

William Perehudoff's artistic journey was deeply rooted in the vast, open landscape of Saskatchewan, where he was born and raised. Even as his reputation grew across Canada and beyond, he remained closely connected to the farmland of his youth—a constant source of inspiration throughout his long career.

Born in 1918 in Saskatoon and raised in the nearby Doukhobor settlement of Bogdanovka, Perehudoff was the eldest of four children in a Russian immigrant family that had fled Czarist oppression at the turn of the century. Russian was his first language, and his formal education ended in his teens, though he continued his learning independently through correspondence courses. His introduction to painting came in his early twenties, encouraged by local mentors such as Ernst Lindner, and his first public showing took place in 1944 at the Saskatoon Art Center.

Perehudoff's early work reflected a realist approach, echoing the style of American Scene painters. Over time, he explored a range of influences—from Cubism and Mexican muralism to the refined visual principles of Purism, which he studied in New York under Amédée Ozenfant. His studies also took him to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, where he trained with Jean Charlot and learned fresco techniques that aligned with his interest in humanist themes.

In 1949, he struck a pivotal connection with Fred Mendel, a meat-packing magnate and arts patron in Saskatoon. Although Perehudoff initially worked at Mendel's factory, he soon proposed a mural project in exchange for continued pay after being laid off. Mendel agreed, resulting in a series of murals that marked a shift toward a more monumental and stylized realism, akin to the work of Thomas Hart Benton. Perehudoff would later create additional mural work for Mendel's home.

His career gathered momentum in the 1950s. A solo exhibition in 1950 and subsequent studies in New York positioned him within a broader dialogue of international modernism. A planned mentorship with Max Beckmann was cut short by the artist's death, but Perehudoff's time at the Ozenfant School of Fine Arts left a lasting impression. In the early 1950s, he traveled through Europe with fellow Saskatchewan artist Dorothy Knowles, whom he married in Paris. They eventually returned to Saskatchewan to raise a family and continued working the Perehudoff farm.

To support his household, Perehudoff accepted a job as a designer with Modern Press in 1954, balancing commercial work with a growing body of abstract and mural art. A key turning point came in 1957, when he participated in the Emma Lake Artist Workshops, beginning a decades-long involvement with the program. These workshops exposed him to leading voices in modern art, including Kenneth Noland, Donald Judd, Anthony Caro, and art critic Clement Greenberg. His relationship with Greenberg and Noland helped solidify his commitment to Color Field painting—a style focused on the emotional impact of pure colour and spatial relationships.

Perehudoff's mature work was known for its lyrical use of colour, often evoking the experience of light across open prairie landscapes without directly referencing them. Viewers frequently described his paintings as visual equivalents of musical

compositions, and it's no surprise that he often painted to the music of Bach and Beethoven. Critics noted the rhythmic interplay of colour blocks in his canvases, likening them to shifting harmonies or spatial pressure points.

Throughout the 1970s and beyond, Perehudoff's work was featured in major exhibitions across Canada, including solo shows in Edmonton, Montreal, and Regina. In 1968, he became the first Saskatchewan-based artist to be elected an associate of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts. His ten-year retrospective in 1981 toured multiple venues, further establishing his influence. In 1987, he took part in the Triangle Workshop, an international gathering focused on artistic exchange rather than art commerce.

His contributions were widely recognized: he received the Canada 125 Medal in 1993, was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1999, and was awarded honorary degrees and provincial honors in the 2000s. In 2010, a major exhibition titled *The Optimism of Colour* celebrated his legacy, accompanied by essays from leading critics and curators.

Even into his nineties, Perehudoff remained active in both farming and painting. He passed away in 2013 at the age of 94, remembered not only as a pioneer of Color Field painting in Canada but as an artist whose work remained deeply attuned to the land and light of the prairie.

