

July 28, 2014



Anthony Thorn, supporter of the arts, passes away

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is saddened to share the news that Victoria artist and philanthropist Anthony Thorn has passed away. The masterful artist and dedicated supporter of the arts will be missed by the Victoria arts community along with the staff and board of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

During the decline of his health earlier this year, Thorn donated \$2.67 million to the AGGV for the renovation and expansion of the Gallery's Moss Street home. Thorn said he valued the Gallery and wished to add to it and ensure it was there for those who came after him as an even greater treasure. He also said the inspiration for his gift came from the memory of his parents, who practiced life-long philanthropy.

"Anthony was a rare talent and a kind and generous individual to all those who were fortunate enough to know him," said Jon Tupper, director of the AGGV. "His extraordinary donation is a legacy of his love for the Gallery, and we will be forever grateful."

Anthony Thorn's work has been exhibited at galleries throughout North America, Mexico, and the Canary Islands, and included in corporate and public collections. Thorn's career spanned more than 60 years, in which he created paintings and carved works he called "wall jewels." Thorn's unique small sculptures involved carved gesso, cast bronze and the inclusion of precious stones. They often displayed his fascination with gilding, using gold leaf and gold foil of high purity.

"We will continue to cherish the pieces of his work in our permanent collection," continued Tupper.

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. Eight of his works have been honoured with the designation of "Outstanding significance and national importance" by the Canadian Cultural Review Board. Thorn taught as a lecturer at Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay, Ontario from 1977 to 1979. After arriving in Victoria, Thorn gave a series of studio courses with the University of Victoria Extension Program.

Thorn's wife, Jacqueline Goldman, passed away in the spring of 2013.

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Anthony Thorn's biography follows.

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Biography of Anthony Thorn

THORN, Anthony (b. 1927, d. 2014)

Artist, Educator and Writer

Anthony Thorn was the pseudonym of Arthur Goldman, the son of Leon and Dorothy Goldman, born in Regina in 1927. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan (BA) in 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)

In early 2014, Thorn donated \$2.67 million to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria for the redevelopment of the gallery's Moss Street home.

Anthony Thorn lived from 1980 until his death in 2014 in Victoria, British Columbia.