

Since 1977, Gathie Falk, John Watts, Wendy Hamlin and I have been meeting to share our art and friendship. These meetings, always spoken of with a capital "M", have occurred as often as every three weeks, with lateness unheard of and absence from Canada the only acceptable excuse for not attending. On the agenda have always been:

1. Recent struggles in the practical world, that is: finding a new studio, getting cheaper supplies, moving works, paying the rent.
2. Review of Gathie's bag of announcements of shows in the area, and comparing notes on art seen.
3. Treats, coffee and loud laughs.
4. Critique of the most recent work of the person at whose home the meeting is being held.

Now the last two items create the bitter/sweet, diabolical aspect of these meetings, in that the host person must accept critiques from the very mouths they ply with treats. It's interesting to note that guests are always herded into the studio area after refreshments. Comments may confirm the artist's thoughts, set the spine in stubborn resistance, split the group in heated non-agreement, or simply be a celebration. Whether there has been mutual influence on our work will be left to any interested historian. That there has been support in sustaining output, heart and soul, is, I believe, without dispute. Always the artist is alone again in facing the blank page, canvas or screen, or the empty space where a sculpture will be. It helps to know that others will come to see what you put in the void, and that they honour your endeavours.

NOTE:

This long-standing association is well-documented with photographs taken at meetings and on other social occasions. Some of these were installed in Massé's section of ARTROPOLIS 90.



Christmas at Gloria's, 1987.
John Clair Watts, Wendy Hamlin
Gloria Massé, Gathie Falk
Photography: John Caldwell