

**Thelma Pepper**

**Resume**

### **On 'Decades of Voices'**

*"Although Pepper believes that she was influenced by feminist motives – she wanted the woman's voices to be heard, their faces to reveal their strength and intelligence – she did not begin her project consciously setting out to make such a statement. The project evolved over a period of years. The organic and highly personal nature of her work growing out of friendship with, and compassion for, her subjects, is an essential element of her art"*

*"It is Thelma's intuition that sought and found the spirit hidden in woman whom many would see merely as aged, as no longer living meaningful lives"*

Elizabeth Philips

*"The Scotsman (our national newspaper) ran five full pages on this show (Decades of Voices) – the most coverage they have ever given to a festival show (or any exhibition of which I am aware)"*

Alasdair Foster (Director - Fotofeis '95)

### **On 'Spaces of Belonging – A Journey along Highway 41'**

*"The process of researching the project, getting to know the people she is going to photograph, is just as important as the finished exhibition. The photographs are not an end to themselves, but evidence of the love and insight that has gone before. And her talent for carefully laying the foundation for the photographs is supported by considerable darkroom skills, where she exhibits a finely tuned sense of technical finesse"*

Elizabeth Philips

*"Her camera is both significant and incidental, a conduit of a much larger project of extended duration - an engagement with others, an attentive gathering and recording of history, a respectful acknowledgment of vision and daring"*

Joan Borsa

### **On 'Untie the Spirit'**

*"Through my photographs, I have tried to show how the interaction of unique individuals, in a caring community, makes life full and abundant"*

Thelma Pepper

*"The photographs contained in 'Untie the Spirit' open a door to a new reality. In this world older people and the people who care about them can be seen as the beautiful, wise, patient, and understanding human beings that they are. This new story has the power to change the world. Just look... and see"*

William H. Thomas, MD

## THELMA PEPPER, M.Sc.

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### EDUCATION

**1943** McGill University, Montreal, PQ (1943) M.Sc.

**1941** Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia (1941) B.Sc.

### GRANTS

**2010** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

**2008** Travel Grant, Canada Council for the Arts

**2006** Travel Grant, Canada Council for the Arts

**2002** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

**1995** Travel Grant, Canada Council for the Arts

**1995** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

**1993** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

**1989** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

**1986** Saskatchewan Arts Board - Independent Artist Program

### AWARDS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, RECOGNITIONS

**2012** Selected Patron, Saskatchewan Libraries Week, 2012

**2011** *Human Touch – Portraits of Strength, Courage & Dignity* short listed for Saskatchewan Book Awards “Book of the Year”

**2011** Installation of Thelma’s photographic commemorative photographic mural in Kingston, NS

**2010** Poet Lorna Crozier pens poem about Thelma’s photography “*Where Do You Want Your Picture Taken?*”

**2006** Recipient of University of Saskatchewan *Walter Murray Society Award* presented by President Peter MacKinnon

**2006** ‘*Untie the Spirit*’ (self-published catalogue)

- 2000** Exhibition at *The Photographers Gallery*, Saskatoon, SK  
On display, a collection of Thelma's works in celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 1999** *Grain Magazine* (Cover Photo), Saskatchewan Writers Guild
- 1996** '*Spaces of Belonging – A Journey along Highway 41*' (self-published catalogue)
- 1995** '*Decades of Voices*' (self-published catalogue)
- 1993** Guest Speaker, Business and Professional Women's Club, Saskatoon, SK
- 1993** *Grain Magazine* (Cover Photo), Saskatchewan Writers Guild
- 1993** Guest Lecturer, Brenda Pelkey's University of Saskatchewan Photography course
- 1992** *Woman and the Documentary Photograph*  
Invited by Richard Baillargeon - speaker Banff Centre of the Arts, Banff, AB
- 1987** *Decades of Voices catalogue* (self-published) wins Saskatchewan Graphic Arts Industries Association design award for Houghton Boston Printing
- 1985** Two photographs accepted for A.K.A. Gallery juried Exhibition  
*A.K.A Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*
- 1984** *Thelma Pepper joins the Photographer's Gallery in Saskatoon and begins her photographic career in black and white photography*
- 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983**  
*Saskatoon Camera Club, successive awards at year-end photo essay competitions*
- 1962** Established first Saskatoon Public Elementary School library at Brunskill School

