

Catalogue

- 1 *"Power Emanating From Ancient Spirit Vision"*
acrylic on canvas, 67 x 50 inches, 1972
- 2 *"Ojibway Warrior At One With Earth"*
acrylic on canvas, 59-1/2 x 50 inches, 1987
- 3 *"Shaman Rider"*
acrylic on canvas, 50 x 46 inches, 1970
- 4 *"Thunderbird God"*
acrylic on canvas, 52 x 46 inches, ca. 1975
- 5 *"Dream of The Great Migration"*
acrylic on canvas, 68 x 50 inches, 1987
- 6 *"Fear of What Lies Beyond Our Limited Existence"*
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48 inches, 1984
- 7 *"An Earth Spirit and Three Smaller Spirits Searching"*
acrylic on canvas, 56 x 46 inches, 1983
- 8 *"Family: Mother and Child"*
acrylic on canvas, 42 x 30 inches, ca. early 1980's
- 9 *"Mortal Man in Emptiness of Peace"*
acrylic on canvas, 50-1/2 x 29-1/2 inches, 1972
- 10 *"Danar Surrounded By Sacred Water of Life"*
acrylic on canvas, 47-1/2 x 23 inches, 1972
- 11 *"Ojibway Warriors Riding Sacred Bear"*
acrylic on canvas, 44 x 65-1/2 inches, 1976
- 12 *"Future Vision"*
acrylic on canvas, 40 x 33-1/2 inches, 1982
- 13 *"Passing Friend"*
acrylic on canvas, 50 x 39 inches, 1978
- 14 *"Emerging From Solitude of Dream of Silence"*
acrylic on canvas, 49 x 35 inches, ca. 1981
- 15 *"Nahma Shaman Legend"*
acrylic on canvas, 49-1/2 x 25-1/2 inches, 1986
- 16 *"Astral Consciousness"*
acrylic on canvas, 50-1/2 x 38-1/2 inches, ca. 1978
- 17 *"Children Telling Frightening Stories at Pangnirtung"*
acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 inches, 1980
- 18 *"Beginning of Spring"*
acrylic on canvas, 34 x 48 inches, 1971
- 19 *"Childlike Wonder"*
acrylic on canvas, 42 x 34 inches, 1972
- 20 *"Spiritual Self Seeking Insight"*
acrylic on canvas, 39-1/2 x 37 inches, 1985

Norval Morrisseau

The Spirit Within

Kinsman Robinson Galleries, Toronto

Norval Morrisseau is an Ojibway Indian who was raised by his Grandfather according to the great native tradition. He is an artist and a shaman. Morrisseau, the painter, juxtaposes colour with a sophistication that places him among the master colourists of the twentieth-century such as Kandinsky, Matisse and Vasarely. Morrisseau, the shaman, gathers his subject matter from a stock of ancient myths and legends that are themselves charged with great mystical power. He is considered the "Father" of contemporary Woodland Indian art. Morrisseau is the inspiration for an entire art movement and the creator of a unique new art form which began in the late 1950's, flourished through the mid 1970's, and has since become known as the Woodland Indian school of art. Characterized by the use of heavy black outlines enclosing colourful, flat, planar shapes, the Woodland Indian school has grown to over three hundred followers producing many variations on the Morrisseau theme.