CV

1918, Born Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
2013, Died Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
1948 – 49, Studied at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado  
1950 – 51, Studied at Ozenfant School of Fine Arts, New York  
1968, Attended Carnegie Institute of Technology

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Saskatoon Arts Centre, Saskatchewan, 1948.  
Saskatoon Arts Centre, Saskatchewan, 1950.  
Saskatoon Arts Centre, Saskatchewan, 1961.  
Regina Public Library, Saskatchewan, 1961.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1965.  
Regina Public Library, Saskatchewan, 1965.  
Bonli Gallery, Toronto, 1967. The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1970.  
Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta (traveled to Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan), 1971 – 72.  
Noah Goldowsky Gallery, New York, 1974.  
Saskatoon Public Library, Saskatchewan, 1974.  
Theo Waddington Galleries, Montreal, 1974.  
Noah Goldowsky Gallery, New York, 1976.  
Waddington-Tooth Gallery, London, 1976.  
Theo Waddington Galleries, Montreal, 1977.  
Glenbow Alberta Institute, Calgary, 1977 – 78.  
Banff Fine Art Centre Gallery, Edmonton, 1978.  
Gallery One, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1978.  
Meredith Long Contemporary Gallery, New York, 1978.  
University of Alberta Art Gallery, Edmonton, 1978.  
Waddington Gallery, Toronto, 1978.  
Theo Waddington Galleries, Montreal, 1979.  
Theo Waddington Gallery, London, 1979.  
Downstairs Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 1980.  
Meredith Long Contemporary Gallery, New York, 1980.  
Waddington Gallery, Toronto, 1980.  
Canadian Art Galleries, Calgary, Alberta, 1981.  
Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (traveled to various locations in Canada), catalogue by Karen Wilkin, 1981 – 83.  
Downstairs Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 1982.  
Waddington Galleries, New York, 1982.  
Waddington Shiell Gallery, Toronto, 1982.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1983.  
Waddington Shiell Gallery, Toronto, 1983.  
Waddington Shiell Gallery, Toronto, 1985.  
Woltjen Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 1985.  
Canadian Art Galleries, Calgary, Alberta, 1986.  
Waddington Gorce Inc., Montreal, 1986.  
Waddington Shiell Gallery, Toronto, 1986.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1987.  
Waddington Shiell Gallery, Toronto, 1987.  
Eva Cohon Gallery, Chicago, 1988.  
Waddington Gorce Inc, Montreal, 1988.  
Woltjen Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta and Vancouver, 1988.  
Canadian Art Galleries, Calgary, Alberta, 1989.  
Miriam Shiell Fine Art Ltd., Toronto, 1990.  
Waddington Gorce Inc, Montreal, 1990.

Woltjen Udell Gallery, Edmonton, 1990.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1991.  
Woltjen Udell Gallery, Vancouver, 1991.  
Grand Forks Art Gallery, British Columbia, 1992.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1993.  
Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, 1993.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (traveled to Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta; Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta), William Perehudoff, 1993 – 94.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1996.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver, 1997.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver, 1998.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1998.  
Winchester Art Galleries, Victoria, British Columbia, 1998.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 1999. The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1999.  
Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, 2000.  
New Zones Art Gallery, Calgary, Alberta, Millennium Exhibition, 2000.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 2001.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, William Perehudoff, Now and Then, 2002.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 2003.  
Winchester Galleries, Victoria, British Columbia, 2004.  
Art Placement, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, William Perehudoff – Important Works from the 90s, 2006.  
Canada House, London, William Perehudoff, Colour Chording Post Painterly Abstraction of the Canadian Prairies, 2006.  
Canada House, London, 2006.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Vancouver, Muse for Major Paintings, 2007.  
Nikola Rukaj Gallery, Toronto, 2007.  
NewZones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, 2008.  
Poussin Gallery, London, 2008.  
Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Fifty Years of Abstraction, 2010.  
Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (traveled to Kamloops Art Gallery, British Columbia; Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta; Art Gallery of Windsor, Ontario, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario), The Optimism of Colour: William Perehudoff, A Retrospective, curated by Karen Wilkin and Roald Nasgaard, 2010 – 12.  
Nikola Rukaj Gallery, Toronto, 2011.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, 2012.  
Han Art Gallery, Montreal, 2013.  
Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, 2013.  
The Mural Room, College Art Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, William Perehudoff, 2013.  
Berry Campbell, William Perehudoff: Color Field Paintings from the 1980s, 2013.  
Berry Campbell, New York, William Perehudoff: A Retrospective, 2015.  
Newzones, Calgary, William Perehudoff: “four decades”, 2016.  
Rukaj Gallery, Toronto, William Perehudoff, 2017.  
Berry Campbell, New York, William Perehudoff: Architect of Color, 2019.  
Rukaj Gallery, Toronto, Perehudoff, 2023.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