*The following documentaries have been made about Thelma and her work:*

**'A Year at Sherbrooke'**

Director - Thomas Hale

[http://www.nfb.ca/film/year\\_at\\_sherbrooke/](http://www.nfb.ca/film/year_at_sherbrooke/)

National Film Board of Canada, 2010 (54 minutes)

Screenings: World Premiere - National Film Board Screening, Toronto, Ontario (2010)  
Broadway Theatre, Saskatoon, (2010)  
Sherbrooke Community Centre, Saskatoon (2010)  
Ottawa Public Library (2010)  
Documentary Channel (2010)  
Arts Health Network, Vancouver, BC (2010)

**'Light Unleashed – The Photography of Thelma Pepper'**

Director - Gordon Pepper (30 minutes)

Saskatchewan Communications Network, 2008

Winner - 2009 SMPPIA Showcase Award

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

*Exhibitions are listed in the order they were produced, beginning with the most recent. All works are in black and white; - the artist shoots and prints all her own photographs*

### **Thelma Pepper - Highway 41 Revisited (solo)**

**2014** *A retrospective program of Thelma Pepper's career in black and white photography, including large format portraiture and Saskatchewan landscapes - multi-paneled panoramas, with audio installation of subject interviews.*

Art Placement Gallery (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

### **Human Touch - Portraits of Strength, Courage & Dignity (solo)**

**2012** Over 40 large format portrait photographs selected from the book 'Human Touch'  
Frances Morrison Library (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

**2012** Included seven portraits selected from the book 'Human Touch'  
Dunlop Art Gallery (Regina Public Library)

### **Untie the Spirit (solo)**

**2007-09** Untie the Spirit, 22 Saskatchewan town tour  
Presented through Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC)

*Prairie Trails Arts Council, Fort Qu'Appelle Library  
Melville Arts Council, Melville Community Works  
Kindersley & District Arts Council, Kindersley  
Battlefords' Allied Arts Council, Chapel Gallery  
Bigger and District Arts Council, Bigger Museum & Gallery  
Outlook & District Arts Council, Valley Place Assn. Inc  
Prince Albert Council for the Arts, Art Gallery of Prince Albert  
La Ronge Arts Council, Mistasinik Place  
Esterhazy & District Arts Council, Esterhazy  
Shaunavon Arts Council, Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre  
Bengough Municipal Arts Council, Socoko Art Gallery & Studios  
Estevan Arts Council, Estevan Art Gallery & Museum  
Weyburn Arts Council, Signal Hill Arts Centre  
Kipling & District Arts Council, Kipling Community Centre  
Melfort Arts Council, Melfort Leisure Centre  
Hudson Bay Allied Arts Council, Brooks Hall  
Quill Plains Regional Arts Council, Wynyard Civic Centre*

**2006** Untie the Spirit (solo) with documentary film - *A Year at Sherbrooke*

*Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, Nova Scotia*

**2006** Untie the Spirit - An exhibition of portrait photographs on the spirit of aging  
*Sherbrooke Community Centre, Saskatoon*

**Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41 (solo)**

**1998** Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41  
*Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

**1996, 1997, 1998**

Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41  
21 Saskatchewan town tour - Organized and presented through Organization of Saskatchewan Art Councils (OSAC)

*Prairie Trails Arts Council, Fort Qu'Appelle Library  
Melville Arts Council, Melville Community Works  
Kindersley & District Arts Council, Kindersley  
Battlefords' Allied Arts Council, Chapel Gallery  
Bigger and District Arts Council, Bigger Museum & Gallery  
Outlook & District Arts Council, Valley Place Assn. Inc.  
Prince Albert Council for the Arts, Art Gallery of Prince Albert  
La Ronge Arts Council, Mistasinik Place  
Esterhazy & District Arts Council, Esterhazy  
Shaunavon Arts Council, Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre  
Bengough Municipal Arts Council, Socoko Art Gallery & Studios  
Estevan Arts Council, Estevan Art Gallery & Museum  
Weburn Arts Council, Signal Hill Arts Centre  
Kipling & District Arts Council, Kipling Community Centre  
Melfort Arts Council, Melfort Leisure Centre  
Hudson Bay Allied Arts Council, Brooks Hall  
Quill Plains Regional Arts Council, Wynyard Civic Centre  
Shellbrook & District Arts Council, Shellbrook Wapati Library.  
Yorkton Arts Council, Godfrey Dean Art Gallery*

