



Heather Carroll, sculptor and artist  
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162 nationalities live in Luxembourg,

including 500 Canadians

162 nationalités cohabitent à Luxembourg,

dont 500 Canadiens

# Stone Whisperer

Heather Carroll has never let the size of a stone stop her from wanting to sculpt it. The sandstone piece she is currently sculpting weighs three tonnes. *“I’ve made some sketches and there may be a unicorn in there... but I’ll have to see what the stone reveals!”*

**T**he stone itself dictates the process. She never has a pre-conceived image before seeing the stone. *“I never impose my ideas onto the stone. It is an exchange. I look at the stone and it tells me what it is. It is often mythical, sometimes animalistic or even human – but never abstract. It is always in a figurative form.”*

Some of her stone sculptures are on permanent exhibit in Luxembourg and display the character of the stone – its delicacy, its individual vein of colour – as well as the “discovered” shapes embodied within: *Dei Glecklechen Hieschen* (the Happy Rabbit) at a pre-school in Ermsdorf and a six-tonne sculpture in a park in Schifflange called *Creatures of the Wood*. Her work was also featured in this year’s Festival of Sculpture in Differdange. In addition to sculptures, exhibits of her other medium – engraving and printing – have been shown throughout Europe.

Heather has lived in Luxembourg for 17 years, but her roots lie in the eastern Canadian province of Labrador, which has a strong Inuit heritage. *“My great-grandmother was Inuit and because I can trace my lineage directly I am Kablunangajuk, or Inuit-European.”* Her family later moved to Toronto where Heather pursued a Fine Arts degree at the University of Toronto. Heather began her artistic career as a printmaker and still uses the traditional methods, without acids, as she carves and inks onto a plate, which is then printed on an etching press. She soon started experimenting with →



Jill Kibbey, «rédactrice»  
Jill Kibbey, rédactrice

## Canadian Connections

Jill Kibbey first developed a “*taste for TV*” when she was hired by RTL just out of university. That was followed by production work in the local film industry, including props and set design. “*Film is so much more than what you see on the screen.*” One of the most crucial lessons? “*Learning how to get things done – how to speak the international language of ‘Lets Do This.’*” Today Jill is a *rédactrice* for a Luxembourg-based TV station that broadcasts via satellite to 300 million viewers from Europe to the Middle East. “*LUXE.TV is dedicated to all aspects of the luxury industry, interviewing designers and artisans in documentary-style reports.*” After almost 20 years in France and Luxembourg, this self-described “*Bohemian*” is now gravitating towards her Canadian roots. Jill, her partner Chris, and their three children enjoy the social aspect of the Canadian Club. She describes her fellow Canadians as “*casual, individualistic... and possessing a slightly acidic sense of humour.*” DFA

## Connexions canadiennes

Jill Kibbey a vu son «*goût pour la télévision*» se développer lorsqu’à sa sortie de l’université, elle fut engagée à RTL. Elle travailla ensuite dans la production pour l’industrie cinématographique locale, notamment comme accessoiriste et créatrice de décors. «*Un film, c’est tellement plus que ce que vous voyez à l’écran.*» Une des leçons des plus cruciales? «*Apprendre à faire les choses.*» Aujourd’hui, Jill est *rédactrice* pour une chaîne de télévision basée au Luxembourg qui diffuse ses programmes par satellite auprès de 300 millions de téléspectateurs, de l’Europe au Moyen-Orient. «*LUXE.TV se consacre à tous les aspects de l’industrie du luxe au travers de reportages au style documentaire.*» Après presque vingt années passées en France et au Luxembourg, celle qui se décrit comme une «*Bohémienne*» renoue avec ses racines canadiennes. Jill, son compagnon Chris et leurs trois enfants apprécient la vie sociale du Canadian Club. Elle décrit ses compatriotes canadiens comme «*décontractés, individualistes...et dotés d’un sens de l’humour légèrement acide.*»

→ collotypes, taking a variety of materials and assembling them on the press, creating images one on top of the other. “*It’s like putting together a puzzle. It can be very complicated but each one is wholly unique.*” From these relief plates Heather was drawn into sculpting. She once made a carving in a small piece of stone and noticed “*it looked just like a fossil.*” She has been sculpting ever since.

