

ARTIST: Admiral Philip J. Aziz, The Philip Aziz Foundation
Barry Callow, Executive Director, barry@philipaziz.org
150 Philip Aziz Ave., London, ON, N6G 1G8

CURRICULUM VITAE: Admiral Philip J. A. F. Aziz, M.F.A., International Master Artist
Painter / Sculptor / Portrait Artist / Architectural Designer / Jewelry

CANDIDATE'S PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Education

BFA Yale University, 1947

MFA Yale University, 1949

Specialized course of study: Fogg Museum, Harvard University, 1949

Field & Study Trips to England, France, Italy & the Middle East in 1949, 1951, 1964, 1966, 1974, 1979, 1981

Teaching Experience

1972 & 1976 Artist in Residence and Lecturer, *Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies*, Aspen, Colorado

1950 – 1955 Lecturer in Art, The University Of Western Ontario, London, Canada

1947 – 1949 Art Instructor, Yale University

Lecturer at various colleges and museums throughout Canada and United States

Selected Exhibitions

1998 Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (*one-man selected show*)

1998 “The Flow Of Grace”, Philip Aziz Documentary, by Sleeping Giant Productions, Toronto, Canada, which won an “Award of Excellence” in 1999 from The National Media Network of Oakland, California

1996 “Hidden Icons”, London Regional Art and Historical Museum, London (Retrospective Show)

1992 Village Square Art Gallery, Ottawa, Canada

1986 Detroit Collects, Detroit Institute of Arts (Group Show)

1985 Ontario Legislature – Office of the Premier (Group Show)

1984 Waddington & Shiell Galleries Ltd., Toronto, Canada

1982 Waddington Galleries, Toronto, Canada

1978 Tom Gruenebaum Gallery, New York, NY

1976 David Findlay Gallery, New York, NY

1975 London Arts Gallery, Detroit, MI

1974 Albert White Gallery, Toronto, Canada (Group Show)

1973 William Beadelston Galleries, New York, NY

1972 Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Aspen, CO

1972 Tribute to Paul Tillich, St. John University, Collegeville, MN

1972 Minnesota Museum of Fine Arts, St. Paul, MN

1971 War Memorial Center, Grosse Pointe, MI

1969 Gallery of Modern Art, New York, NY (One Man Retrospective)
1968 Gallery of Modern Art, New York, NY (One Man Show)
& Other Galleries in Washington, Detroit, Miami, Paris, and Sydney.

Private Collectors

Private collectors such as the Bronfmans, Duponts, Fords, Vanderbilts, Eatons, Thomsons, Iveys and Blackburns own Aziz's art. Philip has also painted commissioned portraits of Ontario's former Progressive Conservative Premier, the Honourable John Robarts, Governor-General George and Madame Vanier, noted Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh--and mezzo-soprano opera star Rise Stevens.

Selected Portrait Commissions

Rise Stevens

Metropolitan Opera Collection, Lincoln Center Plaza, NY (1962)

Nonie Ford

Collection of Walter Buhl Ford II, Grosse Pointe, MI (1966)

Lisa (DuPont) Moseley

Collection of Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Moseley, Wilmington, DE (1955)

Eric Bruhn

Collection of Mrs. S. Hallock, DuPont, Wilmington, DE (1965)

Governor-General & Mme. Georges P. Vanier

Collection of Vanier Institute for the Family, Ottawa (1969)

The Honourable John P. Robarts

Robarts Library, University of Toronto (1965)

Eugene Cardinal Tisserent

Dean of the College of Cardinals, Head of the Vatican Library, Collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (1965)

Lady Eaton

Eaton Hall Art Collection, King City, Ontario, Canada (1962)

Mrs. J.D. Eaton

Mrs. John David Eaton Collection, Toronto, Canada (1955)

John Bassett

John Bassett Collection, Toronto, Canada (1956)

Yousuf Karsh

University of Toronto Art Collection (1957)

***Solange Karsh**

National Archives Collection, Ottawa (1958)

Madame Edith Engel

Quebec City, Canada (1955-1956)

W. Hawkins Ferry

Collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts (1986)

Marjorie Blackburn

London, Ontario (1993)

Kari (Mrs. Richard Costly-White)

London, Ontario (1999)

**Aziz also designed Solange Karsh's tombstone.*

Liturgical Commissions

1964 West Chapel, Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, Canada

1961-63	St. Joseph's Chapel of Christ the King, St. Peter's Basilica, London, Canada
1958-59	Lady Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, London, Canada
1952	Nativity Altarpiece, Motherhouse, Sisters of St. Joseph, Hamilton, Canada
1951	Pieta Altarpiece, Monastery of the Trinitarian Fathers, St. Bruno, Quebec, Canada

Honours, Awards, Memberships, Associations & Listings

Recipient of gold medal honouring his art in the “Vatican Collections: Papacy and Art”

The Friends of Modern Art, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, Heritage Canada

Who's Who (World & Canadian Editions)

The National Register of Prominent Americans

The National Trust for Historic Preservations, Washington, D.C.

