

on the Prairies, closely aware of new art from New York, and drew attention to the Emma Lake Workshops. Through the 1960s Lochhead, Bloore, and Morton moved away and Saskatoon became the more vital community with the landscape painters Ernest Lindner (b. 1897), Wyona Mulcaster (b. 1915), Dorothy Knowles (b. 1927) and Reta Cowley (b. 1910); and abstract painters William Pehrehudoff (b. 1919) and Otto Rogers (b. 1935), both of whom strongly reflect landscape interests in their work.

Abstract work

The rigorous abstraction developed in the late 1950s in Montreal was dominant through the 1960s in the work of Molinari and Claude Tousignant, Rita Letendre (b. 1928), Ulysse Comtois (b. 1931) and others, while Jean McEwen (b. 1923) maintained more painterly, textured surfaces. Two other artists, both of major importance, were Yves Gaucher (b. 1934) — first a print-maker, and then from 1964, a painter of large-scale abstract canvases — and Charles Gagnon (b. 1934) a painter, photographer and film-maker with a sharply critical approach to the means and content of art-making. In the later 1960s a younger generation began to challenge these positions, relating the questioning raised by conceptual art to the local situation. Whereas some, like Christian Knudsen (b. 1945) and Leopold Plotek (b. 1948) continued to paint, others adopted a variety of media; camera art, for instance, by artists like William Vazan (b. 1933), Suzy Lake (b. 1947), Pierre Boogaerts (b. 1946), and Serge Tousignant (b. 1942); sculpture and installations by Betty Goodwin (b. 1923), Irene Whittome (b. 1942), Roland Poulin (b. 1940), Claude Mongrain (b. 1948), and others.

In Toronto there was an equivalent shift of direction. The expressionist and often figurative painting of Town, Ronald and the "Isaacs Group" remained prominent through the 1960s and was extended by the approaches of Gershon Iskowitz (b. 1921) with his abstractions from landscape, Louis de Niverville's (b. 1933) personal iconography and William Kurelek's (1927-77) religious paintings and reflection of the Canadian landscape. Further, younger abstract colour painters, such as David Bolduc (b. 1945), John MacGregor (b. 1944), Alex Cameron (b. 1947), Paul Fournier (b. 1939) and Joseph Drapell (b. 1940) began to show in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The rejection of painterly concerns, however, was already apparent, above all in the work of Michael Snow in film, sculpture and photoworks, and Joyce Wieland, and Les Levine (b. 1935) an Irish artist, who worked in Toronto from 1958 to 1964. There was also the emergence, particularly in Vancouver and Toronto, of communications art, for instance of Iain Baxter and Michael Morris, and performance and video art.