The Saskatoon Art Association, Saskatchewan, Spring Show, 1945.  
The Saskatoon Art Association, Saskatchewan, Fall Show, 1946.  
The Saskatoon Art Centre, Saskatchewan, Two Person Show with Mashel Teitelbaum, 1946.  
The Saskatoon Art Association, Saskatchewan, Spring Show, 1947.  
The Saskatoon Art Association, Saskatchewan, Spring Show, 1948.  
The Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, Artists of Saskatchewan, 1952.  
The Saskatoon Art Centre, Saskatchewan, Two Person Show with Dorothy Perehudoff, 1952.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, Winnipeg Biennial, 1962.  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal Spring Show, 1963.  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal Spring Show, 1964.  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal Spring Show, 1965.  
Saskatchewan Jubilee, Regina, Saskatchewan Artists (Clement Greenberg as coordinator), 1965.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, 1965.  
Calgary Allied Arts Centre, Alberta, 1966.  
The Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Artists, 1967.  
The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, British Columbia, 1968.  
The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canadian Artists, 1968.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 1968.  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts, 1968.  
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Survey 68, 1968.  
The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Exhibition of Canadian Painting, 1968.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, 1968. Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, 11<sup>th</sup> Winnipeg Show, 1968.  
The Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario (traveled to Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta), 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition, Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, 1968 – 69.  
Waddington Galleries, Montreal, 1969.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Four Western Colourists, 1970.  
Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta (traveled to The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; The Glenbow, Calgary, Alberta), West 71 (catalogue by Karen Wilkin), 1971.  
The Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan (traveled to Public Library, Regina, Saskatchewan),  
Saskatchewan Art and Artists, 1971.  
Waddington Galleries, Montreal, 1972.  
Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario, 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Canadian Art, 1973.  
Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta, Edmonton Collects (catalogue by Karen Wilkin), 1973.  
The Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, Emma Lake Workshops, 1973.  
The Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, Recent Acquisitions of the Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, 1973.  
Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta, Prairie 74, 1974.  
Hamilton Art Gallery, Ontario (traveled to Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Ontario), 9 out of 10 – A Survey of Contemporary Canadian Art, 1974.  
Wallack Gallery, Ottawa, Ontario, 1974.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Major Saskatchewan Artists, 1975.  
National circulating exhibition, The Canadian Canvas (catalogue by Dorris Shadbolt, Karen Wilkin, Alvin Balking, Ferdinand St. Martin, and Allan Mackay), 1975 – 76.  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario (traveled to various locations in Canada), Emma Lake and After, 1976.  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, 14 Canadians, A Critic's Choice, 1977.  
Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta, Modern Painting in Canada (catalogue by Terry Fenton and Karen Wilkin), 1978.  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (traveled to various locations), 7 Prairie Painters, 1978 – 79.  
Collector's Choice Art Gallery Ltd., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Group Show, 1979.  
The Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta, Aspects of Canadian Painting in the Seventies, 1980.

