



Ways of Living, Ways of Painting: La Ronge and La Loche

The Paintings of Myles Hector Charles and Mary Joyce

Curated by Marcus Miller. November 17, 2022 - January 14, 2023

About Ways of Living, Ways of Painting

This exhibition brings together two very different artists, both painting life in northern communities in Saskatchewan. In 1990, Mary Joyce (Edmonton) had the opportunity to live in La Loche for a year where she met people, made friends and painted scenes of work, play and social gatherings. Mary has donated these paintings (the Black Point series) to the Mann Art Gallery, some of which will later be displayed in rotating, long-term loans to the La Loche Friendship Centre.

Elder Myles Charles was born in Fox Point on Lac la Ronge, and is a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band # 353. Myles attended both the La Ronge and Prince Albert Indian Residential Schools. In the mid-sixties, he enrolled in the Fine Art Program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. Like Mary's paintings, Myles' scenes of people hunting, fishing, gathering and

socializing are beautiful, historical records of life in northern Saskatchewan.

*Perhaps unsurprisingly, Myles focuses his attention on men's work (hunting, fishing) while Mary's subjects are predominantly women and the work they do. Myles' figures are outside and their work is often solitary, while Mary's scenes are domestic. Even when the women are outside (as in *Veronique and her Daughters*), their communal work incorporates the care of children.*

Although Myles Charles and Mary Joyce are very unlike in terms of cultural backgrounds, genders and painting styles, they both share abiding interests in the banality and beauty of everyday human enterprise: what people do, how the land shapes their undertakings – and how their work brings them together to give their communities form. - Marcus Miller

Image: installation in the Main Gallery