



WRITE WHERE I BELONG

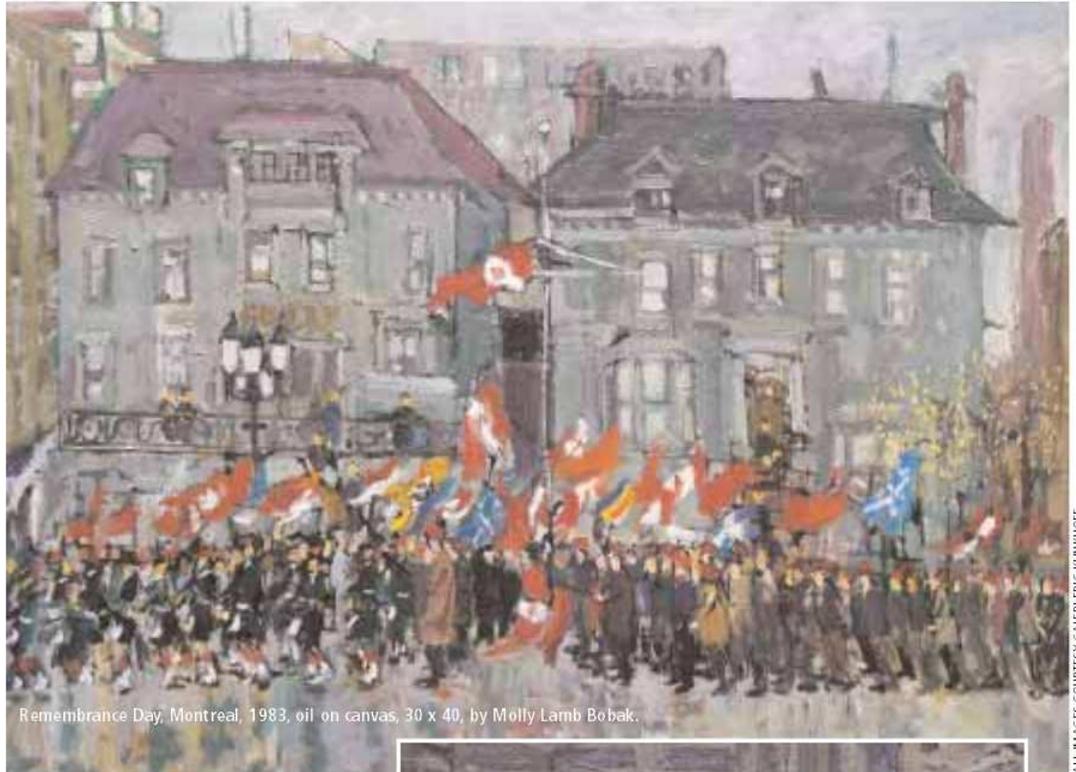
By Bernard Mendelman

Tribute to the unsinkable Molly at Galerie Eric Klinkhoff

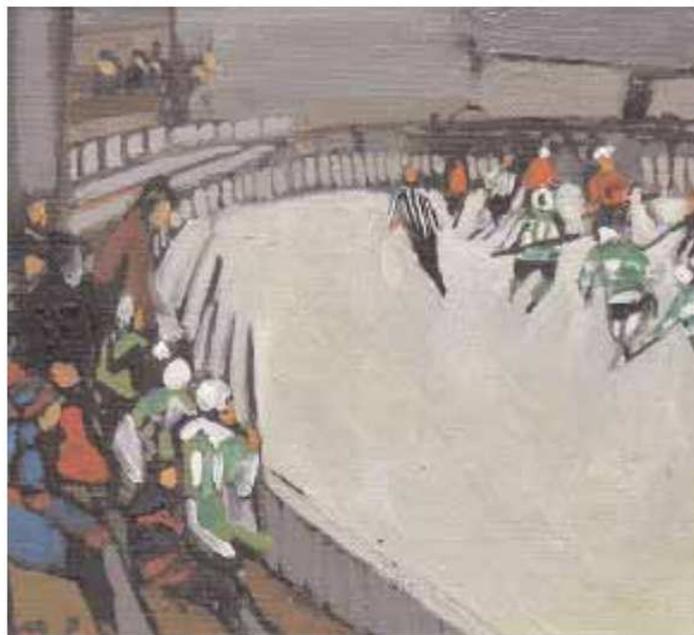
Molly Lamb Bobak, who passed away on February 28, was born in 1920 on Lulu Island outside Vancouver and spent a lifetime of unsinkable devotion to her art.

