



PRESENTS

LAYERED RECOLLECTIONS: a retrospective
By *ELMA EIDSE NEUFELD*

About the Artist

Elma Eidse Neufeld spent her childhood on the Canadian prairies. Dreaming of becoming an artist, she attended Forum Art Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba, under the direction of one of its founders, Nikola Bjelajac, and soon began showing her work publicly. Elma continued her studies at the University of Manitoba School of Art and on scholarships to the world-renowned Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity in Alberta, Canada and acquired specific techniques from other recognized artists.

After relocating from Manitoba to British Columbia, Elma continued to establish herself in art circles from Kelowna to Vancouver. She worked out of her home studio, *Chateaucroc*, for three decades; from there both the beauty of the breathtaking Okanagan Valley and her travels abroad fuelled her work. It is during this time that she fully developed her unique, Torn-Edge Relief© style of collage.

Elma has recently rooted herself back in the prairies, just beyond the foothills of the Rockies, where she continues to work from a new studio space in Medicine Hat, Alberta, in view of the inspiring, layered rocks of the nearby coulees.

Artist Statement: I believe that whatever I create expresses my life experiences - of who I am and of what I have encountered. Each exploration, each decision, adds another layer and another line to my artistic exposition. The stronger, earthy lines and textures in my work represent reality - like the earth underfoot - while the rhythmic lines of the torn edges symbolize the ethereal aspects of the soul, reborn into my collage and painting.

About the Exhibit

A defining quality of Elma's large body of work (over 2,500 pieces) is the layering up of media with memories, which results in the creation of visual allegories.

This collection is a small and somewhat random selection of her work since the 70s. It is on loan from a private collector that shows a unique retrospective of the artist as well as her relationship with the collector, Lorenda Harder, daughter of the artist who handpicked the works over the years.

The exhibit is grouped by theme or intuitive evoked memories as well as pleasing visual interplay between pieces. If you are interested, you may also visit each piece chronologically by following the order of the thumbnails on the laminated placard located on the Welcome Table. We hope you enjoy what Elma describes as "meditative impressions between the soul and spirit" and what the collector deems "layers of memories from childhood."

Text/Talk to **Lorenda Harder** about the pieces for sale in the Showcase: **289-783-1545**

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This exhibit runs July through September 2023

– Special thanks to the Calvary Church for giving Faith Arts a space to exhibit. –