

BIOGRAPHY: REX LINGWOOD

Rex Lingwood is a sculptor working in a variety of media who has achieved an international reputation for his innovative use of leather. His work in leather explores a variety of heat hardening methods which take medieval cuir bouilli as their point of departure. Both his work and research have contributed new information to the debate surrounding the nature of cuir bouilli. . His work combines allusions (of varying degrees of directness) to specific images with the use of the unique physical and psychological properties of his materials to make striking work with a strong physical presence.

He has exhibited widely in North America, Europe, Great Britain, and Australia in both group and solo shows. In 1995 the Deutsches Ledermuseum mounted a major exhibition of his work, Rex Lingwood: Boxes and Bowls? Experiments with Functional Subjects. The exhibition was accompanied by an extensive catalogue. The exhibition toured in Germany, France, the Netherlands, and England before returning to Canada in 1997. His award winning work is part of private and public collections in Canada, the United States, Australia New Zealand, Britain, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. His book, Leather in Three Dimensions, is generally acknowledged as the major work on the subject. Lingwood is also well known as a teacher, and has taught in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand and Germany.

Born in Toronto, Rex Lingwood received an Honours degree in Fine Arts from York University. He lives with his wife, historian, Wendy Mitchinson, near Bright Ontario.

CURRICULUM VITAE: REX LINGWOOD

Group Exhibitions (selected)

- 2003 *Reflections*, An exhibition organized by the Leather Art Forum touring Germany, Holland & Norway
- 2000 *Looking Forward: New Views of the Craft Object*, A touring exhibition organized by the Ontario Craft Council
 - A Fine Line*, The Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, Ontario
- 1996 *Basketry* Canadian Craft Museum, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1995 *Two Generations* Tragarete Rd. Gallery, Port of Spain, Trinidad
- 1992 *A Treasury of Craft* Canadian Craft Museum, Vancouver, B.C.
- Leather in Life, Art and Industry* the Museum of Leathercraft, Northampton, England (touring exhibition)
- 1989 *Leather Works* Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham, England
- 1985 *Old Fields New Paths* Department of External Affairs travelling exhibition to Japan and Australia
 - Anima Gallery, Adelaide, Australia
- 1984 The Sawtooth Centre for the Visual Arts, Winston-Salem, N.C., USA
- 1983 *A Different Alchemy* Harbourfront Art Gallery, Toronto
- 1981 *East Meets West* Carwright Street Gallery, Vancouver B.C.
- 1979 *Skin Forms: Innovations in Leather* Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell Univeristy, Ithaca, N.Y., USA
- 1978 *Performance* Harbourfront Art Gallery, Toronto
 - Ontario Crafts Council Exhibition, 10th International Sculpture Conference, York University, Toronto
 - Hell Bent for Leather* Bodycraft Galleries, Winston-Salem, N.C., USA
 - Artisan '78* Canadian Craft Council travelling exhibition
- 1977 *Masks Julie*: Artisans Gallery, New York City, N.Y., USA
- 1976 *Contemporary Canadian Crafts* Canadian Crafts Council touring exhibition
- 1974 *Ontario Master Craftsmen* York University Art Gallery, Toronto
- 1972 *Discover Canada* California Museum of Science and Industry, California, USA

One Person Exhibitions (selected)

- 2003 Harbinger gallery, Waterloo , Ontario
1996 Harbinger Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario
1995-97 *Rex Lingwood: Boxes and Bowls*, Experiments with Functional Subjects: Deutsches Ledermuseum, Offenbach, Germany; Espace Visitation, Musee International de las Chaussure, Romans, France; Netherlands Leder en Schoenenmuseum, Waalwijk, Netherlands; Northampton Museum, Northampton, England; Landesgewerbeamt Baden-Wurtemberg, Karlsruhe, Germany; Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener, Ontario
1989 *Illusions, Allusions* Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener, Ontario
1983 Koffler Gallery, Toronto
1981 Canadian Guild of Crafts, Montreal
1976 Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, Halifax
1974 The Craft Gallery, Toronto

INSTALLATIONS

- 1991 Harbinger Gallery, Waterloo, Ontario
1994 Maureen Forester Concert Hall (lobby), Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario
1996 Art Works! festival Kitchener City Hall, Kitchener, Ontario

Awards: Numerous awards in juried competetions from 1971 to 1983 when he stopped entering this type of competition

Collections (selected)

Jean A. Chalmers Collection
Nova Scotia Designer Craftsmen Collection
Coach Collection of Leather Arts, New York City, N.Y., USA
Deutsches Ledermuseum, Offenbach, West Germany
Wallsall Leather Museum, Wallsall, England
Museum of Leathercraft, Northampton, England
Museum of Civilization, Ottawa
Netherlands Leather Museum, Waalwijk, Netherlands
Numerous private collections in Canada, USA, Britain, Germany, Australia and New Zealand

Publications (selected)

Leather in Three Dimensions Toronto: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1980
Leather Sculpture, Craftsman (September 1980): 4-5
Sculpture in the Crafts: Recent Developments in Leather Craft Australia (Spring 1982/83): 37-43
Reflections on the Crafts:Origins, Attitudes, Current Directions New Zealand Crafts (Summer1988): 26-28
Heat Forming Designer Leatherworker, Issue no. 2 (June 1990): 8-12; reprinted Leather Artisan 39 (June 1991) and 40 (August 1991)
Rex Lingwood: Boxes and Bowls? Cuir Bouilli: Experimentelle Gestaltung in Leder, exhibition catalogue, Deutsches Ledermuseum 1995
His work has appeared more than 60 times in more than 45 publications in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Holland, and Germany since 1971

Photographs, Reviews (selected)

His work has appeared more than 60 times in more than 45 publications in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, Holland, and Germany since 1971 including the following selected examples:
Crafts Ontario, Sept. 1971, p.6.
Craft Dimensions, Aug./Sept. 1973, p.5
Craft Horizons, June 1974, p.34.

Craftsman, April 1976, p.13.
Crafts Canada, June /July 1977, p.7,8,14.
Artist Review, May 1978, p.3.
American Crafts, Dec. 1979, p.65.
Globe and Mail, Thurs. Sept. 18, 1980, p.T5.
South Australia Crafts, Winter 1981 p.55.
Crafts Australia, Spring 1981, p.55.
American Crafts, June 1982,p.29.
Craft International, Jan. 1983 p.17.
Ontario Craft, Spring 1984 p.10.
Craft Australia, Summer 1985/86, p.41.
Art Post/34, Fall 1989, p.14.
Frankfurter Ruudschau, October 12, 1995
Offenbach Post, October 17, 1995
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, November 14, 1995
Kunsthandwerk und Design, #6, 1996. p.46
G&G Pressedienst, Frankfurt, #47/1995, p.1
Trinidad & Tobago's Newsday, December 8, 1995 p.42
Trinidad Express, December 16, 1995, p.31, 34, 35
Trinidad Guardian, December 19, 1995, p.19
L'Impartial, Romans, March 10, 1996.
The Kitchener/Waterloo Record, March 21, 1997, p.A15

Teaching: Workshops and Lectures (selected)

League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, 1979
Australia 1982: Workshops in Adelaide, Darwin, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, and Launceston. Artist in Residence, Jam Factory Craft Workshops, Adelaide
New Zealand 1982: Workshops in New Plymouth and Christchurch
Leather Arts Network Conference, Boston, Mass., USA 1983
Leather Arts Network Conference, Winston-Salem, N.C., USA 1984
Cirencester Workshops, Gloucestershire, England 1984
Australia 1985: Workshops in Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney
Designer Leatherworkers Conference, Bath, England 1988
New Zealand 1988: Keynote Address, Association of New Zealand Leatherworkers first national conference in Palmerston North. Workshops in Wellington and Wanganui
Australia 1988: Workshops in Sydney and Brisbane
Deutsches Ledermuseum, Offenbach, am Main, Germany 1995, lecture and demonstration
England 1996: Lectures Royal College of Art, London and the Northampton Museum, Northampton.
Workshops in Tetbury and Walsall
Resident artist, Fundacion Valparaiso, Majacar Spain 1997
Numerous workshops and lectures in Canada from 1972 until the present

Other (selected)

Organized leather demonstrations:"In Praise of Hands", Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, Jun.- Sep. 1974.
Chairperson, Nova Scotia Designer Craftsmen Exhibition Committee, 1976/77.
Consultant to Holland College School of Visual Arts, Charlottetown P.E.I., 1977.
Consultant, Jam Factory Leatherworkshop, Adelaide, Australia, 1982
Juror, Association of New Zealand Leatherworkers Conference
Exhibition, 1988 Chairperson Leather Arts Network Exhibition Committee, 1984/85.
Juror, Ontario Arts Council, Craftsman's Grants, 1989
Resident artist, Fundacion Valparaiso, Mojacar, Spain, 1997
Member of the organizing committee, Contemporary Art Forum (CAFKA), Kitchener
Member of the Board of Directors ,Brush with Art