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— David Ansen, NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

They told 16 year old Rocky Dennis he could never be like everyone else.

So he was determined to be better.



MASK

Sometimes the most unlikely people become heroes.

A MARTIN STARGER PRODUCTION PETER BOGDANOVICH'S "MASK"

Starring CHER · SAM ELLIOTT and ERIC STOLTZ as Rocky Dennis

Written by ANNA HAMILTON PHELAN Director of Photography LASZLO KOVACS, A.S.C.

Produced by MARTIN STARGER Directed by PETER BOGDANOVICH

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE READ THE BERKLEY BOOK 1983 Universal City Studios, Inc.

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Nova Scotian samplers are a record for all time

By MARGO GEE

"A RECORD FOR TIME", currently on view at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, is a bright new addition to Nova Scotia folk art, genealogy, history and culture.

The exhibition features embroidered samplers, memorials, and decorated family records created by early Nova Scotia settlers between 1775 and 1900. Through motifs, verse, and family trees, they contribute to our understanding of life in the province during that time.

The exhibition was conceived and curated by Deborah Young, travelling exhibitions curator at the gallery.

"The idea was sparked by the acquisition of the Frances Adelia Purdy memorial in 1982," she said. Young, also a professional calligrapher, was intrigued by the beautiful hand-drawn letters and thought the memorials would be an important contribution to the folk art of the province.

As it turned out, many more embroidered samplers turned up than hand-drawn records. Young had hoped to find a distinctive Nova Scotia style but, after many months of gathering samplers and researching their origins, this did not happen.

"There is a definite blend of styles from Europe and the United States", says Young and, "since they were in a new land, there seemed to be more freedom to embellish, or alter standard designs and motifs. These designs go beyond a mere recording of stitches."

Many of the designs are beautiful and highly coloured. Intricate stitching techniques were used to create motifs such as crowns, anchors, parrots, dogs, deer, vines and flowers. Some girls stitched their homes, complete with smokey chimneys, trees and shrubbery.

Often, they listed a family record on the samplers or a simple verse. In 1825, at age nine,

Anges Catherine Borcham chose to stitch this poem, probably her own creation:

*Sweet it is to see a child
Tender merciful and
mild*

*Every ready to perform
Acts of kindness to a
worm*

The samplers in the exhibition were obtained by contacting museums and galleries, advertising in local magazines and newspapers, and from word of mouth. Many arrived in a state of disrepair. Through the expert treatment of conservator, Laurie Hamilton, they were restored and all were given a dose of "preventive conservation" to ensure they will continue to provide a record for future generations.

Along with Hamilton, Young credits two others for their devotion of time and energy to the exhibition. Dianne O'Neill provided invaluable assistance in research. As a needlework expert, she identified the various stitches used. She and volunteer research assistant Susan Foshay also spent hours uncovering genealogies to accompany each item in the show.

An extensive tour is planned for "A Record For Time". It will travel to other galleries in the province, and then across Canada to St. John's, Fort Smith, N.W.T., Red Deer, Edmonton, and Kitchener/Waterloo.

A catalogue of the exhibition will be available shortly and promises to be an important contribution to the Nova Scotia heritage. Financial support has been provided by the Museum Assistance Programme of the National Museums of Canada.

"A Record For Time" will be on display at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, 6152 Coburg Road, until April 28. For those interested in learning more about the show, Deborah Young will be giving a talk and slide presentation March 21 at 8:00 pm in the main gallery.

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