## Bringing stones to life

Much of the success of the finished sculptures depends on the very first step – choosing the piece of stone. She sometimes finds them on forest paths while walking her two dogs. “*This one,*” she points to a sandstone sculpture, “*is called Dancing Man and it was too heavy to carry, so I had to drive back to the forest to get it home. But I knew it was special – you get this sense for it after a while. As I started to carve it, the rose and grey of the stone and the iron deposits naturally revealed the colours of a face and boots, almost as if it had been planned.*”

Her search for the “*right*” stones has led her to local quarries where she unloads her wheel-

barrow, dodging between commercial trucks hauling tonnes of sandstone and alabaster, and looks through the rubble for suitable pieces. “*I probably have two to three tonnes of stones in my workshop now. I like to keep pallets in reserve!*” Once a stone is transported to her workshop, she doesn’t immediately start to carve it. “*First I clean it; remove the shell-like debris. Then I can see what has been lying dormant under the skin. It’s like excavating – and I never know what I may find underneath.*”

As Heather works from the outer crust inward, she decides the rough form. She uses electric grinders to cut cross-sections into the stone, then switches to hand tools – files, chisels, and hammer – to “*activate the stone, bring it back to life.*” If she uncovers a fossil, she may try to use it in the finished form.

It is the type of stone rather than the size that determines the tools, and often, the time required. She may work every day from two weeks to two months on one piece. “*What people don’t realise about sculpting is that it is a physical and technical medium as well as a creative one. You are constantly making decisions. It is sometimes difficult to know when you are finished with a piece. And always, always you have to pay attention to the safety aspects!*”

She points to a scar on her arm. “*That was 13 stitches because I was trying to hold a grinder with only one hand.*”

## Coming Full-Circle

Heather has found the local Luxembourgish community supportive of her art. “*Luxembourg has been the cradle for my inspiration. It is here that I started sculpting and decided to commit myself entirely to this work.*” In addition to her exhibitions she has led local workshops in printmaking, sculpting and silk-screening for adults and children.

Continuing an artistic journey that has evolved from printmaking to sculpting, crossing continents in the process, Heather is now actively reconnecting with her Inuit heritage. She travels back to Labrador this summer to create a multimedia project called *Dreaming Outside*, in collaboration with local Inuit and Indian artists. She feels that she has come full-circle. “*I am fascinated by intercultural connections. I believe that artists can possess a genetic memory, a link to their roots. They may be reflecting something of the past without even being aware of it.*”

Deborah Fulton-Anderson



## AhHa Moments Eclats de rire

There's a lot of sound in James Libbey's classroom. There is the traditional piano, but the methods of teaching music have moved far from the regimen of scales and theory. The walls in this music room are filled with colourful drums, maracas, and congas – instruments with fun names like Boomwhackers and others that mimic the sounds of rain or oceans. Xylophones line other shelves – all inviting his students to experiment. Orff instruments (inspired by the German composer Carl Orff) are used to “experience” the music first. “I like to explore music with my students on all different levels.” Rhythm, melody and improvisation are now introduced at a very young age. “Every day there is an Ah-Ha moment in this class.” James is a professional musician from Cornwall, Ontario, who spent years touring North America with his Celtic-rock group before getting his Masters in Music Education. He met his Austrian wife, Johanna, while teaching in Graz and they have three children. James still finds time to play his bagpipes and trumpet. “Music is the key to opening doors, no matter where you go!” DFA

La classe de James Libbey résonne de sonorités variées. On y entend bien sûr le traditionnel piano, mais les méthodes d'enseignement de la musique sont ici différentes de l'habituel régime «gammes et solfège». Cette salle est pleine de tambours de maracas, de congas, de Boomwhackers, qui imitent le son de la pluie ou de la mer, de xylophones et de glockenspiels. Les instruments «Orff» (inspirés par le compositeur allemand Carl Orff) sont utilisés pour faire d'abord «l'expérience» de la musique. «J'aime explorer la musique sur différents niveaux avec mes élèves. Il y a chaque jour des éclats de rire dans cette classe». James est un musicien professionnel originaire de Cornwall, Ontario, et qui a passé des années à donner des concerts en Amérique du Nord avec son groupe de rock celtique avant d'obtenir son Masters en Education Musicale. Il rencontre sa femme Johanna, une Autrichienne, alors qu'il enseigne à Graz et ils ont trois enfants. Mais James parvient toujours à trouver un peu de temps pour jouer de la cornemuse, de la trompette et du piano. «La musique est la clé qui ouvre toutes les portes, où que vous alliez!»