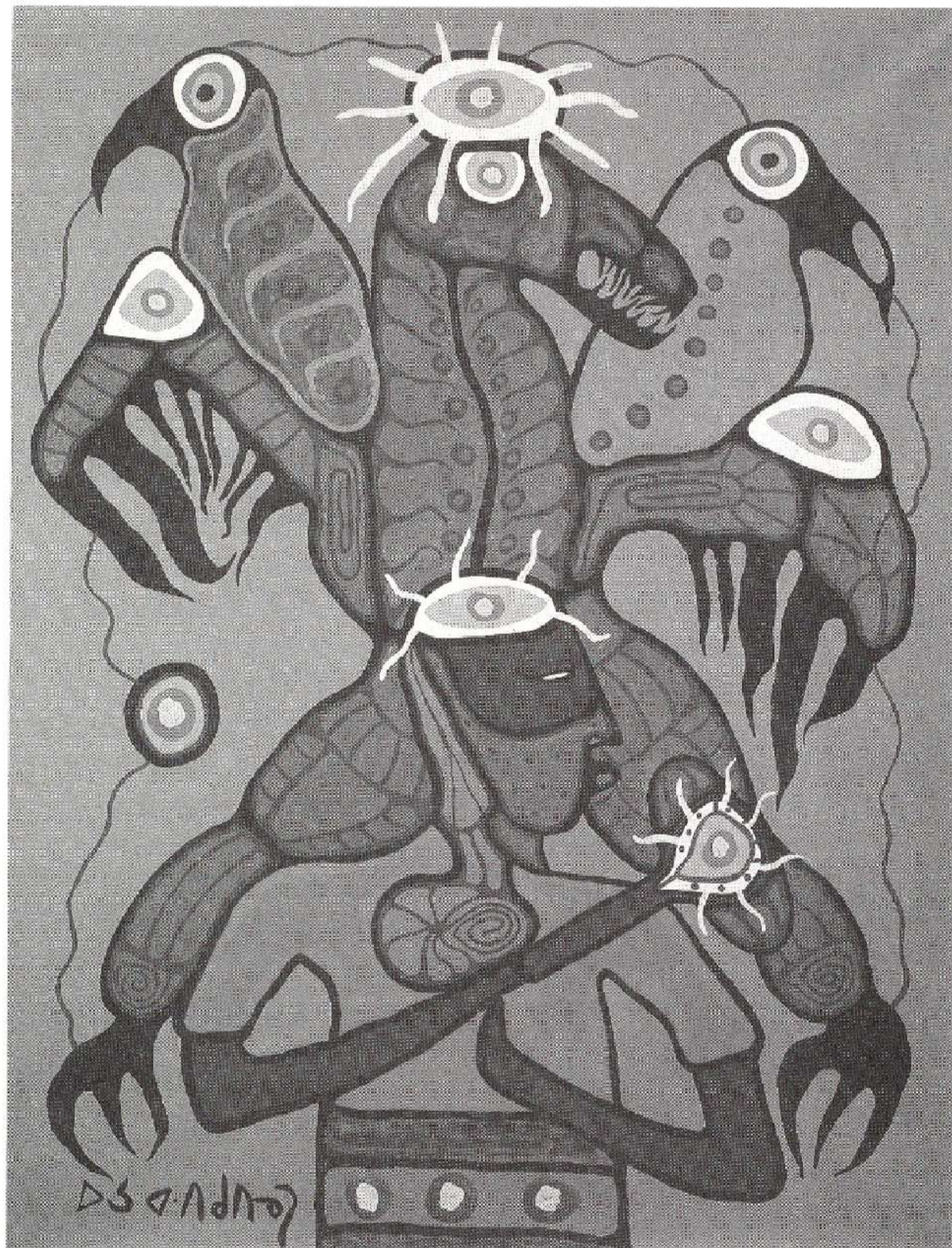
Norval Morrisseau has had exhibitions around the world. His most recent honour was an invitation by the French Government to exhibit at the Grande Hall - La Villette - Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne in Paris. There Morrisseau was given an entire room to display his paintings in celebration of the bicentennial of the French Revolution in 1989. He has exhibited at the Interversa Galerie, Hamburg,

1979; at Aula Luise Schule, Lahr, Germany, 1976; at Bergens Kunstforening, Bergen, Norway, 1976, and in Vienna. A one-man exhibition was held in France at Galerie Saint-Paul, in Saint-Paul-De-Vence in 1969. Both Picasso and Chagall attended the exhibition among 12,000 viewers. At the time, Morrisseau was called "The Picasso of the North."

Morrisseau paintings have a universal appeal. The artist's intuitive use of the psychology of colour contributes to this worldwide following. Colour is very much a key resource in the artist's repertory of symbols. White always denotes spirituality while light blue represents spiritual protection. Connecting lines of power and communication depict the interdependence of all organisms on the earth. The circle of life, a perfect shape with no beginning or end, often symbolizes Mother Earth, the lifeforce of all creatures. The emotional language of his works knows no prejudice and speaks to us all as a people united by our aboriginal origins. His paintings are icons which possess a simplicity and a bare essence that crosses all cultural barriers. As Norval said: "These paintings only remind you that you're an Indian . . . inside somewhere, we're all Indians. So now when I befriend you, I'm trying to get the best Indian, bring out that Indianness in you to make you think everything is sacred."

