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Going Dutch at the McIntosh

London Community News

By Mike Maloney

Western University's McIntosh Gallery is presenting a rare glimpse into the work of some of the greatest Dutch artists with an exhibition of works entitled Storms and Bright Skies: Three Centuries of Dutch Landscapes.

Part of the National Gallery of Canada's collection, the exhibition features works of such artists as Jacob van Ruisdael and Rembrandt, exploring the beginnings and blossoming of the Dutch landscape as an inspiration for that country's artists.

"It is 300 years of Dutch landscapes going back to the 1640's," said James Patten, director and chief curator of the McIntosh Gallery.

Noting that this is the first show of works from the National Gallery of Canada archives to be displayed at the McIntosh Gallery in 35 years, Patten explained that they brought the show to London because of the strong Dutch community in the area and because of a "really strong" art history department at Western.

An assortment of original drawings and prints by 20 notable Dutch artists in a variety of mediums ranging from etchings to drypoint, watercolour and graphite make up the 65 works in the exhibition.

"It is really great for students to actually see the originals, to see works that are 300- 400-years-old in person, not just in books or on the internet," Patten said.

Jim Prouse is a travelling exhibition technician with the National Gallery of Canada and was at the McIntosh Gallery on Wednesday (Feb. 12) hanging the show in preparation for its opening the following day.

Prouse said the National Gallery might have upwards of 30 shows happening at a time in various locations across the country, ranging in size from smaller shows of prints and drawings like the one here at the McIntosh Gallery to large installation pieces. He said the one thing they all have in common though, is the reaction of audiences who don't usually have the opportunity to get out and see top quality pieces like these. "A lot of people are truly amazed and enjoy the work."

The exhibition, which runs through until April 5 at the McIntosh Gallery, kicks off on Thursday (Feb. 13) with an opening reception starting at 7:30 p.m. A number of special guests will be in attendance including Richard Dirker Vrugt, Netherlands Council and Strathroy-Caradoc Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden as well as members of the Western University Board of Governors.

"We are just really thrilled to be able to bring this exhibition to London and hope people will come out to see it," Patten said. "They are just exceptionally beautiful works of art and I think anyone could get something out of (viewing) them."

For more information on the exhibit, hours of operation or the gallery itself, visit www.mcintoshgallery.ca.



McIntosh01-120214-MM.jpg

Mike Maloney

McIntosh Gallery staff Kay Nadalin (centre) and James Patten (right) offer some assistance to National Gallery of Canada's Jim Prouse (left), hanging this etching entitled Three Trees, created in 1645 by Rembrandt van Rijn.

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