

Press release: House/Homes: *Neighbourhood Scenes and Stories*

By **Wendy Gervais**

Contributors: Shirley Serviss and Ken Tingley

January 11- March 16, 2014

OPENING CELEBRATION: Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:00-9:00 PM

McMullen Gallery (main floor of the University of Alberta Hospital)

8440-112 St., Edmonton, AB, T6G 2B7

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Step into the gallery and step into the past. Step into an historic neighbourhood.

Edmonton visual artist, Wendy Gervais, invokes an ambiance of the present and an intrigue of the past with this series of colourful chalk drawings of homes in the Garneau neighbourhood.

Accompanying the drawings are fictionalized narratives reflecting the character of the houses in the series. These short stories, written by Garneau poet and writer Shirley Serviss, are of events and people “if the walls could talk”.

An historical reference is also available. Ken Tingley, a distinguished historian in Edmonton, has gathered and presented a provenance of the houses represented in the drawings and stories. The facts conjure ideas in our imagination and we invite you to learn and envision more about the Garneau neighbourhood.

The drawings are representative of neighbourhood homes and the written accounts are fictitious although grounded in community reflections, this exhibit, **Houses/Homes**, will encourage the viewer to revel in possibilities.

The Houses/Homes project has been generously supported by the Living Local Neighbourhoods Arts and Heritage Grant Program sponsored by the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. This initiative engages artists with the history of their communities. The exhibit is the original and researched work of three collaborators, Wendy Gervais, Shirley Serviss and Ken Tingley.

