



2004, THE YEAR IN REVIEW

And what a year it has been.

It has been a very good year. Since we decided that most of our educational and arts advocacy initiatives would be better served online, it has been a year of much activity. Requests for information have come from across Canada, the United States and even Europe, and slowly but steadily our voice for fine art drawing has grown. Our **Monday Evening Life Drawing** sessions in Nanaimo, British Columbia, continue to provide a few extra dollars to pay for postage and Internet administration costs, so all in all, we enter the New Year with much appreciation for your support and a growing anticipation that some great things are going to happen. But first, the year in review.

The online **Gallery of Canadian Drawing Masters** to date has received 7,215 visitors in total who have stayed long enough to view 17,161 pages. We have received requests for information about Canada's drawing masters from students in schools and universities and even as far away as Oxford. These all come in response to "**ask a master**" and it seems the most frequent question is: "*where can we learn how to draw?*" We now have the answer.

We have just officially launched (media campaign yet to come) our online **Canadian Academy of Drawing**, another Canadian first, featuring a cooperative arts education initiative with the **Dahesh Museum of Art** in New York. The Drawing Society of Canada now offers online critique for those who study the recently "rebirthed" drawing course **Cours de Dessin**, created by Charles Bargue (1826-1883) and Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824-1904) and republished by art historian Gerald M. Ackerman. This highly acclaimed drawing course became popular in the European academies as well as New York since its launch in Paris in 1860. Picasso and Van Gogh, to name just two, took the course. We are very excited about the fact that now aspiring artists, beginner and advanced, living anywhere in Canada, especially in remote communities, can study this fabulously classical figurative drawing course at home and in their studio. Details can be found on our website at www.drawingsociety.com so if you know of anyone who might be interested, pass on the good news.

Three new honorary members have been added to the gallery. They are **Nicholas M. Raynolds**, who was born in Victoria on Vancouver Island, and now lives and works in the US, with his studio in Brooklyn, New York. His works are beautifully classical. We welcome **Mark Gothreau** from Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. His sensitive pencil drawings contribute a special east coast regional flavour to our gallery. He should be online in a week or so. We also wel-

come **Jerry Davidson**, from Saltspring Island, BC, whose bold figurative works featuring dancers are worth seeing.

We are also pleased to announce that acclaimed Canadian actor **Paul Gross** has accepted our invitation to become an honorary member to help us reach out to the greater arts community in Canada. In fact, while spending some time in Tuscany this year, Paul took up the challenge himself to learn to draw, inspired no doubt by the great traditions of the region.

After two years of work we have added “**100 years of Canadian Drawings**” to our website. Even though it’s still a “work in progress,” the information is online and gives students and artists an overview of Canadian artists who championed the cause of drawing and who continue to champion drawing as well as painting. It’s a great legacy of fine art and we can be proud that it’s truly Canadian.

And a special thank you to webmaster **Doug Jordan** who so faithfully manages our website, including formatting and creating new pages, adding honorary members, updating files, and all that cyberspace stuff that makes our website increasingly popular. Doug’s a valuable volunteer. Also thanks to **Gerrit Verstraete** and **Peter Leclerc**, who founded the society in 1998, and who continue to contribute to the society with much needed volunteer work, and to **Janet Ostrand** for assisting in research for “100 Years of Canadian Drawing.”

How to become a member of the Drawing Society of Canada

We do need the support of members to help us fulfill the mandate of the society, with its principal aim, to preserve and promote the fine art of drawing. Especially during the early, formative years of the *Drawing Society of Canada* (est. 1998), it will require patience and endurance to find and define our niche in the forum of voices for the arts in Canada. Support and encouragement is deeply appreciated. Membership is a one-time fee of \$50.

Bottega is published by the **Drawing Society of Canada / la société de dessin du Canada**, P.O.Box 24, Gabriola Island, British Columbia, Canada V0R 1X0

©2004 – All contents are copyright protected. Write us with your comments or email us at our website at **drawingsociety.com**

Bottega will continue to encourage an environment that nurtures creative growth and artistic excellence in the proven methods of centuries ago.

Bottega is a forum where artists gather to discuss the issues of life and their relationship to the arts.

Honourary Members:

David Owen Campbell
Ken Danby
Eric Freifeld
John Gould
Tom La Pierre

Peter Leclerc
Peter Mah
John Newman
Myfanwy Pavelic
David Silverberg

Michael Thompson
Gerrit Verstraete
Stephen Warren
Paul Gross
Nicholas Reynolds

Igor Babailov
Mark Gothreau
Barbara Fostka
Jerry Davidson