James Libbey, music teacher  
James Libbey, professeur de musique

## Les murmures de la pierre

**J**amais la taille d'une pierre n'a empêché Heather Carroll d'avoir envie de la sculpter. La pièce de grès sur laquelle elle travaille actuellement pèse trois tonnes. «J'ai fait quelques croquis et il se pourrait que ce soit une licorne... Mais je verrai ce que la pierre me révèle!»

En tant que sculpteur, Heather laisse la pierre diriger elle-même les opérations. Elle n'a jamais d'image préconçue. «Je n'impose jamais mes idées à la pierre. C'est un échange. Je la regarde et elle me dit ce qu'elle renferme. Il s'agit souvent d'un sujet mythique, parfois animalier ou même humain – mais jamais abstrait. Il s'agit toujours d'une forme figurative».

### Physique, technique et créatif

C'est le type de pierre plutôt que sa taille qui détermine le choix des outils et, souvent, le temps de travail nécessaire. Elle peut travailler chaque jour pendant deux semaines ou deux mois sur une seule œuvre. «Les gens ne réalisent

pas que la sculpture est un art aussi bien physique et technique que créatif».

### Héritage inuit

Certaines de ses sculptures en pierre sont visibles en exposition permanente au Luxembourg. Elles révèlent la personnalité de la pierre – sa délicatesse, ses veines colorées bien particulières – ainsi que les formes «découvertes» en son cœur par l'artiste: Dei Glecklechen Hieschen (*le Joyeux Lapin*) est exposé à Ermsdorf et *Creatures of the Wood* (*Créatures des Bois*), une sculpture de six tonnes, à Schifflange.

Heather vit au Luxembourg depuis 17 ans, mais ses racines se trouvent dans une province de l'Est du Canada, le Labrador, riche d'un fort patrimoine inuit. «Mon arrière-grand-mère était Inuit et comme je suis sa descendante directe, je suis Kablunangajuk, ou Inuit-Européenne». Sa famille a ensuite rejoint Toronto où Heather a obtenu un diplôme au département Beaux-Arts de l'université de Toronto.

Poursuivant un périple artistique qui l'a menée des techniques d'impression à la scul-

ture et lui a fait traverser les continents, Heather renoue désormais activement avec son passé inuit. Elle retournera cet été au Labrador afin de créer un projet multimédia intitulé *Dreaming Outside* en collaboration avec les artistes inuits et indiens locaux. Elle a le sentiment d'avoir fait le tour du cercle. «Je suis fascinée par les liens interculturels. Je crois que les artistes possèdent une mémoire génétique, un lien avec leurs racines. Ils sont peut-être le reflet d'un élément du passé, sans même le savoir».



## En garde. Prêts? Allez!

"I think the goal of sports is to have fun," says Aude Villeneuve as she assumes the *en garde* stance of competitive fencing. "But I also want to win!" At 19, Aude is planning to pursue a university degree in Sports Education. Her list of sporting pursuits is as long as her *épée* sword—from volleyball and basketball to the martial arts. But Aude prefers the individual challenge of fencing. "It is a sport of concentration and also of endurance. Many people think it's easy, but in fact you have to be very fit." Like many Luxembourg Lycée students, Aude is multilingual. The French that she speaks with her family has a slightly different nuance – Aude is Québécois and her Canadian connection remains strong. "I haven't lived in Quebec since I was four, but I am Canadian!" Aude's mother, Nathalie, is the President of the Canadian Club, which organises the traditional community barbeque on Canada Day. "Unfortunately I don't meet many Canadians of my own age. But my Luxembourgish friends are always asking me to speak Québécois. They smile when they hear it!"