My heartfelt experience with Norval Morrisseau has left a lasting impression. As a man he is profound. To listen to his stories is to be transported back in time. As an artist he is a unique creator. He embodies the essence of spiritualism. It only takes one glance at his face, characterized by decades of adversity, to realize a dignity that surpasses most of us. To look at his paintings is to be changed forever, possibly healed. Whether it is through the power of colour or the power of the images, Morrisseau paintings have a dramatic effect that transcends native boundaries. To view the exhibition *The Spirit Within* is to feel part of Norval's life experience. Stop and look at each painting carefully. Inspect and scrutinize them for they speak of a profound spirituality that binds us all. If art is man expressing himself at his highest consciousness, then Norval Morrisseau takes us into the heavens and beyond.

Paul C.H. Robinson



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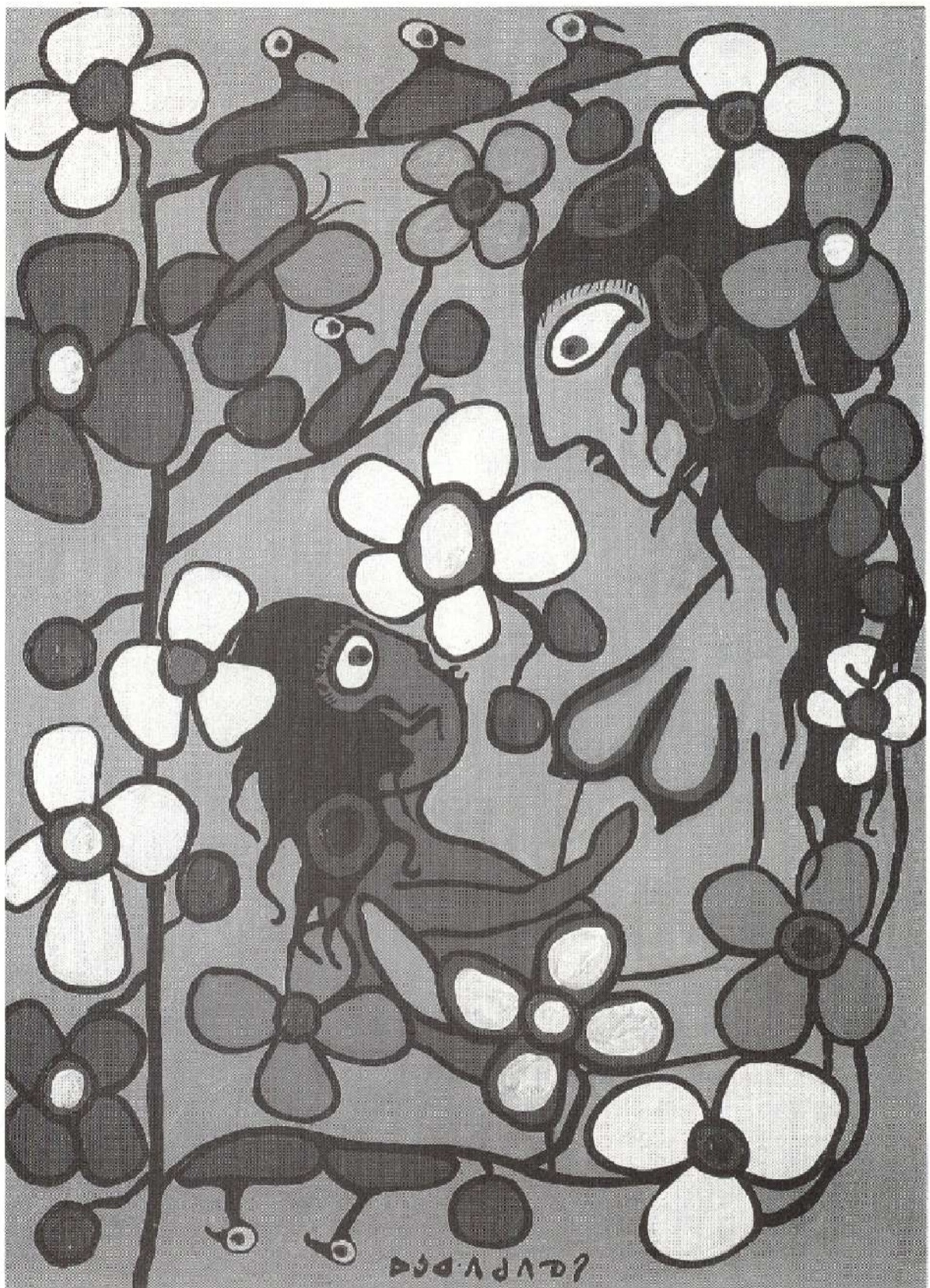
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