

# Michael Peterson named Mann Art Gallery winter festival show guest curator

By **Peter Lozinski** - November 28, 2018



*Photo courtesy Mann Art Gallery.*

The 2019 Mann Art Gallery Winter Festival Show has its guest curator.

The Gallery announced Friday that Saskatoon's Michael Peterson would be the guest curator for 8, 2019.

Peterson, a printmaker, runs Void Gallery and Saskatoon's annual Nuit Blanche festival. He is also involved with the Craft Council's Professional Practices for Artists, a provincial program of arts business training. His projects include developing printmaking education with high schools, creating zines with new and accessible printmaking studio.

Mann Art Gallery curator and director Jesse Campbell explained why Peterson was a good fit for

"Over the last year and a half we've really been noticing increased attention towards printmaking members," she said.

"People want to know more about it and do more printmaking in their practices, so we thought for 2019 with Michael curating."

The show always has a guest curator. As Campbell explained, it helps to make sure a variety of and types of experience can come to Prince Albert and work with artists in the region.

"It's not often that practicing artists get a chance to have a conversation one-on-one with other artists we're spread so far apart on the Prairies," he said.

"Individual artists definitely find it beneficial to glean information and perspective from a guest

Peterson, who knows some of the previous guest curators, as well as artists who have entered the show about the opportunity. He's particularly pleased with the show's community focus.

"I think it's really nice how inclusive the show is," he said, "creating the chance for members in bringing in artists from across the province ... to expose some of the contemporary work being done in that nature, it's nice to be able to bring some attention to the work being done here in Saskatchewan."

Peterson said that while his background as a printmaker will help him be aware of some of the challenges of the medium, he feels his experience as a curator and community organizer will be what gives him a unique perspective. Peterson likes to connect members of the community to each other and would like to see the work done elsewhere.

"I try to work to bring opportunities with artists to work with different community members. From across the province, supporting and growing the local art community, bringing opportunities for artists

"It's really nice to see the Kann putting such a focus on the whole arts community."

While each artist who enters a work will be included, as in past years, there is a change to the :

Artists in years past have been able to enter two works each. However, as the show has grown, winter festival show entries to one per artist.

"In the past few years, participation in this exhibition has increased significantly, and that's made it necessary to create proper lighting conditions to show all of the submissions in their best possible way," Campbell says.

The change could lead to artists being really focused and selective in what they choose to present.

Regardless, the gallery is looking forward to the variety.

"It's always an exciting exhibition, due to it being open to anyone in the province who is over 18."

"We have no idea what is going to come in. This is not a show that is one of our more typical exhibitions. It's a surprise. We'll see what artwork ahead of time."

As in previous years, it will be up to the guest curator to help choose which pieces win awards, and the show will have a sense. Peterson will also host a tour and a critique session on Feb. 9, the morning after the show's closing.

Art is due at the gallery on Sunday, Jan. 27 and Monday, Jan. 28. Drop off on those days is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists who reside in Saskatchewan, as well, they must be members of the gallery for the 2019 year. Works on consignment will not be accepted as a means to hang. All entries must be for sale.

For more information and full details, visit [www.mannartgallery.ca](http://www.mannartgallery.ca).

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