



Red Lake Woodland Arts Festival:

A Tribute to Norval Morrisseau and the Woodland Artists

July 4-6, 2008 Red Lake, Ontario

John Newman - Presenter, Kinsman Robinson Galleries

In the spring of 1962, Jack Pollock, an art dealer from Toronto, met Norval Morrisseau in Beardmore, ON. At that time, Morrisseau was an emerging artist who had never exhibited in a public gallery before. Pollock was so impressed by Morrisseau's work that he organized a solo show for him at his Toronto gallery. The show on September 12, 1962 sold out in a day, and the rest is history.

Chance encounters such as the one between Morrisseau and Pollock are extremely rare. Most artists struggle for years, trying to have their art considered for presentation at private, commercial galleries. The Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre recognizes the challenges faced by artists living in isolated communities, which is why we have invited John Newman, Associate Director of Kinsman Robinson Galleries (KRG) in Toronto, to speak at the Woodland Arts Festival and meet with emerging artists. John will talk about what artists can do to prepare their presentation to galleries. He will also discuss his twenty-year association with Norval Morrisseau – looking at the artist's forty years of work and what this means to him. His presentation will also touch on the periods Norval went through, the effect of his artwork on the art world, and how the artist and his primary gallery dealt with interest from around the world. He will talk about the recognition of native art as art, instead of artifact, over the past twenty years and about the museums that are dedicated to native art around the world. Finally, he will discuss what a collector needs to buy or sell a fine work of art.



John Newman
Associate Director of Kinsman
Robinson Galleries in Toronto

After an almost ten year period without representation—through most of the 1980s—Norval Morrisseau came to KRG and continued with the gallery for the last nineteen years of his life. Consistent representation helped stabilize his market. A series of one-man exhibitions at KRG inspired the writing of *Travels to the House of Invention* (Key Porter Books, 1997)—a two-year collaborative endeavor by Paul Robinson, John Newman, Diane Kinsman, Don Robinson and Norval Morrisseau.

John Newman obtained his art education at the Ontario College of Art (OCAD) including a post-graduate year's advanced study with, and teacher's assistant to, artist Eric Freifeld. He undertook further studies at the Academia de Bella Arte and the British Institute of Florence in Florence, Italy, through the off-campus program of OCAD.

John's first personal experience with Morrisseau's artwork came at a 1972 Pollock Gallery exhibition on Dundas Street where he wrote his ninth-grade art class gallery review for his art teacher, Noreen Taylor. Mrs. Taylor later became Chair of the Board of The McMichael Canadian Collection, and was instrumental in bringing the National Gallery of Canada's "Norval Morrisseau: Shaman Artist" exhibition to the McMichael.

Mr. Newman looks forward to coming to Red Lake, as he says welcomes any reason to leave Toronto!

For more information about the festival contact the Heritage Centre at 727-3006, email us at rlhc@gorelake.com or visit our website at www.redlakemuseum.com.



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