**1995** Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41  
(Including Audio Interview Installation)  
*Kenderdine Art Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon,*

**1995** Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41  
(Including Audio Interview Installation)  
*The Little Gallery, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan*

**1993** Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41  
(Including Audio Interview Installation)  
*Workshop Gallery, Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan*

**Decades of Voices (solo) - All Exhibitions include Audio Interview Installation**

- 1996**      Decades of Voices  
*Muttart Art Gallery, Calgary, Alberta*
- 1995**      Decades of Voices  
*Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Inverness, Scotland*
- 1995**      Decades of Voices  
*London Guildhall Exchange, London, England*
- 1990**      Decades of Voices  
*Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*
- 1994**      Decades of Voices  
*Gallery 44, Toronto, Ontario*
- 1993**      Decades of Voices  
*Northern Life Museum, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories*
- 1993**      Decades of Voices  
*Moose Jaw Art Museum, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan*
- 1993**      Decades of Voices  
*Swift Current National Exhibition Centre, Swift Current, Saskatchewan*
- 1992**      Decades of Voices  
*Floating Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba*
- 1992**      Decades of Voices  
*Acadia University Art Gallery, Wolfville, Nova Scotia*
- 1992**      Decades of Voices  
*St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia*
- 1992**      Decades of Voices  
*Eastern Edge, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador*
- 1991**      Decades of Voices  
*Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario*
- 1991**      Decades of Voices  
*Dunlop Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan*
- 1991**      Decades of Voices  
*Estevan National Exhibition, Estevan, Saskatchewan*
- 1990**      Decades of Voices  
*Opening – Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

**A Visual Heritage**

(Thelma Pepper prints entire exhibition from her father's and grandfather's negatives)

**1986–87** A Visual Heritage, Images of the Past, 1900—1930 (solo),  
*Diefenbaker Centre, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

**1983** A Visual Heritage, Images of the Past, 1900—1930 (solo),  
*Macdonald Museum, Middleton, Nova Scotia*

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

*Thelma Pepper's photographs have been included in the following group exhibitions:*

**2013** Big Bang Theory,  
*Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK*  
Curated by Timothy Long, includes single portrait photograph of "Dmytro Stryjek"

**2012** The Home Show,  
*Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK*  
(Includes single portrait photograph)

**1998** Saskatchewan Arts Board celebrating 50th anniversary.  
*MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK*  
(single portrait photograph)

**1994, 1995, 1996**

Search, Image and Identity: Voicing Our West  
Thelma's Decades of Voices part of group exhibition  
*Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*  
*Struts Gallery, Sackville, New Brunswick*  
*Gallery 44, Toronto, Ontario*  
*Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, British Columbia*  
*Floating Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba*  
*Open Space, Victoria, British Columbia*  
*Truck Gallery, Calgary, Alberta*  
*Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Alberta*  
*Finish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland*

**1992** Between Time and Space - Curators Don Hall and Randy Burton, *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*  
*Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*  
*Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta*  
*Sackville Art Gallery, Sackville, New Brunswick*  
*Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta*

**1990** Saskatchewan Open '90  
*Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



- 1987**      *Thelma Pepper - Photographs of Saskatchewan Artist Dmytro Stryjek*  
 Thelma's photograph 'Dmytro at Home' part of a touring exhibition on Dymtro Styjek  
 Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta  
 Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
 Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta  
 Thunder Bay National Exhibition Centre and Centre for Indian Art, Thunder Bay, ON
- 1987**      *Saskatchewan '87*  
 Two photographs accepted into exhibition juried by Kate Davis.  
*Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta*
- 1986**      *National Portrait Show*  
*Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*
- 1986**      *Portfolio Grouping*  
*Photographers Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

