

WWII CARTOONS & POST-WAR CANADIAN LANDSCAPES ON
EXHIBITION AT

ART SQUARE GALLERY

BY

ARTIST & POLITICAL CARTOONIST - JOSH SILBURT

BOOK LAUNCH OF HIS STORY - "A COLOURFUL LIFE"

October 7 – November 4, 2013

Speaker series includes David Silcox, former president of Sotheby's, Canada.

For additional press kit material, visit www.joshsilburt.com/?wpfb_dl=12

For immediate release

TORONTO, Sept 18, 2013 – The oil paintings and political cartoon drawings of acclaimed mid-20'th century artist, Josh Silburt (1914 – 1991) are featured throughout the month of October at Art-Square Gallery, 334 Dundas Street W. opposite the Art Gallery of Ontario. Silburt trained under Group of Seven member L.L. Fitzgerald at the Winnipeg School of Art before settling in Toronto in the mid 1930's. The show brings together a selection of Silburt's paintings of the rugged scenery of Algonquin Park, Haliburton and Algoma as well as the west coast of Canada. In addition, his original line drawings of political cartoons published in the mainstream and communist press including the Toronto Daily Star, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Telegram and Sydney Post Record will be on display.

Josh Silburt was born in Plum Coulee, Manitoba and spent most of his childhood in Winnipeg. In the early 1930's, Josh rode the rails to Toronto and became a sports and political cartoonist. He continued his studies in the evenings at the Ontario College of Art and Design and at Central Technical School while he tried to earn a living by day with his drawings. In the meantime, Josh became a committed Communist and his political activism created a complex set of challenges that culminated in his being fired from his staff political cartoonist job in the early days of the cold war. At the end of the Stalin era, Josh, along with many of his cohort on the Jewish left wing, abandoned their political ideals and set their lives in a new direction. Josh, along with a

small group of landscape painters from the Willowdale Group of Artists in north Toronto, focused on interpreting the Canadian wilderness, building upon the style and perspective of the earlier Group of Seven. As Canada passed its 100th birthday, and many Canadians re-kindled a love for their natural surroundings, Josh developed his unique style of palette knife application of vivid oil impasto and later brushed acrylics, capturing the beauty and ruggedness of Canada. Over the next 4 decades of prolific painting and evolving technique, Josh enjoyed considerable success with numerous one-man shows across Canada. His work appears in private and public collections throughout the world.

A newly published book, “A Colourful Life – the art and drawing of Josh Silburt” will be launched at the event as well. This large format coffee table book, written by the artist’s son, contains over 250 images of Silburt’s cartoons and paintings along with detailed history of the artist’s life and career. The show also features the following weekly talks on the subject of 20th century Canadian landscape art as well as on the Jewish left wing in Toronto in the 1930’s and 40’s and the pivotal role it played in the life of Josh Silburt:

Thursday October 10, 7pm: Vernissage and book launch: “A Colourful Life – the art and drawing of Josh Silburt”, Allan Silburt, author.

Thursday October 17, 7pm: Book launch: “J.B. Salsberg – a life of commitment”, Dr. Gerald Tulchinsky, Prof. Emeritus, Queens University.

Wednesday October 23, 7pm: “Behind the Podium at Sotheby’s”, David Silcox, Former President of Sotheby’s Canada, Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto.

Tuesday October 29, 7pm: “A Tang of the Woods: The Group of Seven and their influence on Canadian landscape painting”, Catherine Sinclair, Senior Curator – Ottawa Art Gallery.

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A Colourful Life

The art and drawing of
Josh Silburt

Oct. 7th - Nov. 4th 2013



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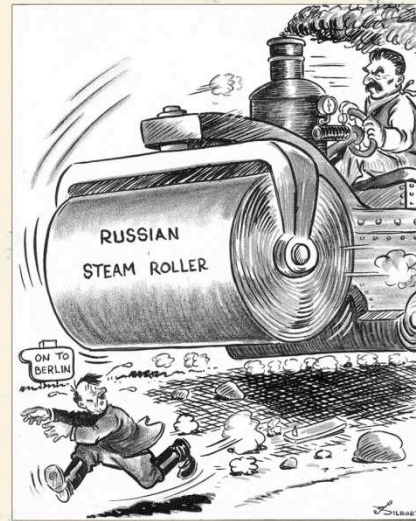
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More details at: www.joshsilburt.com



Rolling Again. *Toronto Daily Star*, June 29, 1944 <
Gathering Storm. Oil on panel. 16 x 20 in., ca. 1965 >

A Colourful Life

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