



@2015 Godfrey Dean Art Gallery

Violins: A Passion Revealed

October 4 to December 17, 2014

Godfrey Dean Art Gallery

Celebrating the handcrafted violins of Yorkton luthier
James Alexander Huziak (1906-1996)

50 instruments were on exhibit, along with specialty tools and forms used in the art, science and craft of making a violin.

James Huziak made his first violin in the 1930s, drawn by his love of the instrument and the music it made. He continued to pursue his passion, gradually building more and more until his retirement in 1970, when he began to produce consistently. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, right up until he passed away in 1996, Huziak crafted up to three instruments a year, consistently striving to make the ideal musical instrument.

It's a remarkable body of work, and a rare opportunity to see this many violins by a single maker, gathered together for what could be the last time before they're dispersed by the family.

Gallery visitor Bert McNair wrote about his experience:

"We had a cultural fix Saturday, October 4. We attended the opening of the current show, *Violins: A Passion Revealed*, at the Godfrey Dean Gallery. Donald Stein, Executive Director, mounted a show of more than 50 locally made violins. What a show!

The exquisite beauty multiplied in these violins, sitting, lying, hanging in the open air, some with bows, some without, in groups of two, groups of three, some in seven, lit from above, stirred a longing in my soul.

I am not a musician. I have held a violin in my hands perhaps once in my life. These violins, displayed as works of art, rested confidently in the beauty of their oneness and their individuality. The violins did not glow. They did something more. In their workday manner, they held the promise of beauty beyond themselves. If one had the skill, and the permission, one could find melodies and harmonies of creation, fiddle tunes to set toes tapping, these violins could call sea voyages, mourning for the



loss of loved ones, they could bring tears to hard hearts, and passion to bosoms. The Great Masters of music use violins to bring heaven's miracles to earth.

The possibilities filled the gallery air as we stepped from one display to the next.

To round it off, here in the corner, a work bench, the maker's tools, and patterns with sketches. This is where the works of art were created.

Congratulations to the curator for the fine show. Such respect produces respect. We came away with renewed peace in our soul, and quiet in our spirit."

- Bert McNair



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