Your long and distinguished career as a painter has led to acquisition of your work by many major galleries and collectors throughout Canada and the United States and representation at dozens of exhibitions, including the Biennales of Sao Paulo and Venice. You have also brought a new dimension to mural painting in Canada with your vivid work in the Edmonton airport, Confederation Centre in Charlottetown, the CBC building in Vancouver, and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

The most striking characteristics of your work are its immense variety and exuberance. Exhibitions of your work, especially the most recent at the Vancouver Art Gallery, seize the viewer’s mind and heart. You have taken from the world of nature a sense of organic form, the complex interplay of root and flower, rock, butterfly, life and death; while, the world of art, ancient and modern, eastern and western, you have evolved an endless web of images, both concrete and abstract. Your art makes use of subjects ranging from the masks of the West Coast to Indian gods and temple bells. Your style varies from romantic realism to nightmare surrealism, in media as varied as ink, oil, charcoal, acrylics, crayon, latex and watercolour.

You have been generous in supporting young artists, on a personal level through your work in the founding of the Canada Council.

Your vibrant talent has not gone unnoticed; you have received a Guggenheim International Award, many fellowships, including a Canadian Government Overseas Fellowship for work in France, the University of Alberta’s Canadian Artists’ award and you have also been appointed to the Order of Canada. This year you achieve an unlikely double, which shows how much here in British Columbia we compete to make much of you: honorary degrees from both UBC and Simon Fraser.

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you for the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Jack Leonard Shadbolt.