



Carl Beam, RCA  
1943-2005

C.V.

BORN 1943, WEST BAY, MANITOULIN ISLAND, ONTARIO

FIRST NATIONS AFFILIATION: OJIBWA

A prominent contemporary artist, forging new ground for First Nations art in Canada, Carl Beam graduated with B.F.A. from the University of Victoria in 1974, and continued his studies in an M.F.A. programme at the University of Alberta. He developed a sophisticated practice and an international career in the vanguard of postmodernism with multimedia paintings, prints and constructions. His work is generally characterized by the juxtaposition of autobiographical, photographic and art historical reference, evoking the dissonances between Euro-American and Native cultures. In New Mexico in 1980, Beam mastered Anasazi pottery techniques, and a decade later applied adobe rammed earth architecture to the construction of ecologically-sound buildings on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. On commission, Beam constructed a large-scale work, *Exorcism*, for the Thunder bay Art Gallery and was artist in residence at Artspace in Peterborough, Ontario, in 1988. Two years earlier, his painting "The North American Iceberg" was the first Indian artwork purchased by the national Gallery of Canada since 1927.

# Exhibitions

- 2006 CARL BEAM; BREAKING THE RULES. Galerie d'art Vincent, *Ottawa, Ontario*
- 2005 Art Gallery of Algoma, *Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario*  
Thunder Bay Art Gallery, *Thunder Bay, Ontario*  
Art Gallery of Minden, *Minden, Ontario*  
Art Gallery of Peterborough, *Peterborough, Ontario*
- 2004 IT'S ALL RELATIVE; CARL, ANN & ANONG BEAM. Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, *Waterloo, Ontario*
- 2003 IT'S ALL CONNECTED; CARL & ANN BEAM. Gardiner Ceramic Museum, *Toronto, Ontario*  
GATHERINGS. National Museum Of History, *Taiwan*  
FEIGNED MEMORIES. The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery, *Lethbridge, Alberta*
- 2002 SELECTED WORKS. Steel City Gallery, *Hamilton, Ontario*  
SHAMANS AND RAVENS; CARL & ANN BEAM. DeLeon White Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*  
THE WHALE OF OUR BEING. The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, *Oshawa, Ontario [travelling]*
- 2001 THE WHALE OF OUR BEING. DeLeon White Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*  
MULTIPLES. Walter Phillips Gallery, *Banff, Alberta*  
PRINTS AND WORKS ON PAPER. Steel City Gallery, *Hamilton, Ontario*
- 2000 NOVAK GRAPHICS PRINT SHOW. Shanghai Art Museum, *China*  
FERVENT PRECINCTS. Edward Day Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*
- 1999 HELEN E. BAND COLLECTION OF FIRST NATIONS ART; FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF THE THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY. Thunder Bay Art Gallery, *Thunder Bay, Ontario [travelling]*  
EPISTEMOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION WORK. DeLeon White Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*  
RECONSTRUCTING REASON: THE KOAN OF CARL BEAM. Carlton University Art Gallery, *Ottawa, Ontario*
- 1997 TRANSITIONS: CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN INDIAN AND INUIT ART. Indian Northern Affairs Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and international Trade *[travelling]*
- 1996 ALTERED STATES: RITUALS OF EXCHANGE. Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Centre for the Arts, *Banff, Alberta*
- 1995 CARL BEAM. DeLeon White Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*
- 1994 READING / THE LANGUAGE OF CULTURE. Art Gallery of Hamilton, *Hamilton, Ontario*  
THE COLUMBUS SUITE, 1990. Les cent jours d'art contemporain, Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, *Montréal, Quebec*
- 1993-94 THE POWER OF PLACE. Legislative Building of Ontario, *Toronto, Ontario*

