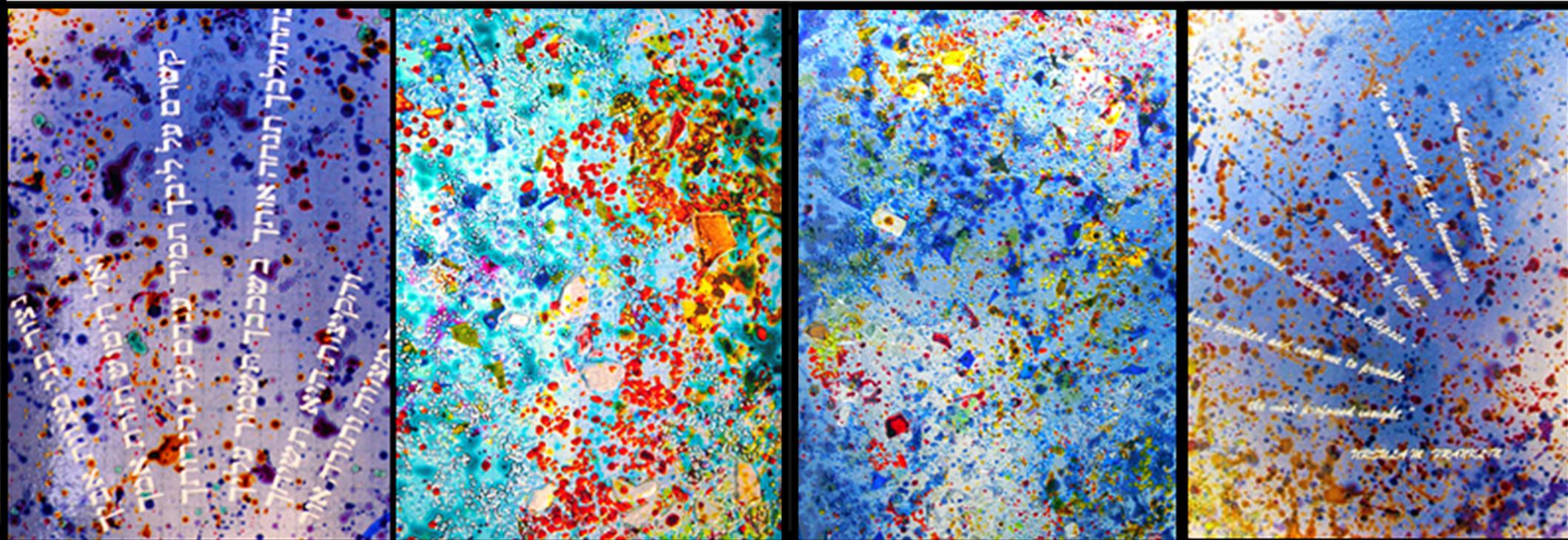


THE WISDOM WINDOWS

Massey College in the University of Toronto is host to the renowned Massey Lectures and academic home to some of the brightest minds in the country. Now it is also home to the "Wisdom Windows", commissioned for the Upper Library by John Fraser, Master of Massey College. The windows honour two outstanding women at Massey, Ursula Franklin, C.C., (College Mentor, Professor Emerita of Physics, and winner of the Pearson Medal for Peace) and Rose Wolfe, C.M., (Benefactor, Chancellor Emerita, Visitor Emerita) and - through them - all the outstanding women of Massey from Brenda Davies and Moira Whalon in the earliest days to such stellar figures as Master Ann Saddlemeyer, astronaut Julie Payette, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and author Dr. Margaret Atwood. The windows were unveiled on December 1st, 2009 in the presence of both Professor Franklin and Dr. Wolfe.



"The windows focus on the nature of Light: the light that allows us to see the world around us, the light that sheds itself on learning, the light that reveals the obscure, the light that banishes ignorance, the light that leads us on in the search for meaning and understanding – in short, the light that leads to wisdom. The nine panels are a unity and should be viewed as a whole, from the base with its elements of earth and rock and water, to the sky above, and finally to the heavens surmounting the whole, represented by a constellation symbolism."

John Fraser



Artistically, these nine windows offer a significant technical achievement in the art of stained glass. Created by Sarah Hall, RCA the windows, measuring 222cm high by 36cm wide each, are composed of richly coloured layers of fused glass giving a highly textured, sculptural surface. A quote from Professor Ursula Franklin, is engraved in the window. Dr. Rose Wolfe chose Hebrew text from scripture which is engraved in the form of a ray of light.

Photography by Andre Beneteau.

For further reading visit: www.sarahhallstudio.com/wisdomwindows

THE WISDOM WINDOWS

Massey College, University of Toronto

Commissioned in 2009 by John Fraser, the Master of the College, the Wisdom Windows honour two outstanding women at Massey College, Ursula Franklin, C.C., (College Mentor, Professor Emerita of physics, and winner of the Pearson Medal for Peace) and Rose Wolfe, C.M., (Benefactor, Chancellor Emerita, Visitor Emerita) and -- through them -- all the outstanding women of Massey from Brenda Davies and Moira Whalon in the earliest days to such stellar contemporary figures as Master Ann Saddlemeyer, astronaut Julie Payette, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, author Dr. Margaret Atwood, and all the other academic and non-academic members of our diverse community .

The windows are the creation of the outstanding Canadian glass artist, Sarah Hall, RCA and were executed at her German studio Glasmalerei Peters during the summer and early fall of 2009, installed at the College in the Upper Library later that same year on December 1st, and “unveiled” in the presence of both Professor Franklin and Dr. Wolfe.

“The windows focus on the nature of Light: the light that allows us to see the world around us, the light that sheds itself on learning, the light that reveals the obscure, the light that banishes ignorance, the light that leads us on in the search for meaning and understanding – in short, the light that leads to wisdom. The nine panels are a unity and should be viewed as a whole, from the base with its elements of earth and rock and water, to the sky above, and finally to the heavens surmounting the whole, represented by a constellation symbolism.”

John Fraser

From the ground, words of wisdom fly up: words chosen by Dr. Wolfe from the Hebrew Scriptures and words written by Professor Franklin, all to do with the nature of Light. Here is what is written:

From the Hebrew Scriptures, “Proverbs” Chapter 6, Verse 20: *My son, keep the commandment of thy father, and forsake not the teaching of thy mother; Bind them continually upon thy heart, tie them about thy neck. When thou walkest, it shall lead thee; when thou liest down, it shall watch over thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light.*

From “Of Light, Enlightenment and Innovation” by Ursula M Franklin: *In the minds of those who observe and study the natural world, Light has always occupied a unique place. The casting of shadows, the sharp edge that divides light and dark, the movement of shadows as the light source changes position; these confer to Light (and her children the colours) the role of a teacher – to illuminate, to enlighten. Light teaches discernment, and nowhere more convincingly than in the observation that too much light on an object as well as too little can hide essential details. It is no wonder that the boundaries between zones of darkness and places of light – the transitions, shadows and eclipses – have provided and continue to provide the most profound insight.*

