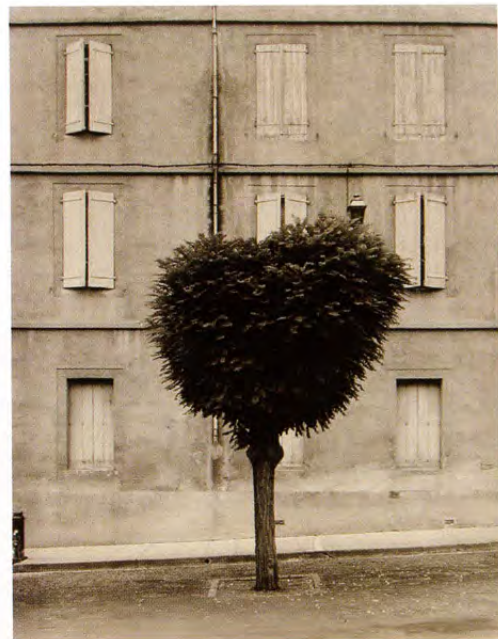




ARTFUL INSIGHT

Five of the city's top gallery directors provide an insider's look into Toronto's thriving art scene. **BY NAYA VALDELLON**

Olga Korper Gallery's industrial space allows for the display of large-scale contemporary works.



Stephen Bulger

Stephen Bulger Gallery
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The photographic holdings of Stephen Bulger Gallery span more than a century of artistic documentation by historical and present-day image makers from Canada and abroad. Clockwise from top-left: *Prairie Tracks, Saskatchewan, 2008* by Scott Conarroe; *Tam, France, 1990* by Robert Bourdeau; and *New York City, 1959* from the estate of Lutz Dille.

How did you become a gallery director?

I started as a photographer—it has been a hobby since my youth—but while at Ryerson University I started coordinating exhibitions and was eventually made the first manager of Ryerson Gallery (now IMA Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., ste 305). While there, I became fascinated with the other galleries in the building and started to dream of owning my own.

What makes your gallery unique?

We deal strictly in photography, and are Toronto's only commercial gallery with this devotion. We also represent many photographers and work in contemporary and historical works—our current inventory of approximately 16,000 photographs is probably the largest in the city.

Besides your own gallery, what other Toronto art spaces do you personally enjoy?

My favourite is the Ylessa Hendeles Art Foundation (778 King St. W.). I also enjoy looking at many

of the collections at the new Art Gallery of Ontario (317 Dundas St. W.). Lastly, I really enjoy the Queen Street galleries west of Bathurst and those on Tecumseth Street.

Tell us about a work of art you would love to have in your home.

For years I've wanted to own a particular photograph by Humphrey Lloyd Hime of a skull in the plains of western Canada, taken in 1858. I also continue to enjoy Michael Snow's *Walking Woman* series and would love to own one of his sculptures.

How do you see the Toronto art scene evolving over the next decade?

The Canadian audience has grown substantially over the past 10 years; I see no reason why this trend will not continue. For those interested in photography, I continue to develop our inventory so that it contains fine examples of a number of the medium's facets.

What advice would you give someone who's looking to purchase art in Toronto?

Have a good sense of your budget, then listen to the expert advice you are given but follow your instincts. If you really love a piece of art and can afford it, then there's no way that you can make a wrong decision.

Can you offer some highlights from your upcoming exhibition calendar?

From October 2 to November 6, 2010, the gallery hosts an exhibition entitled *Interiors*, by Canadian photographer Larry Towell, a member of the Magnum Photos cooperative. In 2011, our calendar includes *The Toronto Show*, a group exhibition of historical and contemporary photographs of the city. Other highlights are a survey of works by Alex Webb that coincides with the release of a major monograph by Aperture, a display of self-portraits by André Kertész, and Fausta Facciponte's acclaimed series of dolls in a show entitled *Reliable*.