## **EXHIBITION TALKS**

### ***Human Touch – Portraits of Strength, Courage and Dignity***

University of Saskatchewan Women's Club  
 Saskatoon Public Library - Official Patron for Saskatchewan Library Week  
 Word on the Street Festival, Saskatoon Public library  
 Saskatchewan Book Awards Launch, Bessborough Hotel  
 Book Launch, Sherbrooke Community Centre, Saskatoon

### ***Untie the Spirit***

OSAC - Arts on the Move  
 Red Deer Art Gallery and Museum  
 Grand Coteau Centre, Shaunavon, Saskatchewan  
 Book Launch, Sherbrooke Community Centre  
 Acadia University Art Centre, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.  
 University of Regina – Faculty of Fine Arts (Art for Lunch)

### ***Spaces of Belonging - A Journey along Highway 41***

Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK  
 Muttart Art Gallery, Calgary, AB  
 The Little Gallery, Prince Albert, SK  
 Rosemont Art Gallery, Regina, SK

### ***Decades of Voices***

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Inverness, Scotland,

The Photographer's Gallery, Saskatoon, SK  
Moose Jaw Art Museum, Moose Jaw, SK  
Swift Current National Exhibition Centre, Swift Current, SK  
St. Mary's Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK  
Gallery 44, Toronto, Ont.

### **A Visual Heritage: Images of the Past 1900 to 1930**

1986 - 1987          Diefenbaker Centre, Saskatoon

### **PERMANENT COLLECTIONS**

- 2010          ***Untie the Spirit***, Sherbrook Community Centre - A Deed of Gift  
65 original black and white photographs in [Permanent Collection](#)
- 2001          ***Spaces of Belonging – A Journey along Highway 41***  
[Permanent Collection](#) at Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- 2001          ***Decades of Voices*** - Selection of Portrait Photographs  
[Permanent Collection](#) at Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan.
- 2000          ***Decades of Voices*** - Selection of Portrait Photographs  
[Permanent Collection](#) at Saskatchewan Arts Board, Regina, Saskatchewan
- 2000          ***Decades of Voices*** - Selection of Portrait Photographs  
[Permanent Collection](#) at University Saskatchewan Art Galleries, Saskatoon,
- 1987          ***Dmytro Stryjek Photographs***  
[Permanent Collection](#) Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan
- 1987          ***Dmytro Stryjek Photographs***  
[Permanent Collection](#) - University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries, Saskatoon,  
Saskatchewan

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2020 ***“Thelma – In Her Own Words”*** - A book edited by son Ron is filled with quotes and introspective thoughts from Thelma, as well as reflections of Thelma from family, friends and colleagues.
- 2020 ***“Thelma”*** - A picture biography of Thelma Pepper by Amy Jo Ehman. The book includes rare images of Thema growing up in Nova Scotia, as well as many images of Thelma during her 70 years of living in Saskatoon.
- 2010 ***“Human Touch - Portraits of Strength Courage & Dignity”*** Pepper Publishing  
Includes a collection of over 50 portrait images selected from Thelma Pepper’s entire body of work (2,350 printed photographs).  
The book also includes essays by Elizabeth Philips, Grant Arnold and poetry by Lorna Crozier. The book is short-listed for Saskatchewan Book Awards ‘Book of the Year’
- 2006 ***“Untie the Spirit”*** (self-published catalogue)
- 1998 ***“The Woman’s Daybook”*** (1993, 1998, 2005, 2008)  
Second Story Press, Toronto
- 1996 ***“Spaces of Belonging – A Journey along Highway 41”*** (self-published catalogue)
- 1995 ***“Decades of Voices”*** (self-published catalogue)
- 1989 ***“Between Time and Space”*** By Don Hall and Randy Burton  
Fifth House publishers
- 1998 ***“Stryjek, Trying the Colours”*** By Peter Millard  
Fifth House publishers

## **MEDIA**

*Thelma Pepper has been the subject of the following media coverage:*

### **Television**

- 2013 Global Television (morning show), Saskatoon, SK
- 2012 CBC Television ‘The National’ Toronto, ON
- 2012 CBC Television Saskatchewan: Evening News, Regina/Saskatoon, SK  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2012/03/09/sk-thelma-pepper-photographer-1203.html>
- 1995 BBC, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1993 ‘On the Road’ (With Wayne Rostad), CBC Television, Toronto, ON
- 1992 ‘What on Earth’, CBC, SCN Television, Regina, SK
- 1991 ‘Carol Blenkin’ BBS Television, Saskatoon, SK

