetico Foundation Artist in Residence Sept 2013  
2013 Ontario Arts Council Artist in Education residency grant  
2012 - Ontario Arts Council Northern Arts news works grant  
2011 - Ontario Arts Council Artist in Education grant  
2008 - Ontario Arts Council Emerging Artist grant, Northern Arts grant, Artist in Education grant  
1984 - honourable mention - Art Affairs North (juried) Thunder Bay Art Gallery  
1982 - first place award in drawing category - Canadian Lakehead Exhibition, Thunder Bay ON

## **Reviews**

2012 Superior Outdoors Magazine Summer 2012 Arts section - Artist profile  
2010 - Chronicle Journal - Review by Jolene Davis - Wilderness solo exhibition @ Pictograph Gallery  
1995 - Thunder Bay Window Explorer - Regional Arts Review by Doug Livingstone

## **Professional Activities/Arts Educator**

**Jan -June 2015** - OACArtist in Education - St. Margaret, St. Elizabeth, Hyde Park Public School, St. James P.S. Thunder Bay  
25 hr placements

**Nov/Dec 2014** - OACArtist in Education St. Bernard Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
25 hr placement with printmaking and mix media based projects with grades 1, 3, 5 and 6

**April 2014** CAHEP Artist in the 5th, St. Bernard Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
drypoint on acrylic plate grade 5

**October 2013 - May 2014** Artists in Education, St. Martin Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
artist residency grades 1 - 6

**September 2013** Art workshop Quetico Provincial Park, Atikokan ON  
drypoint on acrylic plate (adult workshop)

**August 2013** Baggage Building Arts Centre, Thunder Bay  
relief block and screen printing for youth

**May 2013** CAHEP Churchill SecondarySchool, Thunder Bay  
War of 1812 relief block print project Gr. 7

**April 2013** Open Roads Community School, Dryden ON  
grade 5/6 drypoint on acrylic plate project (2 days)

**March 2013** Baggage Building Art Centre, Thunder Bay  
adult workshop drypoint acrylic plate

**January 2013** Artists in Education St. Martin Jr. Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
25 hour jigsaw block relief printmaking project grade 3

**October 2012** Artists in Education St. Bernard Jr. Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
25 hour jigsaw block relief printmaking project grades 5 & 6

**June 2012** Arts Hub, Kenora Community Living Assoc., Kenora ON  
collagraph and drypoint printmaking adult workshop

**May 2012** Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay  
collagraph printmaking adult workshop

**April/May 2012** Artist in Education, Pope John Paul Sr. Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
25 hour relief printmaking with three grade 7 art classes

**Jan 2012** Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay  
block printing adult workshop

**Jan 2012** CAHEP Artist in the 5th, Corpus Christi School, Thunder Bay  
hand coloured blockprints and collagraph prints with grade 5

**Dec 2011** Artist in Education, St. Martins Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
25 hour relief printmaking project with grades 4/6

**September 2011** Artist in Education, North Star Community School, Atikokan ON  
50 hours jigsaw relief printmaking with grades 3, 4 & 5

**March 2011** Thunder Bay Family services Ogden Community School, Thunder Bay  
single session printmaking workshop with special needs clients (youth)

**December 2010** CAHEP Artist in the fifth Corpus Christi School, Thunder Bay  
relief block printmaking with grade 5

**December 2010** CAHEP Artist in the fifth St. Ann Jr. Catholic Elementary school, Thunder Bay  
relief block printmaking with grade 5

**June 2010** Pictograph Gallery Atikokan ON  
weekend adult workshop in relief block printmaking

**Feb 2010** RBC/CAHEP After school project Corpus Christi School, Thunder Bay  
jigsaw relief based printmaking with grades 3 - 6

**December 2009** RBC/CAHEP After school project Algonquin School, Thunder Bay  
jigsaw relief based printmaking with grades 3 - 6

**December 2009** CAHEP Artist in the fifth St. Ann School, Thunder Bay  
collagraph printmaking with grade 5 students

**May 2009** Artist in Education, Red Rock Public/St. Hilary Catholic School, Red Rock ON  
25 hour relief printmaking project Connections: Influence of the group of seven. Grades 6 - 8

**April 2009** RBC/CAHEP After School project, Corpus Christi School, Thunder Bay  
clay relief paintings special learners grade 3 - 6

**February 2009** Crestview Public School Murillo ON  
relief printmaking workshop for grades 1 to 5

**February 2008** CAHEP Artist in the Fifth Corpus Christi School, Thunder Bay  
relief print mosaic murals with grade 5

**January 2008** RBC/CAHEP After School project St. Paul Catholic School  
collagraph printmaking with special needs youth

**May 2007** CAHEP/RBC After School Program Ogden Community School  
relief printmaking with special needs youth

**January 2007** Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship, Thunder Bay  
all ages workshop printmaking on t-shirts

**January 2007** St. Elizabeth Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
styrofoam block printing project with grades 4,5 & 6

**October 2006** Painted Turtle/Raingee Gallery, Thunder Bay  
intaglio printmaking adult workshop

**March 2006** GrannArt Centre for the Arts, Thunder Bay  
workshop all ages in block relief printing

**January 2006** CAHEP Artists in the fifth Corpus Christi Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
jigsaw block printing project with grade 5

**September 2005** Painted Turtle/ Raingee Gallery, Thunder Bay  
block printing adult workshop

**July 2005** Art in the Park (Definitely Superior Gallery/ Ontario Parks event) Sleeping Giant Provincial Park  
all ages workshop in styrofoam block printing

**April 2005** Painted Turtle/ Raingee Gallery, Thunder Bay  
screen printing adult workshop

**Feb 2005** St. Bernard Jr. Catholic Elementary School, Thunder Bay  
styrofoam printmaking with grade 2