Bobak studied at the Vancouver School of Art from 1938 to 1941. In 1942 she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corp. She was the first woman to be named as an official Canadian War Artist and the last one living who painted during the Second World War. Bobak remained in the women's corps until 1946, during which time she met her husband, Bruno, who was also a war artist.

Bobak sketched and painted women working in mess halls, doing drills and marching in parades. During this period, she created over 400 works, most of which are now in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. After the war, she and her husband returned to Vancouver where she taught art. In 1960 the couple moved to Fredericton where, over the years, they made an extraordinary contribution to the visual arts scene in Canada.



Remembrance Day, Montreal, 1983, oil on canvas, 30 x 40, by Molly Lamb Bobak.



Old Timers, oil on canvas board, 7 x 11.



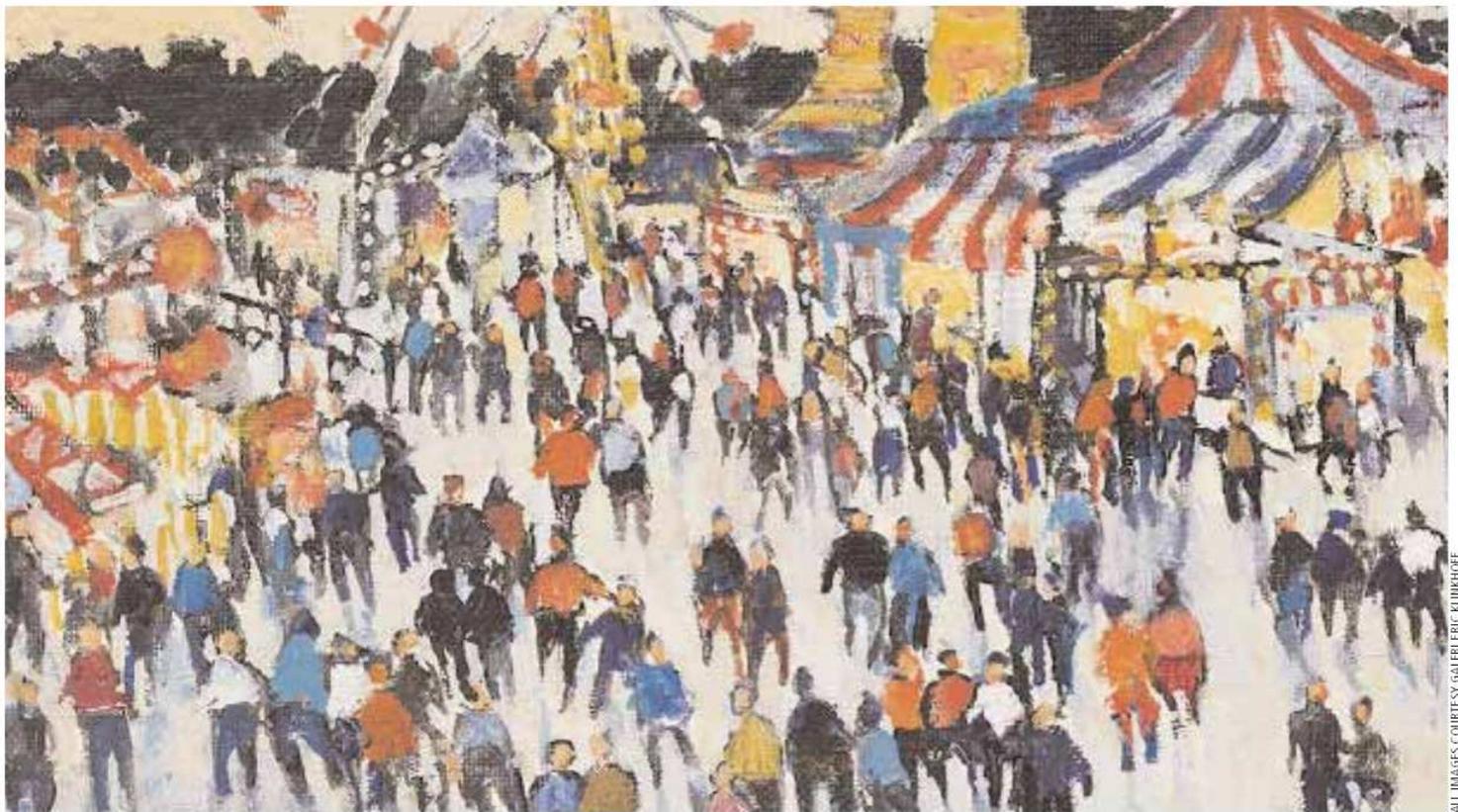
Defi Corporate Canderel, 1990, oil on canvas board 7 x 11.

