



Title: Enlightenment

Year: 1963

Artist: Jack Bechtel

Medium: Mural (Fresco)

Location: Kitchener Public Library, Main Branch
85 Queen Street North
Kitchener, ON
N2H 2H1

Acquisition Method: Other (Canada Arts Council)

In January 1962, artist Jack Bechtel was commissioned to create a mural to decorate the lounge of the new main branch of the Kitchener Public Library (KPL). KPL received financial assistance from the Canada Council for this project.

The artist worked for six months to create the mural. To work undisturbed, Bechtel worked from library closing until dawn. The paint chosen for this piece was an acrylic polymer emulsion which should last as long as does the wall. The final mural measures 12.5 x 36 feet.

The theme of the mural is man's historical striving for knowledge. It was officially unveiled on November 2, 1962.

Jack Bechtel died from cancer in September 1966. His best-known work was considered to be "Enlightenment", his 560 square foot mural at KPL.