# Exhibitions

- 1993 THE COLUMBUS BOAT. Arnold Gottlieb Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo; travelling]*  
SEEING A NEW WORLD: THE WORKS OF CARL BEAM AND FREDERIC REMINGTON. Gettysburg College Art Gallery, *Gettysburg, Pennsylvania*  
LIVING IN MOTHER EARTH. London Regional Art and Historical Museums, *London, Ontario [solo]*  
FRAGILE POWER: EXPLORATION OF MEMORY. Newton Art Centre, *Massachusetts*  
INDIAN TERRITORIES. Renee Fothoui Fine Art East, *Long Island, New York*  
EARTHSPRIT. York Quay Gallery, Harbourfront, *Toronto, Ontario*
- 1992 CONTEMPORARY FIRST NATIONS ART. Ufundi Gallery, *Ottawa, Ontario*  
NEW TERRITORIES: 350/500 YEARS AFTER. Les Maisons de la culture, *Montréal, Québec; Place Fleur-de-Lys, Quebec City, Quebec.*  
CARL BEAM: THE COLUMBUS BOAT. The Power Plant, *Toronto, Ontario [solo; travelling]*  
LAND, SPIRIT, POWER. National Gallery of Canada, *Ottawa, Ontario [travelling]*  
COLOURS OF HUMANITY. Skydome, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*  
LOOK MA, NO MORTGAGE. Arnold Gottlieb Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*  
CARL BEAM. La Parete Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*  
CARL BEAM. The Artisan Gallery, *St-Joseph's Island, Ontario [solo]*  
INDIGENA: CONTEMPORARY NATIVE PERSPECTIVES. Canadian Museum of Civilization, *Hull, Quebec [travelling]*  
ART CONTEMPORAIN DU CANADA. Espace Chapon, *Paris, France*  
THE COLUMBUS PROJECT, PHASE III. Artspace, *Peterborough, Ontario [solo]*
- 1991-92 STRENGTHENING THE SPIRIT. National Gallery of Canada, *Ottawa, Ontario*
- 1991 FIRST NATIONS ART '91. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brantford, Ontario*  
SOLIDARITY: ART AFTER OKA. SAW Gallery, *Ottawa, Ontario*  
POLITICAL LANDSCAPE #TWO: SACRED AND SECULAR SITES. Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery. Owen Sound, *Ontario*;  
Ojibway Cultural Foundation and Kasheese Studio, *West Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario*
- 1990 RE-ENACTMENT: BETWEEN SELF AND OTHER. The Power Plant, *Toronto, Ontario*  
THE SALVAGE PARADIGM. YYZ Artists' Outlet and The Wynick/Tuck Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*  
THE COLUMBUS PROJECT PHASE II. Artspace, *Peterborough, Ontario [solo]*
- 1989 BEYOND HISTORY. Vancouver Art Gallery, *Vancouver, British Columbia*  
CARL BEAM: THE COLUMBUS PROJECT PHASE I. Artspace, *Peterborough, Ontario [solo]*  
INDIAN ART '89. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brandford, Ontario*  
POLITICAL LANDSCAPES #1: CANADIAN ARTISTS EXPLORING PERCEPTIONS OF THE LAND.  
Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery, *Owen Sound, Ontario*; The Royal Academy of Arts, *Toronto, Ontario*  
A PIECE OF MY LIFE: PRINTS BY CARL BEAM. Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, *Kingston, Ontario [solo]*  
LIVING IMPRESSIONS; CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN GRAPHICS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF THE ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON.  
Art Gallery of Hamilton, *Hamilton, Ontario*

# Exhibitions

- 1988-91 IN THE SHADOW OF THE SUN. Canadian Museum of Civilization, *Hull, Quebec [travelling; with changes in artists]*
- 1988 OPENING EXHIBITION. National Gallery of Canada, *Ottawa, Ontario*  
THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING. Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre, *Sudbury, Ontario*
- 1987 Beckett Gallery, *Hamilton, Ontario*  
A CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY NATIVE ART. Southwest Museum, *Los Angeles, California*  
Whetung Art Gallery, *Curve Lake, Ontario*  
MANITOULIN ISLAND – THE THIRD LAYER. Thunder Bay Art Gallery, *Thunder Bay, Ontario*
- 1986-87 CROSS-CULTURAL VIEWS. National Gallery of Canada, *Ottawa, Ontario*
- 1986 CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART OF CANADA. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, *Hull, Quebec [travelling]*  
ASCENDING CULTURE: AN EXHIBITION OF RECENT ACQUISITIONS. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, *Hull, Quebec*  
INDIAN ART '86. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brantford, Ontario*
- 1985 MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS. Northern Crafts Gallery, *Manitoulin Island, Ontario*  
CHALLENGES. Holland Festival, de Meervaert Cultural Centre, *Amsterdam, The Netherlands*  
THE NORTH AMERICAN ICEBERG AND RELATED WORKS. Brignall Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*  
INDIAN ART '85. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brantford, Ontario*  
Northern Crafts Gallery, Manitoulin Island, *Ontario*  
TWO WORLDS: CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN INDIAN ART FROM THE COLLECTION OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA.  
The Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, *Regina, Saskatchewan*; Mendel Art Gallery, *Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*  
BEAM. Art Gallery of York University, *North York, Ontario [solo]*
- 1984-85 ALTERED EGOS: THE MULTIMEDIA ART OF CARL BEAM. Thunder Bay Art Gallery, *Thunder Bay, Ontario [solo; travelling]*
- 1984 INDIAN ART '84. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brantford, Ontario*
- 1983-85 CONTEMPORARY INDIAN AND INUIT ART OF CANADA. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, *Hull, Quebec [travelling]*
- 1983-84 Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre, *Sudbury, Ontario*