### **Radio**

- 2013 ***The John Gormley Show***, CJME Radio, Saskatoon, SK

- 2010 **'The Morning Edition'** CBC Radio (*Human Touch* promotion), Regina, SK  
 2008 **'The Afternoon Edition'** CBC Radio (*Documentary film: Light Unleashed – the Photography of Thelma Pepper*), Saskatoon, SK  
 2000 **'The Afternoon Edition'** CBC Radio, Saskatoon, SK  
 1988 **'Morningside'** with Peter Gzowski, CBC Radio, Toronto, SK

### Newspaper Articles

- 2014 *The Saskatoon Star Phoenix* – “Thelma Pepper: Highway 41 Revisited Photographs of the prairie landscape and portraits of its people”  
 2012 (Cover) *The Saskatoon Star Phoenix* (Bridges), “Thelma Pepper” by Jenn Sharp  
 2011 (Cover) *Canadian Artists Representation, SK (CARFAC) newsletter* “Thelma Pepper launches Book (*Human Touch*), by Jim Graham  
 2009 *SHEAF* - University of Saskatchewan student paper  
 “National Film Board - A Year at Sherbrooke”  
 2008 *The Red Deer Advocate*, Red Deer, Alberta  
 “The Eden Alternative” by Sam Denhaan  
 2007 *The Northerner*, La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
 “Untie the Spirit” by Hilary Johnstone  
 2006 *Kings County Register*, Kentville, Nova Scotia  
 “Untie the Spirit” by Wendy Elliott  
 2006 *The Athenaeum*, Acadia University Student Paper  
 “Untie the Spirit” by Katie Fahey  
 2002 Sherbrooke Community Centre – *Home Fires*. “Abundant Life – the Journey Home” article on Thelma Pepper, editor Patricia Roe  
 2000 *CARFAC, Canadian Artists Representations, newsletter*  
 “Thelma Pepper's achievements celebrated” by Jim Graham  
 2000 *The Leader Post*, Regina, Saskatchewan  
 “Rural Abandonment” featured in art show  
 1998 *Saskatoon Council on Aging*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 “Photos Reveal Live” by Teresa Harley  
 1998 *The Mendel Folio*, the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK  
 “Traces of Lives Lived - A Journey along Highway 41”  
 1998 *Western People*, “The Photos come last” by Sheila Robertson  
 1998 *The Star Phoenix*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 “Photos really about friendships – history” by Sheila Robertson  
 1995 *Prince Albert Daily Herald*, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
 “Prairie Life in Black and White”  
 1995 *SCOTSMAN - Weekend Edition*, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Foto feis - International Festival of Photography*  
 “Portrays lives of Canadian pioneer women through photography - documents and oral reminiscences.”  
 1993 *Prairie Messenger*  
 “Art Exhibit Honors Prairie Women” by Pat Novecosky  
 1993 *The Star Phoenix*, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
 “Glimpses of Women in History” by Deanna Herman  
 1993 *Western People*, Saskatoon Saskatchewan - Article by Lori Allan  
 1990 (Cover) *Western People*, “The Photography of Thelma Pepper – Capturing the images of pioneer woman” by Liz Delahey

## **Periodicals**

- 2013**      *Word on the Street* (National Book and Magazine), article on Thelma Pepper
- 1996**      *Muttart Public Art Gallery*, "Memories, Voices, Fragments" by Ewa Sniatycka
- 1995**      *Canadian Architect* Prairie Profile: Highway 41 and the Nomads of Faith by Herbert. Ens
- 1994**      *Annual Report*, Saskatchewan Arts Board (single portrait photograph)
- 1993**      *Blackflash Magazine*, "The Compassionate Eye: the Photographs of Thelma Pepper", by Elizabeth Philips, Volume 11, No 2
- 1990**      *Blackflash Magazine*, "Brenda Pelkey and Thelma Pepper - Approaching a Context", by Josephine Mills", Volume 11, No 2
- 1990**      *Blackflash Magazine*, "Decades of Voices" by Ulrike Veith, Volume 11, No 2