



Press Release

For Immediate release

*Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies
Creates a New Gallery
Celebrating the Legacy of
Hank & Tillie Zyp*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28th, 2019

Local Art Gallery to Celebrate the Legacy of Hank and Tillie Zyp

Calmar, Alberta – The Calmar Art Society is pleased to announce the opening of the Zyp Art Gallery. Named after Hank and Tillie Zyp, in honour of their role in Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies life. The Zyp Art Gallery is a non-profit gallery space that offers a home to local artists and develops exhibitions that generates dialogue and inspires understanding about social issues, locally and around the world.

The Zyp Art Gallery has been a long-time passion project for Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies. Dr. Tran-Davies is a physician, children's book author and advocate for social justice through education. Her family came to Canada in 1979 as refugees from the Vietnamese War. They were sponsored by members of Enoch's Our Lady of Mercy Parish, members which included Hank and Tillie Zyp. The Zyps played a large part in Dr. Tran-Davies life. She was privileged in seeing firsthand Hank's amazing artwork, but she also witnessed the important work Hank and Tillie did to help children around the world through their two NGOs.

"This little gallery is my way of honouring the life and legacy of Hank & Tillie Zyp, two very special people who continue to live on in terms of inspiring me," says Dr. Tran-Davies. "I wanted to do this to honour them and what they've done for our family and for children around the world."

"We are thrilled to be able to introduce a new generation to Hank Zyp's art which is profound in its beauty and meaning," says Jaime Rathor, Zyp Art Gallery's Curator. "Tillie and Hank were amazingly open and loving people who always said their work was never meant to serve themselves. As Hank once wrote: *It is the refugees and the street peoples, the voiceless ones...they were our motivators.... we got out of it much more than we gave... we got love.* Our gallery is named in honour of them, and we will continue their legacy."

About the Zyps

Hank Zyp (1935–2012) was an artist, commercial illustrator, teacher, writer and a social advocate. Hank was Edmonton's first Advertising Director for the Hudson's Bay Company. He later taught Commercial Art at St. Joseph's Catholic High School in Edmonton, where he founded the only Canadian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) located in a school, **St. Joseph's Save the Children Club**. He also co-founded another NGO, **Change for Children**. Hank was an illustrator for various publications including Alberta Education's

Ukrainian School Reader (Tut i Tam Series) and was a columnist for The Western Catholic Reporter. In 1987, Hank and his students created a 30-metre mural titled, *Your Will Be Done on Earth*. In 2007, Hank was commissioned to create new artworks for the Walterdale Theatre *Art in the Lobby* program. The Works Design and Art Festival held a retrospective after he passed away in 2012.

Tillie Zyp (1929–2013) is credited as being the force behind the couple's social activism. Through her tireless energy and spirit, Tillie helped co-found and run Change for Children along with **Rainbow of Hope for Children**. She worked with **Development and Peace** and **Boyle Street Community Services**. She made her home a welcoming place for everyone, irrespective of background or colour. The Zyps were one of the first families to house Aboriginal children in their Jasper Place home so they could attend classes at the nearby high school.

The Zyp's many accolades include: The Alberta Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Humanity (1987), the Celebration 20/20 Award for NGO International Development (1998), Stars of the Millennium Volunteer Award from the Wild Rose Foundation (2004), the Sage Award for Social Justice and Peace (2011) and the RISE Lifetime Achievement Award (2012).

Note to Editors:

Building Address: Zyp Gallery, 2nd Floor, 4715 – 50 Ave, Calmar Alberta, T0C 0V0
15 minutes from Edmonton International Airport, on Hwy 39

Opening Times: Monday – Friday 09.00 -17.00; Saturday 0900 – 14.00; Sunday – Closed

Admission Free, Donation Appreciated

Media on Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies

[Nhung Tran-Davies](#)

[UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency: Ripples of Kindness in Canada](#)

[CBC Alberta author chronicles family's escape from war-torn Vietnam](#)

[CBC Former Vietnamese refugee pays it forward sponsoring Syrian family](#)

[The Globe and Mail Edmonton doctor, a former refugee, helps kids from her homeland](#)

[Alberta Venture Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies: Alberta's 50 Most Influential People 2014](#)

[Edmonton Journal Why Nhung Tran-Davies, a mom and a small town family doctor, is leading the fight in Canada for better math education](#)

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