

ELIZABETH VERHAGEN

Elizabeth Verhagen started drawing and painting at an early age. Highly self-motivated, in her twentieth year she decided to dedicate her life to art and has pursued that goal with passionate determination.

Elizabeth spends the warm months bicycling extensively throughout Alberta, drawing at every opportunity; the winter season is devoted to painting in her Edmonton studio.

She is continually inspired by the vibrant intensity of the Alberta countryside. The pure colours of the landscape and brilliant hues of the sky are vividly expressed in her paintings. A major part of her artistic activity consists of creating constructions, innovative works that combine painting with pasted and mounted objects and materials. She also creates paintings of faces based on her drawings of individuals sketched in public places: these powerful images are expressions of a reality beyond the superficiality of appearances.

Elizabeth's works have been selling since 1965. Her paintings, drawings, constructions, and photographs are in collections in Canada, the United States, the Netherlands, England, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Chile, and Australia.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1944 Born November 22 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- 1954 Immigrated to Canada with her parents and siblings.
- 1955- Submitted samples of penmanship and selected drawings to Edmonton Exhibition visual art
1957 competitions. Awarded first and second prizes.
- 1960 Started collecting books on art history and artists, a constant source of sustenance and inspiration.
- 1966 Participated in group show held at Latitude 53 Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1970 Started painting full-time: early works were bold, with areas of pure, vibrant colour.
- 1974 Started painting outdoors.
Began extensive bicycle trips, painting landscapes on location using thinned oils on paper.
- 1976 Started sketching almost every day in various locations to develop proficient drawing skills.
- 1978 Rented studio space.
Started painting landscapes primarily conceived in the imagination, although inspired by the iridescent colour and radiant light of the Alberta countryside.
Four pencil drawings purchased by the Alberta Heritage Foundation.
Began a five-year consignment agreement with the Edmonton Art Gallery Rental Shop.
- 1979 Started drawing male and female models.
Began paintings of faces based on her drawings of individuals sketched in public places.
- 1984 Began exploring photography. Purchased a single-lens-reflex 35 mm camera with various lenses.
Started collecting books on the photographic arts.

- 1985 Landscape paintings displayed at the West End Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
Moved studio from commercial space to home.
- 1986 Solo show of paintings, drawings, and photographs held at the Rice Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1987 Landscape painting purchased by the Alberta Teachers' Association.
Solo show of paintings, drawings, and photographs held at the Rice Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1988 Landscape paintings displayed at Gallery On Whyte in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1990 Landscape paintings displayed at Canadiana Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1991 Landscape paintings displayed at Walsh Gallery in Red Deer, Alberta.
- 1993 Landscape paintings displayed at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1996 Resided for one month in the Netherlands at various locations. Completed numerous pen and ink drawings and watercolour paintings.
- 1997 Participated for the first time in "Art From The Unknown," an annual group exhibition held in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1998 Landscape paintings displayed at Graelin's Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 1999 Landscape paintings displayed at the Centre Club in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 2001 Landscape paintings displayed in group show, "Art for the Beginning Collector," held at A.R.A. (Art Research Associates) Gallery in South Hamilton, Massachusetts.
Started painting images inspired by specific descriptive passages from East Indian literature.
- 2002 Participated in group show, "Haven," held at Profiles Gallery in St. Albert, Alberta.
Invited to display paintings of faces in group show held at Montserrat Gallery in Soho, New York, but unable to participate.
Landscape paintings displayed at The Front Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
Started creating constructions, innovative works that combine painting with pasted and mounted objects and materials.
- 2003 Landscape paintings displayed at Graelin's Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 2004 Landscape paintings and constructions displayed at Mandolin Books and Coffee Company in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 2005 Participated in group show, "Wish You Were Here Four," held at A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery in New York City.
- 2006 Landscape painting displayed in annual group show, "Square Foot," held at A.W.O.L. (Absent Without Official Leave) Gallery in Toronto, Ontario.
- 2007 Construction displayed in annual group show, "Square Foot," held at A.W.O.L. (Absent Without Official Leave) Gallery in Toronto, Ontario.

- 2009 Participated in group show, "Wish You Were Here Eight," held at A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery in Brooklyn, New York.
- 2010 Landscape paintings and constructions displayed at Mandolin Books and Coffee Company in Edmonton, Alberta.
Landscape paintings displayed at the City of Edmonton Shop/ Gallery in Edmonton, Alberta.
- 2011 Participated in group show, "Wish You Were Here Ten," held at A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery in Brooklyn, New York.
- 2012-2013 Landscape paintings and drawings, sketchbook, and bicycling itinerary map and journals exhibited as "30 Miles Before Breakfast" in various locations throughout northwestern Alberta, as part of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program (sponsored by the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie).
- 2013 Landscape paintings given continuous representation (through 2019) by the Art Gallery of Alberta, through the Art Rental and Sales Gallery in Edmonton. Clients have included the Alberta Teachers' Association.
Participated in group show, "Wish You Were Here Twelve," held at A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery in Brooklyn, New York.
Solo exhibition of landscape paintings and constructions, "A Bicyclist's Vision," displayed at the Multicultural Centre Public Art Gallery in Stony Plain, Alberta.
- 2013-2014 Landscape paintings and drawings, and bicycle itinerary map exhibited as "30 Miles Before Breakfast" in various locations throughout central and southeastern Alberta, as part of the Alberta for the Arts Travelling Exhibition Program (sponsored by the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie).
- 2016 Participated in group show, "Wish You Were Here Fifteen," held at A.I.R. (Artists in Residence) Gallery in Brooklyn, New York.
- 2018 Landscape paintings displayed in the Small Artworks Group Show/Sale held in the Rental and Sales Gallery at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton.