

**PROPERTY OF THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER**

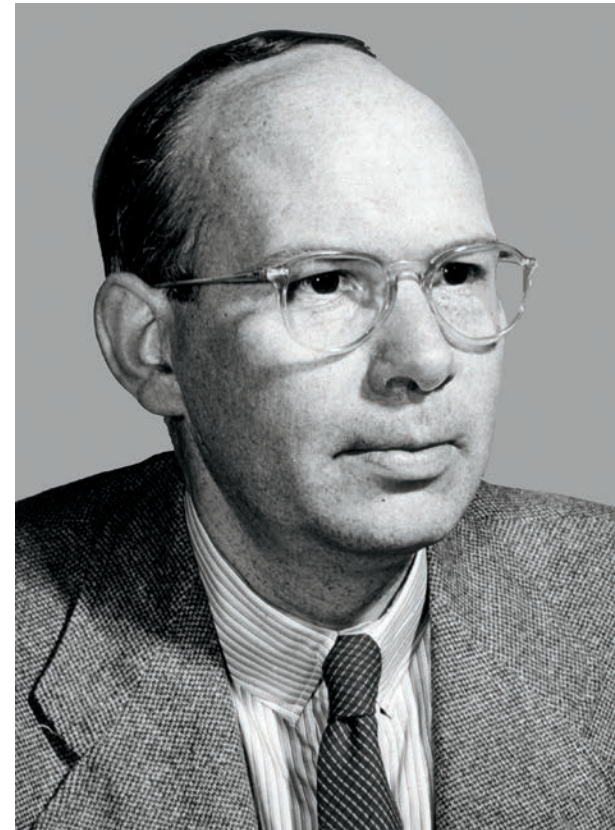


Brock Hall Art Gallery, circa 1960
Unknown photographer
Courtesy of University of British Columbia Archives, UBC 1.1/11094

IN 1940, ENGLISH professor Hunter Lewis approached the Alma Mater Society (the non-profit student society) of the University of British Columbia with the idea of initiating an art collection. Eight years later, the University of British Columbia's Alma Mater Society Art Collection began its life as the Brock Hall Art Collection with the purchase of *Abandoned Village, Rivers Inlet, BC* by E.J. Hughes for \$150, lot 18 in this sale. The Brock Hall Art Collection took its name from the newly opened Brock Hall on campus, which was the Alma Mater Society's student union building until 1968. Between the years 1955 and 1968, energetic individuals such as artist and professor B.C. Binning and AMS vice-president Ronald Longstaffe would undertake to build a modern collection of astonishing variety and quality. Binning and Longstaffe looked to the University of Toronto's Hart House for inspiration and guidance for the collection. Through correspondence back and forth with Binning and Hart House, the AMS was able to secure

the support of influential artists, including Lawren Harris, who would donate funds to acquire artwork, including his own, lot 17 in this sale. Binning remained a steadfast leader of the collection from 1958 to 1968 and under his management, the collection acquired 23 pieces of Canadian art. A landmark donation to the collection was received via *Macleans*' magazine in 1958, including pieces by Harris, John Koerner, Bruno Bobak, Molly Bobak, Gordon Smith and Joe Plaskett, further strengthening the existing power of the Brock Hall Collection. Binning also looked beyond the acquisitions of the collection, scheduling inspiring artist studio visits for the committee to artists such as Takao Tanabe and Jack Shadbolt, and also organized an exhibition of the collection at the Vancouver Art Gallery. In 1968, Binning retired from UBC and the Fine Arts Department, and the Binning era ended.

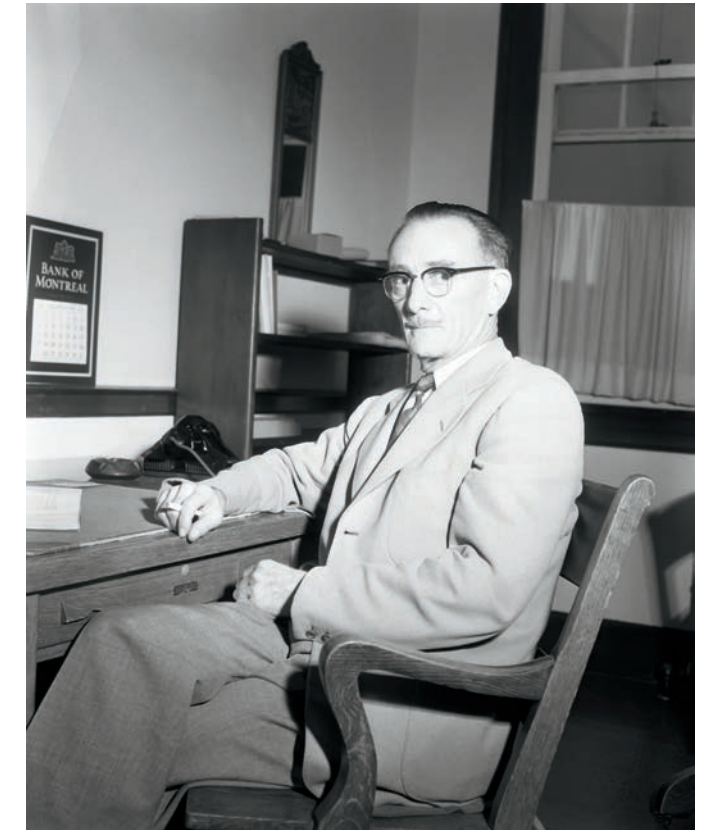
By the 1970s the committee was called the SUB Art Gallery Committee and the collection was moved into the new Student



B.C. Binning, co-founder of the Department of Fine Arts at UBC, circa 1960
Unknown photographer
Courtesy of the City of Vancouver Archives, AM1616-: CVA 136-028

Union Building. Contemporary works by Iain Baxter, Michael Morris, Gathie Falk and Jack Chambers were added to the collection. The following decades were a period of change for the collection—for the committee structures, exhibition spaces and guidance of the collection. In 2015, AMS Nest, the new student building, was completed and the collection moved into storage in this building. The majority of the collection remains in storage.

In 2012, a student referendum was passed authorizing the AMS to sell three artworks from the collection, with a one-year time frame. In 2017, the student union held another referendum on the sale of artworks from the AMS collection. The students voted and again authorized the sale of the paintings, but this time up to four works of art from the collection. The goal was to raise funds for the students and reduce the operating costs of holding the collection. In 2018, Heffel sold *Jeune fille en uniforme* by Jean Paul Lemieux, lot 17 in our November *Post-War & Contemporary Art* sale, raising much-needed funds for the students of UBC. This sale represents a continuation of the partnership between the UBC AMS and Heffel. The sale of *Abandoned Village, Rivers*



Hunter Lewis, UBC professor, circa 1950 – 1959
Unknown photographer
Courtesy of University of British Columbia Archives, UBC 1.1/5411.1

Inlet, BC and *Northern Image* will contribute to the AMS's overarching goal of improving the quality of the educational, social and personal lives of the students of UBC Vancouver. Run by elected student leaders, dedicated staff, and volunteers, the AMS exists solely to serve the 60,000-plus students at UBC Vancouver. From providing student services that support student health and education, to hosting meaningful and impactful community events, to reducing student debt and improving student housing, the AMS advocates for student interests to the university and all levels of government. The consignor proceeds will further benefit the students by reducing a financial deficit.

In 2012, the Patsy and David Heffel Award in Art History at UBC was established to provide financial assistance to third-year art history undergraduate students in need of support for the continuation of their studies.

Many Heffel staff members are proud UBC alumni, and the AMS art collection is both personally and professionally significant to us. We are honoured to facilitate the sale of these masterpiece paintings to support future AMS endeavours.