Aude Villeneuve, Lycée student  
Aude Villeneuve, lycéenne

## En garde. Prêts? Allez!

«Je pense que le but du sport, c'est de s'amuser», déclare Aude Villeneuve, tandis qu'elle se met en garde selon la posture utilisée en escrime de compétition. «Mais j'ai quand même envie de gagner»! A 19 ans, Aude a pour projet d'obtenir un diplôme universitaire en Education Sportive. Sa liste d'objectifs sportifs est aussi longue que son épée – du volley-ball au basket-ball en passant par les arts martiaux. Mais Aude préfère le défi individuel que représente l'escrime. «C'est un sport qui exige de la concentration et de l'endurance également. Beaucoup de gens pensent que c'est facile mais en fait il faut vraiment être en excellente forme physique». Aude parle plusieurs langues. Le français qu'elle pratique en famille a des intonations légèrement différentes – Aude est québécoise. «Je n'ai pas vécu au Québec depuis l'âge de quatre ans, mais je suis canadienne»! Nathalie, la mère d'Aude, est présidente du Canadian Club. «Je rencontre malheureusement peu de Canadiens de mon âge. Mes amis me demandent de parler québécois. Ça les fait sourire»!

## Canada Facts



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Consulate of Canada**  
Mrs Marie-Claire Goller-Faber,  
Honorary Consul of Canada  
15, rue Guillaume Schneider  
L-2522 Luxembourg  
Tel 26 27 05 70, Fax 26 27 06 70  
[canada@pt.lu](mailto:canada@pt.lu), [www.canada.lu](http://www.canada.lu)

### CANADA IN LUXEMBOURG:

**Canadian Club of Luxembourg**  
Nathalie Villeneuve, President  
<http://canucksinlux.red-dog.com>  
[dnvill@internet.lu](mailto:dnvill@internet.lu)

### CANADIAN EVENTS JULY:

01.07.07 **Canada Day Celebration**  
1100-1900 Camping Kengert Larochette  
Tel 31 64 43, [dnvill@internet.lu](mailto:dnvill@internet.lu)  
01.07-09.09.07 **Frank Gehry Exposition**  
*Douleur Exquise*  
Rotunde 1, rue du Bonnevoie, Luxembourg

### WHERE CANADIANS MEET:

Third Thursday Events (various pubs, monthly)  
Info: Heather Murdoch  
[heathermurdoch@canada.com](mailto:heathermurdoch@canada.com)

### ABOUT CANADA:

**Population:** 07/2007: 33,390,141  
**Capital:** Ottawa  
**Government:** Constitutional monarchy and Parliamentary democracy  
**National Day:** 1 July (1867)  
**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor General Michaëlle Jean  
**Head of government:** Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
**Geography:** Northern North America, bordering the North Atlantic, North Pacific, and Arctic Oceans

### HOW DO YOU SAY? – CANADIAN SLANG:

**Loonie** – one Canadian dollar  
**Toonie** – two Canadian dollars  
**Chesterfield** – sofa or couch

### FRENCH CANADIAN SAYINGS –

#### LES DITS QUEBÉCOIS:

**Le diable est aux vaches.**  
(The devil's in the cows.)  
The weather will change soon.  
**Avoir des bêtes dans la tête**  
(To have bugs in your head.)  
To be a little crazy.  
**Çé tsigidou.**  
Everything's fine.

#### FAMOUS CANADIANS:

**Margaret Atwood**, writer | **Wayne Gretzky**, ice hockey player | **Celine Dion**, singer | **Mario Lemieux**, ice hockey player | **Jim Carrey**, actor | **Joni Mitchell**, singer | **Keanu Reeves**, actor | **Donald Sutherland**, actor | **Alice Munro**, writer | **Neil Young**, singer | **Gordon Lightfoot**, singer | **KD Lang**, singer | **Bryan Adams**, singer | **Diana Krall**, singer | **Pierre Trudeau**, controversial Prime Minister