Bobak led a full and active life teaching, painting and drawing until the age of 84 when her eyesight began to fail. In 1976, she was made a member of the Royal Canadian Academy. She received a number of honorary doctorates from Canadian universities, was presented with the Order of Canada in 1995 and was an initial recipient of the Order of New Brunswick in 2002. She was of the first genera-

tion of women artists to achieve fame in the Canadian art world and her works are included in all of Canada's major art museums.

Her husband Bruno died in 2012. When Eric Klinkhoff recently opened his own gallery on the same premises of his late father Walter's gallery, he decided that his first show would be a retrospective to honour Bobak.

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The Fair

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The Walter Klinkhoff Gallery had been selling her paintings since 1965. Open to the public, this will be a non-selling show where students and members of seniors' residences will be invited to view and discuss the paintings that have been made available courtesy of private and corporate collections.

Bobak's two favourite subjects were crowds and flowers. Her oils on canvas were gatherings of people around communal events. Vibrant in colour, texture, and movement, these crowd scenes were Bobak's perceptions and responses to her immediate surroundings. They captured the essence of the occasion, whether it be exuberant crowds at carnivals, festivals, firework displays, skating rinks, football games, parades, or sunbathers on the beach (Bobak did a series of these on a visit to Israel).

Bobak loved Montreal. On a trip here in 1990 she did some paintings of Défi Canderel, Jonathan Wener's annual event where business people run through the city to raise money for cancer research. This year the run takes place on May 8, while the retrospective is still on. In 1983 Bobak

did a spectacular painting of the Remembrance Day parade, as it passed by the Walter Klinkhoff Gallery where she was present at the time.

Watercolour is the medium she favoured for her flowers, which attracted her for their random beauty. She expressed their fragility and fleeting moments of colour and pattern with simplicity of line and washes of colour blotted and splattered over white paper. Grouped together, Bobak considered them to also be crowds.

"When I proposed the retrospective to Molly she was delighted and even though she had health issues she was looking forward to being here for the exhibition," said Eric Klinkhoff. "My mother Trudy, who still plays an active role in the gallery, was looking forward to her friend Molly's visit.

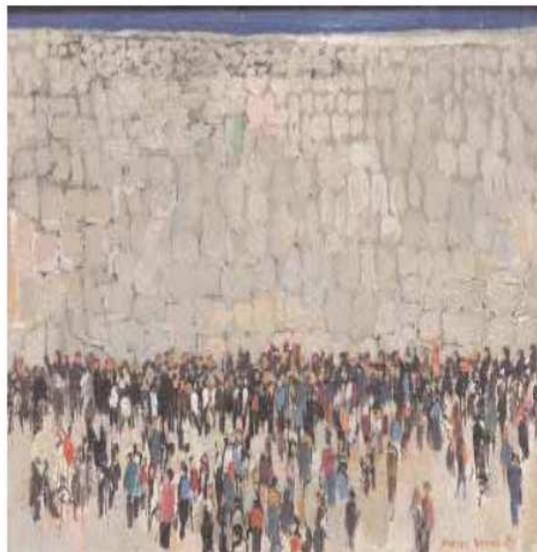
"It was Molly's request that there be no funeral or public memorial service as she felt that she was celebrated extensively throughout her life. Hopefully this event will succeed in being a fitting tribute to both the great artist and the exceptional human being that she was."

Eric has been informed that members of her family and a number of her friends from New Brunswick will be attending to pay their respects.

The exhibition takes place from April 26 to May 10 at 1200 Sherbrooke St. W. Info: 514-288-7306. riben@videotron.ca



Poppies, watercolour, 23 x 17



The Wailing Wall, 1985, oil on canvas board, 7 x 11.