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ART MCKAY

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

APRIL 2009

Biographical Sketch:

Arthur McKay was born on September 11, 1926, in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. He studied in Calgary at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art from 1946 to 1948 and later studied at the Academie de La Grande Chaumiere in Paris, France, at Columbia University in New York and at the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania.

McKay was hired as a Special Lecturer in Art with the School of Fine Arts at Regina by Ken Lochhead and became associate professor of art in 1956, he served as the Director of the School of Art from 1964 to 1967 and then spent a term teaching art at the Nova Scotia College of Art in 1967-68. Returning to Canada, McKay taught at the University of Regina as an Associate Professor until his retirement in 1987.

He attended and helped plan the Emma Lake Artists' Workshops in 1955 with Jack Shadbolt, the 1957 workshop with Wil Barnet and 1959 workshop with Barnett Newman.

McKay is known as one of the Regina Five who exhibited at the National Gallery in 1961. These five artists were considered to be leaders of the Canadian abstract art movement. McKay's work has been shown all across Canada and in the United States, his work was included in the Los Angeles exhibition organized by the New York art critic, Clement Greenberg entitled "Post-Painterly Abstraction" in 1964 and was one of only three Canadians included in this show.

McKay is most noted for his "mandalas" (scraped enamel using circular and rectangular formats creating highly contemplative images which reflect his interest in Zen Buddhism). McKay died in 2000.

Box 1 Sketchbook

- 1 Art McKay (drawings from childhood)