

Monday, March 17, 2014



Anthony Thorn: Alchemist **Show and Sale Benefits AGGV Redevelopment**

Anthony Thorn's work has been exhibited with galleries throughout North America, Mexico, and the Canary Islands, and included in corporate and public collections -- the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria holds five of his works in its permanent collection. Over a career spanning more than 60 years, artist Anthony Thorn has created paintings and carved works he calls "wall jewels", using gold leaf, ivory, and other precious materials. Now his career as an artist is coming to an end, and he has decided to release the cherished works that remain in his studio.

Anthony Thorn: Alchemist is a unique show and sale in the AGGV's Massey Gallery, March 27 to April 6, 2014, with an opening reception Saturday, March 29, from 2 to 4 pm. This is a rare opportunity for new and existing collectors to purchase one of the artist's few remaining pieces.

Robert Amos is coordinating the show and sale in collaboration with the artist. "Anthony Thorn has cultivated his unique vision by exploring aspects of abstraction, sacred art, and philosophical searching," said Amos. "He is recognized as a master of traditional oil painting and glazing techniques. This unparalleled exhibition of almost 20 originals - oil paintings and "wall jewels" - will make up a show of sublime richness."

Thorn's unique small sculptures involve carved gesso, cast bronze and the inclusion of precious stones. They often display his fascination with gilding, using gold leaf and gold foil of high purity.

The gallery's sales commission will be added to Thorn's recent extraordinary \$2.6 million donation for the redevelopment of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

A prairie-raised artist and educator, Anthony Thorn (a pseudonym for Arthur Goldman) began to paint in 1948, soon after graduating from the University of Saskatchewan. His studies took him across North America, to Paris, Mexico, Japan, and Greece. Thorn taught as a lecturer at Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay, Ontario from 1977 to 1979 before coming to Victoria in 1980. Here he has exhibited widely with Fran Willis, Winchester, and Eclectic Galleries, among others. Eight of his works have been honoured with the designation of "outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Review Board and his papers are on deposit at the Archives of the University of Regina.

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Biography of Anthony Thorn

THORN, Anthony (b. 1927)

Artist, Educator and Writer

Anthony Thorn is the pseudonym of Arthur Goldman, the son of Leon and Dorothy Goldman, born in Regina in 1927. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (BA, 1947) and pursued graduate studies in English literature at the University of Chicago.

Thorn began to paint in 1948. His first studies in painting were in Regina with Kenneth Lochhead followed by studies in figure drawing at the Chicago Art Institute, studies in oil painting techniques with Frederic Taubes at the Banff Centre, studies in stained glass design at the Centre d'Art Sacré, Paris, and drawing at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière, Paris. In 1955 Thorn was apprentice to the muralist David Alfaro Siquéiros in Mexico and studied in acrylic technique with Jose Gutierrez. In later years he studied watercolor and sumi painting with Mataichiro Isoda in Kyoto, Japan, and metal-smithing in Corfu, Greece.

His work has been exhibited with galleries across Canada but also in France, Mexico, the Canary Islands and the United States. About 40 of his works are in corporate and public collections in Canada. Notably in the collections of the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, and in the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and the Greater Victoria Public Library; they consist of paintings and carved works in gold leaf, ivory and other precious materials. Eight of his works in public collections have been honored with the designation "of outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Review Board.

As an educator, along with various teaching in Toronto, Thunder Bay and Victoria art classes, his main academic teaching was as a Lecturer in Fine Arts at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay (1977 to 1979) and an Instructor in painting for the Department of Extension of the University of Victoria (1981 to 1984) He wrote as an art reviewer and critic for the *Toronto Citizen* (1971 to 1972)

Anthony Thorn lives in Victoria, British Columbia.