

REED T. COOPER 1931 – 2006

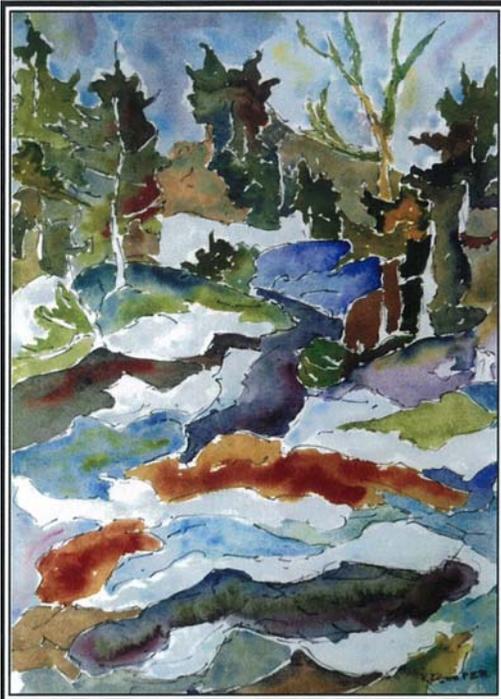
Growing up in Bermuda, Reed had his work accepted by the Royal Watercolour Society at an early age. Later, at university, his interest in art was rekindled, and as he embarked on a career with the civil service in Ontario, Reed pursued his second vocation. By the late 1960s he had held two solo shows at the Pollock Gallery in Toronto and was accepted in numerous group shows across Canada. He had work selected for watercolour and drawing exhibitions mounted by the National Gallery of Canada, which also bought one of his works.

In the '70s and '80s Reed refined his printmaking techniques and by the 1990s was devoting nearly all of his time to serigraphy. During these years he had his work accepted into several juried exhibitions, and became a member of several art societies, including the Ontario Society of Artists.



Photo: Gerry Pisarowski

Reed T. Cooper



Pine River Winter, watercolour, 2006

Retiring to Mulmur Township in Dufferin County, Reed became active on the local art scene. Participating in annual studio tours and group exhibitions with other local artists, he also held solo exhibitions, at the Dufferin County Museum & Archives; in Creemore; at Killarney Mountain Lodge in Killarney, Ontario and in Toronto.

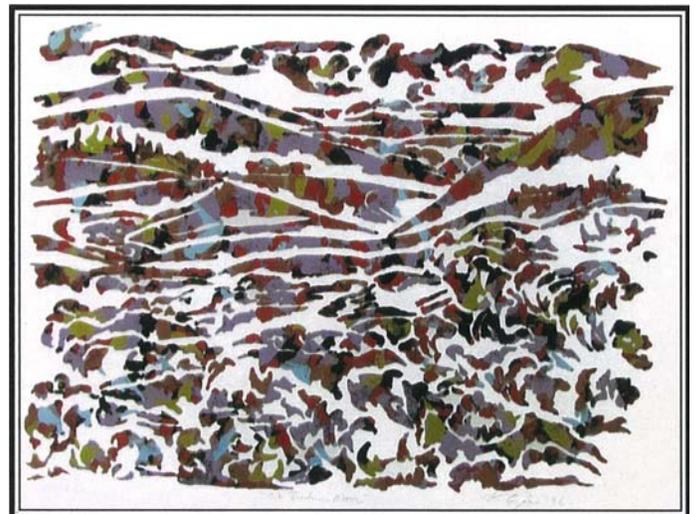
Recently working again in watercolour, oil and acrylic, Reed was a successful entrant in several juried shows in Ontario, including the Headwaters Arts Festival, three annual open exhibitions at the Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound, and *Spring Rush*, an exhibition sponsored by the Dufferin Arts Council in 2002, when he was a prize winner. On two occasions (May 2003 and July 2005) Reed participated in a two person show at the Silk Purse Gallery in West Vancouver.

From January to March, 2005, Reed showed his work from the 1960s at the Dufferin County Museum & Archives. This "historical" exhibition featured 34 large acrylic paintings and linoblock prints, some on loan from private collectors.

As a committed member of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Rosemont, Reed always hoped his work would find a place in the church. He would have been honoured that, in 2007, one of his paintings was adapted for a stained glass window.

After his death, his widow Jane, in concert with the Dufferin Arts Council, initiated the Reed T. Cooper Bursary in Visual Arts. This annual award, of up to \$3,000, is given to a local artist in mid-career who shows promise for excellence in pursuing his or her artistic career.

Some of Reed's work is still available for interested patrons. You may contact Jane Cooper at Arielcroft, 796125 3rd Line Mulmur E., R. R. 3, Mansfield, ON, L0N 1M0. Phone: 519-925-2560. E-mail: arielcroft@hotmail.com. In lieu of buying a work, you are asked to make an appropriate donation to the Reed T. Cooper Bursary.



On Bodmin Moor, serigraph, 1996