
"Nobody, and I mean nobody, can squeeze, cuddle, or stretch more out of a buck than the artists. We pay back in spades. We should be running the country!" – Andy Jones, December 21, 2015, St. John's, NL

Artist's Resale Right

by Ingrid Mary Percy

It's important not to be complacent about arts funding. As we recently found out (with the cuts by the City of St. John's), it can vanish at any time without notice.

It's not good enough to maintain the status quo and assume that the visual arts will be supported. Artists and arts supporters must keep working to improve the conditions for artists in our province and country.

On a daily basis, that's what volunteer boards, members, and staff are doing at CARFAC National and RAAV (in Québec), as well as throughout the seven CARFAC affiliates across Canada (CARFAC BC, Visual Arts Alberta-CARFAC, CARFAC Saskatchewan, CARFAC Manitoba, CARFAC Ontario, CARFAC Maritimes and VANL/CARFAC).

This year, the campaign to bring the Artist's Resale Right (ARR) to Canada is being relaunched by CARFAC and RAAV. Currently in 93 countries, the Artist's Resale Right (also known as *droit-de-suite*) would allow visual artists to receive 5% each time their work is resold in a public, secondary market (such as an art auction or commercial gallery).

In Fall 2015, Mary Pratt's *The Florentine* (1971) sold Heffel Fine Art Inc. for \$59,000. Under ARR Mary would have received \$2950 from this sale. The value of her painting increased due to her commitment to her art practice and career, it seems fair that she should share in the profit that has resulted from that dedication. In Pratt's words, "I have seen my work escalate in value by quite a big percentage. As we get older it gets harder and harder to find the energy to produce enough work to maintain a decent living."

As part of CARFAC and RAAV's campaign to bring the Artist's Resale Right to Canada, we are inviting artists and arts supporters across Canada to contact their local MP to raise awareness and show public support for the Artist's Resale Right.

Let's be proactive in advocating for the arts. Your action today will benefit artists now and in the future and will help to remind our government that art matters.



Percy celebrates CARFAC/RAAV's victory at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa, May 14, 2014. Submitted photo. at