



## *Hilda Woolnough MFA. RCA*

Hilda Woolnough has left her mark on Island art like no other. During her 30 years on the Island, Woolnough has been a teacher and tireless champion of artist's rights and opportunities, serving on the boards of many professional provincial and federal arts organizations. She was a driving force behind The Phoenix Gallery, The Gallery-On-Demand, the Great George Street Gallery, The Arts Guild, the Printmakers Council and the Student Art Expo. Woolnough has pursued her own work with equal vigour, constantly exploring new media. Her passion is for expressive line in drawing and printmaking but she has also created jewellery, weavings, and quilts. Hilda Woolnough was born into a creative family in Northampton, England. Her mother, uncle, and brother were all painters; her father built and restored houses. In 1952 she began traditional training at the Chelsea School of Art in London, drawing from plaster casts and still life, developing strong discipline and technique. It was here that she first experimented with printmaking, a medium she has passionately pursued throughout her career. But it was with a specialty in painting that she graduated in 1955. Woolnough immigrated to Canada in 1957, settling in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1965 she headed to the San Miguel de Allende Instituto in Mexico, where she studied experimental etching for two

years, graduating with a Master's of Fine Art degree in graphics. Back in London, she did post-graduate work at the Central School of Art and Design in metal techniques. After designing the etching and lithography departments at the Jamaica School of Art in Kingston, Jamaica, Woolnough found her way to PEI. Together with her husband, UPEI professor, writer and publisher, Reshard Gool, she formed part of the nucleus for a vibrant arts community. In 1999 Hilda Woolnough received the Adrien Arsenault Senior Arts Award for "contribution to the arts in Prince Edward Island" and was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy. Her work is in many public and private collections including the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Canada Council Art Bank.

Woolnough most often works in series, exploring an idea fully, guided by both intellect and intuition. Nature and the human form provide a starting point, but she moves beyond the representational to a deeper, more universal expression. "I'm interested in evolution of plants, land, the world," Woolnough once said in a interview. "There are stages in the growth of the brain that are reptilian or flower-like. They're proof that we are all the sum of our parts, like the land or sea." This interest in evolution embraces the development of myth and human culture and the process of transformation, themes she has explored throughout her career."What is most important to me as an artist are 'accidents and mistakes' If I don't make them technically and intellectually on a regular basis I don't feel I'm going anywhere. I have lived on Prince Edward Island for about thirty three years, but I have travelled, taught, and done my own work all over the world; and been fortunate enough to have my work in many collections and exhibitions in Canada and abroad, including the Canadian Pavillion in the Spanish Biennial in Seville."

**To contact Hilda Woolnough:**

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**Recent Accomplishments:**

2001 June - October TIMEPIECE, a collagraph installation ,  
Confederation Centre of the Arts, PEI sponsored by Canada Council,  
Ottawa, and the Royal Bank Investment Group

1999, Elected to the Royal Canadian Academy./02 Elected to the board  
of the RCA

1999, Adrien Arsenault Senior Arts Award Major Provincial Award  
honouring individual "contribution to the arts in Prince Edward Island."

1999 -04, Fishtales - a marine mythology, Salt Spring Island, B.C.  
Gallery built especially to house this permanent exhibition, originally  
curated by Joan Murray,Robert MacLaughlin Gallery .Oshawa; Ontario

## **Collections (Public)**

Air Canada, Montreal, Quebec  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario  
Art Gallery of Jamaica  
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, N.S.  
Canada Council Art Bank  
Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario  
Canadian Catholic Conference  
Canterbury College of Art, Kent, England  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario Also archival collection Art  
Gallery 98 and Museum.1998. (work from 1970-98n)  
CBC Montreal  
Confederation Centre of the Arts, Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
Esso Resources Division  
Gotland Museum, Visby, Sweden  
Government of Prince Edward Island  
McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario  
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontar  
Memorial University Art Gallery, St. John's, Newfoundland  
Montreal Museum of Fine Art, Montreal, P.Q.  
New Brunswick Art Gallery and Museum  
Prince Edward Island Art Bank  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
Shell Canada Collection  
St. Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.  
Toronto Dominion Bank Collection & Universities of New Brunswick,  
N.B. & PEI