

Exhibit includes landscape paintings and political cartoons

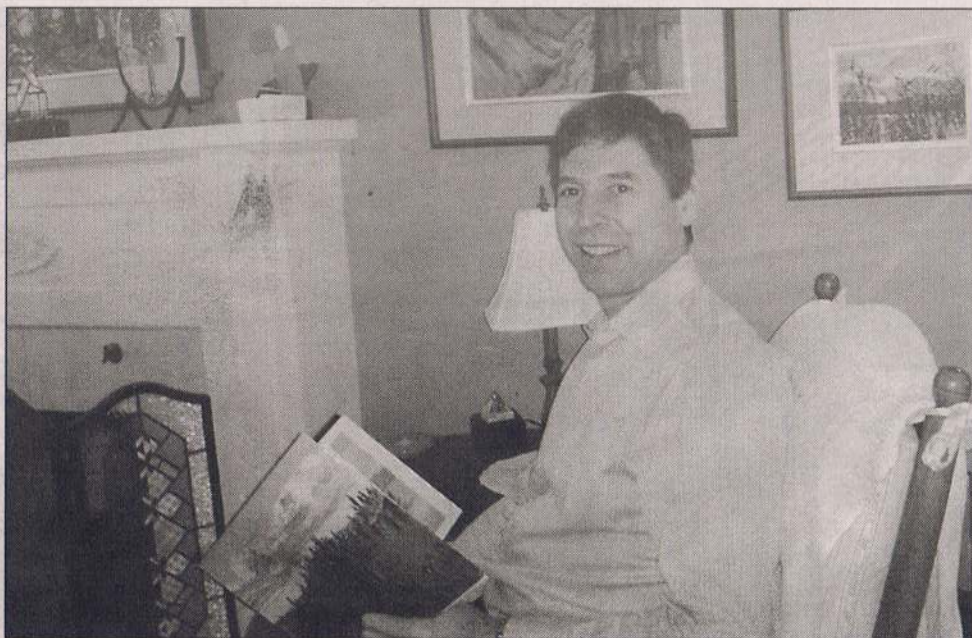
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Design Labs, did not follow in his father's footsteps and become an artist.

"My father suffered with his art a lot, and didn't really encourage us in that direction," Allan said. "He struggled over whether he should quit his art and be a cartoonist or quit his job and be an artist. He'd wanted to be an artist from an early age, but he had to quit school to help his family eke out a living. He carried a lot of the Depression mentality; he was 15 at the time of the stock market crash. Doing portraiture and cartooning was a vehicle to earn a living and that's how he reconciled it."

While Silburt's politics were extremely left wing, he would submit political cartoons that would get published.

"In the 1930s, as a Communist, he often stuck with sports and other topics. Then when the war was on, he could actually have an alignment between his thinking



Allan Silburt, with his book, *A Colourful Life: The Art and Drawing of Josh Silburt*.

(Photo: Louise Rachlis)

and the rest of the world. Towards the end of the war, it was hard for him. He found himself on the wrong side of issues; he had a harder time finding the right editorial line ... He suffered the conflict between being a Communist and a Jew and an artist, and wanting to assimilate."

While living in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Silburt invited Tim Buck, leader of the Communist Labour-Progressive Party of Canada to dinner. But, when the *Sydney Post Record* newspaper found out, they fired him. So he moved back to Toronto, stopped cartooning and resurfaced as a landscape artist in the 1950s.

"As Khrushchev came to power and renounced the Stalin regime, he did a lot of soul searching like others, and completely withdrew from political public life," said Allan. "My father transitioned further and further into painting as an obsession and he established a successful following in the 1960s to 1980s. He died in 1991,

painting until the end."

A Colourful Life: The Art and Drawing of Josh Silburt presents a broad collection of the artist's work, from his early days as a sports and political cartoonist in the 1930s and '40s, to his later years as a landscape painter; from black and white drawings to colourful paintings of the



"Picture of an Ottawa Office," a post-Second World War cartoon by Josh Silburt.

Canadian wilderness.

"The book has helped propel the art forward," said Allan. "Don Monet, who runs Cube Gallery, studied political cartooning and loves the cartoons as much as the artwork."

The exhibit's vernissage and book launch will be held Wednesday, February 6, 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Cube Gallery, 1285 Wellington Street West. For more information, visit cubegallery.ca or joshsilburt.com.