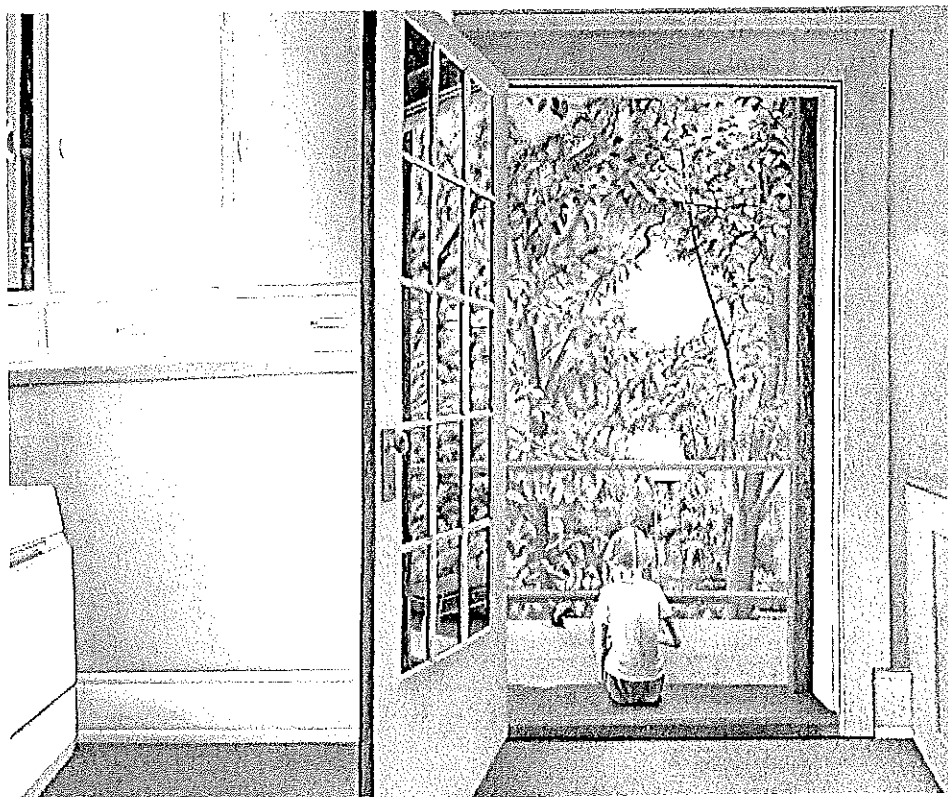


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Christiane Pflug (Canadian, 1936-1972) *Kitchen Door and Esther*, 1965, Oil on canvas, 159.5 x 193.0 cm, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Purchased 2002

UT Art Centre: Four Toronto Art Institutions Present a Comprehensive Look at the Life and Times of the Isaacs Gallery

The Art Gallery of Ontario, The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, the Textile Museum of Canada and the University of Toronto Art Centre have partnered to present *Isaacs Seen*, four interconnected exhibitions illustrating the career of pioneer art dealer and avid collector Avrom Isaacs and his impact on the Canadian art scene. On view at the four galleries from May to September 2005, *Isaacs Seen* delves into the nationwide influence the Isaacs Gallery has had by advancing the careers of Canadian painters, sculptors, filmmakers and photographers such as Dennis Burton, William Kurelek, Michael Snow, Tony Urquhart and Joyce Wieland to name a few.

"My primary direction was to elevate the status of contemporary Canadian art," says Avrom Isaacs. "I realized this was a young country and we had to do a lot of self-exploration before we could go anywhere."

The University of Toronto Art Centre will focus on Isaacs' contribution to the arts as a dealer (May 10 to August 5). The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, will provide glimpses into his life and collecting activities (May 19 to August 18). The Textile Museum of Canada concentrates on Isaacs as dealer, collector and donor of textiles (May 19 to September 25). The Art Gallery of Ontario will display photographs documenting the Isaacs Gallery and the artists he helped develop (June 1 to September 25).

"Av Isaacs and the galleries he founded were influential fixtures in the Toronto and Canadian art scene from the mid-1950s to the turn of the new millennium," said Megan Bice, curator of three of the four exhibitions. "They were destinations for anyone wanting to be up-to-date in

contemporary Canadian and Inuit art and significantly shaped our art history."

The Isaacs Gallery also showcased textiles and folk art, and hosted poetry readings and performance art. Experimental and avant-garde film screenings were regular events, and Isaacs oversaw the production of a multitude of fine-art catalogues, artists' prints, poetry books and albums.

In 1970, Isaacs also opened the Inuit Gallery of Eskimo Art, the first venue in Canada devoted exclusively to Inuit art. It became the Isaacs/Inuit Gallery in 1991, and featured early North American aboriginal art until its closing in 2001.

Isaacs Seen is produced and supported by the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts, Hart House, the Ontario Arts Council, the Textile Museum of Canada, the University of Toronto Art Centre, and the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation.

KEY DATES (Isaacs Seen Programming):

Gallery ReView, University of Toronto Art Centre

May 10 to August 5, 2005

Regarding Av, The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House,
University of Toronto

May 19 to August 18, 2005

Closet Collector, Textile Museum of Canada

May 19 to September 25, 2005

Two on the Scene: Photographs by Michel Lambeth and Tess Taconis, Art Gallery of Ontario
June 1 to September 25, 2005

Art Centre Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Friday: 12-5 pm

Saturday: 12-4 pm

Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$5

Students, Seniors: \$3

UofT students: Free

Children (less than 6 years of age): Free

Art Centre members: Free

Location:

The University of Toronto Art Centre is set back from the South side of Hoskin Avenue between St. George and Queen's Park in University College.

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