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario, The Heritage of Jack Bush, A Tribute, 1981.  
Assiniboia Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, 1986.  
Woltjen Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta (traveled to Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta), Fall Show, 1986.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Tradition and Innovation, Saskatoon Art and the 1950s, 1987.  
Triangle Artists' Workshop Exhibition, Pine Plains, New York, 1987.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Talking Through Time, Contemporary Art from Saskatoon, 1988.  
Swift Current National Exhibition Centre, Saskatchewan, A Common Bond, 1988.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, The Flat Side of a Landscape, The Emma Lake Artist's Workshops, 1989.  
McMullan Gallery, University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton, A Family Show, 1990.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, New Acquisitions, 1993.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, The Urban Prairie, 1994.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta and Vancouver, Christmas Show, 1995.  
Kootenay Art Gallery, Castlegar, British Columbia, 1996.  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba, Royal Canadian Academy Group Show, 2000.  
Atrium Gallery, Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto, Triangle Workshop Artists of OCAD, 2001.  
The MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, 2001.  
Portland Art Museum, Oregon, Clement Greenberg, A Critic's Choice, 2001.  
Assiniboia Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, 2002.  
Douglas Udell Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta, Fall Show, 2002.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, New Abstraction, 2003.  
Kenderdine Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Loadstar, 2003.  
The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, The Uncanny, Experiments in Cyborg Culture, 2003.  
Winchester Art Gallery, Victoria, British Columbia, 2003.  
Kenderdine Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (traveled to APT Gallery, Deptford, United Kingdom), Three Generations, William Perehudoff, Robert Christie, Jonathan Forrest, 2004 - 05.  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, The Shape of Colour: Excursions in Colour Field Art, 1950 – 2005, 2005. The Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (with The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario), 2005.  
The Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Seeing Through Modernist Edmonton 1970 – 1985, 2008.  
The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Abstract Painting in Canada, 2008.  
Poussin Gallery, London, Poussin Review, Form and Space, 2008.  
The Gallery / Art Placement Inc., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, A Conversation in Colour (with John McLean), 2010.  
Poussin Gallery, London, Colour and Substance, Willard Boeopple, John McLean, William Perehudoff, and Tim Scott, 2011.  
Kenderdine Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, The Shortest Distance Between Two Points, 2012.

#### AWARDS

1995 Order of Merit of Saskatchewan  
1999 Order of Canada

#### EMMA LAKE WORKSHOPS

Will Barnet, 1957  
Herman Cherry, 1961  
Clement Greenberg, 1962  
Kenneth Noland, 1963  
Donald Judd, 1968  
Triangle Artist's Workshop, Pine Plains, New York, 1987  
William Perehudoff (workshop leader), 1988  
Willard Boeopple, Robert Kudielka, Dorothy Knowles, 1990

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

AbitibiBowater Inc., Montreal  
American Express Company, New York  
The Argus Corporation, Toronto  
Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta  
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, British Columbia  
Art Gallery of Mississauga, Ontario  
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto  
Art Gallery of Windsor, Ontario  
Bank of Montreal / Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto  
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario  
Canadian Potash Exporters, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
City of Saskatoon, Frances Morrison Library, Saskatchewan  
The Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta, Georgia  
Confederation Centre Art Gallery, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan  
Fasken Martineau, Toronto  
F.H. Deacon Hodgson Inc., Toronto  
Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta  
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, London  
Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York  
Kamloops Art Gallery, British Columbia  
Museum London, Ontario  
The MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan  
McMillan Binch LLP, Toronto  
McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton, Ontario  
McIntosh Gallery, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario  
MDC Group of Companies, Kedah, Malaysia  
Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Mine Supply Company of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon  
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Collection Lavalin  
Museum of New Zealand  
Nabisco, East Hanover, New Jersey  
National Art Gallery of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario  
National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India  
Portland Art Museum, Oregon  
Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon  
Principal Trust Company, Wilmington, Delaware  
Remai Modern Museum, Saskatoon, Canada  
Rexel Canada Electrical Inc., Mississauga, Canada  
Royal Bank of Canada, Montreal  
Saskatchewan Arts Board, Regina and Saskatoon  
Saskatchewan Telecommunications Holding Corporation, Regina  
Shell Canada Limited, Calgary, Alberta  
TD Canada Trust, Toronto  
Txibanguan Ltd., Toronto  
University of Calgary, Alberta  
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
University of Lethbridge, Alberta  
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon  
Vancouver Art Gallery  
Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba