

Ken Vickerson, *Vessel*

Discipline: Design

I define design as a meta-discipline that emerged from engineering and applied art practices. As it was not practical to try to represent the over 30 design sub-disciplines, I have limited my focus to the contributions of Canadian women in the fields of engineering, industrial design, interior design and furniture design. The majority of these contributions were made post World War Two, significantly in the 1960s - the "Space Age".

My primary visual reference pays tribute to the contributions of Elsie MacGill, Canada's first female electrical engineer, aeronautical engineer and aircraft designer. My candle "vessel" bears some similarities to an aircraft wing in its structure, while avoiding a literal representation or specific reference. Visual associations with the furniture, objects and interiors of this time are evident as is the choice of plywood as a material that emerged from war production to be employed in the production of household goods. I have incorporated references to the contributions of pioneering women designers such as Alison Hymas, Helen Kerr, Hilary Stykolt and Lotta Bostlund through the images represented in the candle niches. Integrated into the work is an antique silver hairpin, which acknowledges the need of such women to maintain a practical hairstyle on the factory floor or in the design office.