

VIKTOR TINKL

THE ARTS



Inducted: 2010
Years at GCI & VS:
1952 - 1955

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937, Viktor Tinkl was separated from his parents at the start of the Second World War. Together with his grandparents, Viktor was re-united with them in Hespeler in 1948. He attended Galt Collegiate Institute from 1952 to 1955. As a student at Galt, Viktor left a permanent legacy and a demonstration of his developing skills in the form of four mural paintings viewable on the first and fourth floors. These murals were completed during his last year of school and the summer after his graduation. In a commentary on young Viktor's work the local newspaper enthused upon Viktor's "admirable judgment in semi-naturalistic style and his steady progress in thought and technique." Upon graduation Viktor studied drawing and painting at the Ontario College of Art from 1955 to 1959. He continued his studies in Munich, Germany in 1959 and 1960 where he was the recipient of the West German Government Painting Scholarship and the McLean's Traveling Scholarship.

Upon completion of his studies, Viktor spent 1962 to 1964 as an advisor to the print program in Povungituk, Quebec where he met and worked with such greats of Inuit art as Joe Talirunili. Viktor regards his experiences working in this culture and environment as one of the most important formative times of his life.

Viktor Tinkl is a sculptor and 'amateur architect' who has been described as practicing architecture without a license by an architect friend. Indeed his creations incorporate sculpture,

architecture and painting. According to the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, "his work is informed by the Art Brut or Outsider Art revealing a great familiarity with European art history and architecture." Viktor's work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions since 1970 including the Art Gallery of Ontario, the University of Toronto Art Centre, the Bronfman Centre of Montreal, as well as the Merton and Isaacs galleries of Toronto. His work is in the collections of the Canada Council Art Bank, the Imperial Oil Bronfman Collection and numerous private collections. Perhaps Viktor's most unique creation is also his most personal and beloved. It is the Tinkl family home, an old schoolhouse purchased in 1965 which, together with his wife and artistic collaborator Judith, he has transformed into what one art critic described as "a fantastical array of whimsical sculptures." According to Slinger of the Toronto Star, "...here is an artist living inside his art; the creator at play in his creation."

Viktor Tinkl was a faculty member at the Ontario College of Art from 1970. Viktor's teaching style was as unique and inspirational as his art. He taught his students to 'explore the world around them in an irreverent way.' Viktor retired from teaching in 2000.

Viktor Tinkl, with Judith, continues to work in and on his Sunderland, Ontario home.

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