The International Platform Society (United States)

The Directory of International Biography (Great Britain)

Admiral in the Texas Navy (Honorary Member)

Vice President, Yale Alumni Association of Canada

The Blue Book (for outstanding achievement in the English speaking world)

Trustee, National Pollution Control Foundation, New York

Vice President, The Yale Club of Canada, Toronto, Ontario

American Directory of Arts & Who's Who in Art (English Edition)

International Directory of Arts (German Edition)

The Yale Club of New York City

University Club of Toronto

Private Collections

Aziz's paintings, sculptures, graphics, jewelry, silver and gold items are in numerous private collections in Canada, United States, Europe and Australia.

In 1981, Aziz was the subject of a television documentary: Aziz, Modern Renaissance Artist. Produced and directed by Roger Faubert of CBC Television Studios, Windsor, Canada.

A number of critical articles and essays have been written on the art of Aziz by distinguished scholars and critics in Canada, United States, Europe and the Middle East. Numerous periodicals and such popular magazines as Time, Maclean's and Arts Magazine have featured articles on Aziz.

Design Projects

The Landmark Centre, St. Paul, Minnesota (1972)

In 1972 the Federal Courts Building in St. Paul was about to be demolished. Determined not to lose the pink granite architectural masterpiece, built in 1902 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, a group of civic-minded citizens turned to Aziz at the 11th hour and asked him to save the building. His mandate was simple and urgent: find a use for this beautiful example of its era and advise how to realize its new potential.

In a flurry of creative genius, Aziz prescribed a design concept for a multi-purpose facility to meet he artistic, social, cultural, historical, educational and recreational needs of the community. In a series of intense small meetings with philanthropic organizations and city fathers, Aziz almost single-handedly organized private and public support for his concept—so much so, that a special Act of Congress was tabled to sell the historic Federal property to St. Paul for one dollar. Now proudly known as The Landmark Centre, the project required six years for reconstruction, restoration and renovation.

Private Residence of Susan M. Blackburn, London, Canada (1979-1990)

Aziz was commissioned to design a private country residence and horse complex. The house, along with an indoor arena for horses and adjacent stables, is located on 100 acres of rolling hills and forested areas. Aziz

was in control of the total design concept: architecture, landscape and interior design.

The residence is built entirely of native stone surrounded by stone garden walls encompassing a small formal garden, swimming pool, terraced vineyards and grassy areas. The 180-foot pool apron is marble mosaic, as is the north terrace. The residence also features original pieces of furniture, coloured glass windows, chandeliers and other unique architectural features by Aziz.

Architectural Designer & Consultant:

1969-78 Middlesex County Court House, London, Canada
1972-73 Ontario Place, Toronto, Canada
1978-80 St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New York
1950's Commissioned by John Cody, London's 7th Catholic bishop, to revise the former Sacred Heart Chapel in St. Peter's Basilica into Christ the King Chapel, by designing its interior.

Critical Comments

“Aziz's work is receiving the international recognition it rightly deserves as well as the patronage and admiration of an ever-increasing group of distinguished clients and collectors here and abroad.”

--Rev A. Durand, PhD

“His formal body of work which encompasses all disciplines in the visual arts—painting, sculpture, architecture, printmaking, design—confounds critics by his virtuoso achievements.”

--Dr. Robert Metzger

“Like Mondrian, Aziz has evolved from a highly symbolic and personal mode of expression to a purified and distilled art of pure perception and spiritual perfection.”

--Frederick J. Cummings

“His work is in the grand tradition. It incorporates universal symbols such as the sphere which recur from time to time in the history of art.”

--Thomas Messer, Former Director of the Guggenheim Museum

“He lives in the midst of his times, intensely curious about all around him.”

--Edgar G. Shelton, Jr.

“He has an uncanny faculty of making his personages symbolic either of their generation, their social predicament or their vocation.”

--Dr. Nancy-Lou Patterson

“One of Canada's leading artists.”