# Exhibitions

- 1983 NEW DIRECTIONS: EIGHT INDIAN ARTISTS. Gallery 10, *New York, New York*  
DIRECTIONS: AN EXHIBITION OF MASTERWORKS. Northwestern National Exhibition Centre, *Hazelton, British Columbia*  
NEW GROWTH FROM ANCESTRAL ROOTS. Koffler Gallery, *North York, Ontario*  
Scharf Gallery, *Santa Fe, New Mexico*
- 1982 NEW WORK BY A NEW GENERATION. The Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, *Regina, Saskatchewan*  
RENEWAL: MASTERWORKS OF CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART FROM THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION.  
Thunder Bay Art Gallery, *Thunder bay, Ontario*  
Lutz-Bergerson Gallery, Taos, *New Mexico*  
PAINTINGS ON POTTERY BY ANN AND CARL BEAM. Maxwell Museum, University of New Mexico, *Albuquerque, New Mexico*  
TWO SIDES TO ALL STORIES: CARL BEAM, IMPORTANT ART FOR THE 1980s. Scharf Gallery, *Santa Fe, New Mexico [solo]*  
CARL BEAM. Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre, *Sudbury, Ontario [solo]*  
THE SECOND NATIONAL NATIVE ART SHOW/AUCTION. Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, *Toronto, Ontario*
- 1981 CARL BEAM. Gallery 480, *Elora, Ontario [solo]*  
AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS. Native American Centre for the Living Arts, *Niagara Falls, New York*  
CARL BEAM, LYNN TILLERY, AMIEL SCHARF. Lutz-Bergerson Gallery, *Taos, New Mexico*  
VIEWPOINT: TWENTY-NINE BY NINE. Art Gallery of Hamilton, *Hamilton, Ontario*  
CONFLUENCES OF TRADITION AND CHANGE. C.N. Gorman Museum and Richard L. Nelson Gallery, *Davis, California [travelling]*
- 1980 CARL BEAM. Thompson Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario [solo]*  
WOODLAND ART. The Art Gallery of Brant, *Brantford, Ontario*  
ANISHNABE MEE-KUN. Ojibwa Cultural Foundation, *West Bay, Ontario*  
INDIAN ART '80. Woodland Cultural Centre, *Brantford, Ontario*  
NEW COLLEGE INDIAN ART COLLECTION, University of Toronto, *Toronto, Ontario*
- 1979 CARL BEAM. Maxwell Museum, University of New Mexico, *Albuquerque, New Mexico [solo]*  
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, *West Bay, Ontario*  
MacDowell Gallery, *Toronto, Ontario*  
Art Gallery of Algoma, *Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario*
- 1978 Tundra Gallery, *Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario*
- 1977 CARL BEAM. Eagle Down Gallery, *Edmonton, Alberta [solo]*  
GRAPHEX 5: FIFTH ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION OF CANADIAN PRINTS AND DRAWINGS. Art Gallery of Brant, *Brantford, Ontario*

# Awards

- 2005 GOVERNOR GENERALS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS
- 2004 ALL THINGS ARE CONNECTED; CARL & ANN BEAM. OAAG AWARD.
- 2000 INDUCTED INTO THE ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY FIRST PLACE; THE ERNST & YOUNG GREAT CANADIAN PRINTMAKING COMPETITION

# Collections

- ALBRIGHT-KNOX GALLERY, *BUFFALO, NEW YORK*
- ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON, *HAMILTON, ONTARIO*
- ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO, *TORONTO, ONTARIO*
- CANADA COUNCIL ART BANK, *OTTAWA, ONTARIO*
- CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION, *HULL, QUEBEC*
- THE CITY OF BUFFALO, *NEW YORK*
- THE CITY OF REVELSTOKE, *BRITISH COLUMBIA*
- THE CITY OF SUDBURY, *ONTARIO*
- GALLERY 480, ELORA, *ONTARIO*
- GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO ART COLLECTION, *SUDBURY, ONTARIO*
- HEARD MUSEUM, *PHOENIX, ARIZONA*
- INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA, *HULL, QUEBEC*
- LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE, *SUDBURY, ONTARIO*
- LONDON REGIONAL ART GALLERY AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM, *LONDON, ONTARIO*
- McMICHAEL CANADIAN ART GALLERY, *KLEINBURG, ONTARIO*
- NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA, *OTTAWA, ONTARIO*
- NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE, *TORONTO, ONTARIO*
- NEW COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, *TORONTO, ONTARIO*
- OJIBWE CULTURAL CENTRE, *WEST BAY, ONTARIO*
- PEEL REGIONAL MUSEUM, *BRAMPTON, ONTARIO*
- RODMAN HALL ART CENTRE, *ST.-CATHARINES, ONTARIO*
- THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY, *THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO*
- VANCOUVER ART GALLERY, *VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA*
- WILFRED LAURIER UNIVERSITY, *WATERLOO, ONTARIO*
- WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE, *BRANTFORD, ONTARIO*

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