--TIME Magazine

“...old master technique ... like Celini ... glittering.”

--Arts Magazine

“His art is not only beautiful but consonant with the times.”

--Thomas Messer, Guggenheim

“Aziz is one of the great liturgical artists of our time.”

--Dr. Paul Tillich, Harvard University

“Very good show. Good art. You paint in egg tempera. Very difficult—I cannot. You are a very good artist.”

--Salvador Dali

“The Aziz exhibition is one of the most profound and beautiful expressions of modern art that has been seen in New York in a long time. What is so extraordinary is that from the hand and mind of one man, his art encompasses the full range of history and religions, from Egypt, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Oriental, transcending time and space to be brought together in a synthesis. There is beauty here, a spiritual uplifting of the soul that bespeaks well of the mind of an artist which seeks to comprehend eternal truths. The art of Aziz may truly be said to be ennobling.”

--Lionel Landry, Assistant Director of Asia House

“Aziz is winning international renown ... talent and insight ... master artist.”

-- Macleans Magazine

“A 10-foot high dandelion, finished in gleaming chrome and weighting 300 pounds, dazzled a distinguished list of patrons of the arts at the Gallery of Modern Art (New York) showing the works of artist Aziz of London, Ontario.”

--Toronto Star Newspaper

“Philip Aziz is a modern-day alchemist with the God-given ability to turn ordinary chemicals and minerals into spell-binding imagery and who, in turn, may convert anyone's ordinary day into one in which he or she 'sees the light'.”

**--Jan van der Marck,
Former Curator of Modern Art & American Art,
Detroit Institute of Arts**

“An opportunity to develop another artistic discipline was offered him when his aunt, who owned a fashionable jewelry salon on Park Avenue, persuaded him to design jewelry for her. This experience drew out his innate feeling for craftsmanship and laid the foundation for his future work in metalcraft and sculpture... Another facet of Aziz's artistic output has been his portraiture... Aziz has recently translated his ideographs into sculpture, using such materials as polyester resin, acrylic, brass, and nickel.”

--W. Hawkins Ferry

Kuhleborn: The Thames Revisited Project Update

The book *Kuhleborn: A Trip Of The Thames*, Circa 1800, by William Lees Judson, about a canoe trip by Judson and famous London artist Paul Peel, inspired Philip to send a group of artists, ecologists and recreationalists down the Thames River, from the Forks in London, to the Lighthouse Cove on Lake St. Clair. They recorded their travels in notes and works of art, re-connecting with nature--and bonding over the journey, while learning to see river life in a new light.

In *Kuhleborn*, Judson explores how nature and the city must find a balance, and encourages a civic compulsion toward the outdoors, back to the wild where it all began, where souls can look more easily inward in reflection. So in effect, Philip has bridged the past century by connecting artists and experts from different times, with a common interest in considerations on how Thames river life can be better integrated into the urban ways of Londoners.

The paddlers on the trip had time to ponder upon the current direction of their own lives, and how they could better follow in Philip's footprints to foster a truly Creative Forest City, with the brightest possible horizons in the spiritual, aesthetic, cultural, historical, philosophical--and environmental spheres of society.

Afterward, The Philip Aziz Foundation organized a *Thames Revisited Exhibition* at the Forks of the River, where the public could view the canoe journey as interpreted through the work of the artists who were on the trip.

Meanwhile, an Ash tree fell on Aziz's property, and he had it cut down and shipped for carving.

Now, based on Philip's sketches, sculptors have worked tirelessly to draw out Thames River imagery based on their canoe trip--with a dramatic portrait of legendary Tecumseh at the top, arms outstretched, being the planned crowning touch.

The tree is scheduled for display in Ottawa in June, for the *Canadian Heritage River Systems 25th Anniversary*.

The Mayor of London and the Manager of Tourism London have both delivered letters of support for the project, and are on board as it unfolds—along with a host of organizations from Nova Craft Canoes to RONA , to the Peterborough Canoe Museum--to the Ontario Minister of Tourism.

The Thames Revisited is a movement toward reinvigorated interest in the flora and fauna of our surrounding river-threaded wildernesses, toward a renewed respect for the environment—and with a firm grip on the pulse of culture and arts in the community.

It's a project in the true Aziz-style: grand in scope, grounded in grassroots ideas—and with enough passion and momentum at the helm to ensure itself a considerable run of course in social and cultural change, as it gathers steam and attention around its core themes (culture, art & the environment)—and brings a London Ambassadorship to Ottawa, Canada--and the World.