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# Tay River Tattler

Arts News & Views from Tay River Gallery

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**Rhythm: An Artistic Interpretation** is the current gallery exhibit of juried works of regional artists working in different media. Rhythm in music, rhythm in art, rhythm in nature are all aspects explored in this exhibit. The works of fourteen artists are featured for the month of July: Dorothy Black, Karen Phillips Curran, Tony Cowan: Nancy Green, Beverley Hastings: Jason Hein: Catherine Kelly, Yana Klimava, Victoria Jenkins, Garry Martin: Carolyn Molson, and Susan Wulf. Admission to the exhibit is free to the public and offers the viewer an interesting mix of tactile and visual stimuli of a rhythmic nature– in watercolours, acrylics, photography, mixed media, textile fibres, stained glass, and clay sculptures .

First place for work " best reflecting the theme of rhythm" was awarded to mixed media sculptor, **Cheryl-Ann Webster** for her "Goblet of Life", a djembe style stoneware drum. Cheryl see the drum as reflective of the rhythm of one's life, lifeless and weak in spirit without connection (as a drum alone, untouched is lifeless) but with connection awakens the inner spirit as a powerful heart beat

making way for raw emotion. This stunning work, Goblet of Life, is handbuilt (not wheel thrown) using coils which involves layering of one coil of clay onto another, rotating the form and blending the clay in a steady and even motion. The work has been carved with a vine leaf pattern and glazed in black-olive with drum head composed of goat skin and the fixtures, steel and nylon.



**Cheryl-Ann Webster with Goblet of Life**  
Cheryl –Ann Webster, born, raised and educated in England, (Diploma of Art and Design Lowestoft School of Art, 1992 and BA Honours degree in Culture and Communications from University of Lancaster), made her home in Woodlawn Ontario after finishing her schooling. Cheryl –Ann has been active in the arts community in the Ottawa area as vice president and coordinator of Art West. She is also a founding member of the Red Trillium studio tour and Art Exposed, a group of local artists focused on educating the public on the production and dissemination of art. Cheryl-Ann is a member of Ottawa Guild of Potters, WCAS/Art West and Fusion – Clay and Glass Association of Ontario. Her work has been exhibited in various juried shows

in the surrounding Ottawa area since 2000.



Seeing Red, Beverley Hastings

Second place was awarded to **Beverley Hastings** for her fabric art work, "Seeing Red" made of dupioni silk, satins, velvet, lame, cotton and upholstery fabrics applied using free motion embroidery, programmable stitches and glitter, metallic and rayon threads. Created in shades of red, the colours and textures of the piece catch the eye and carry vision to different levels. The artist has used the colour red to represent fire, heat, danger, fun excitement, which implies activity, undercurrents and motion. The viewer sees something different each time he looks at the piece.

Beverley Hastings has been interested in fabric for years from clothing construction to traditional quilting. Originally from Montreal where she trained as a nurse, she later moved to Ottawa where she pursued graduate studies at Carleton University in Psychology. Bev had worked with stained glass but found the inability to push and manoeuvre the glass frustrating and decided to pursue fabric art studies. Courses at St. Lawrence College of art with Beth Garner and recently with fabric artists Sylvia Naylor taught her the beauty of free motion embroidery. Recently she discovered contemporary quilting and

loved manipulating fabric to express emotion, mood, rhythm and movement. Bev also creates soft cloth original character dolls. She is member and past vice president of Programs of the Ottawa Valley Quilter's Guild, and member and secretary of All Dolled Up Guild in Ottawa.

**Dorothy Black** received an honourable mention for her mixed media work, "Time in Flux". An abstract collage work with subtle layering, contrasts in colours and densities and muting of areas, creating movement in the work which the artist feels is paralleling the rhythm and flow of time and continuous movement of developing the piece.

Dorothy Black is a self-taught artist in watercolours, oils and mixed media. Her florals, still lifes and abstract are shaped and enlivened by light, her primary focus. A graduate of University of British Columbia, Dorothy spent fifteen years living in Newfoundland in isolated communities developing her art and has made Ontario (Westport) her home in recent years. Dorothy takes part in the Rideau Artists show in Westport every summer.



From left to right: Artists Nancy Green, Cheryl -Ann Webster, Karen Phillips Curran and Dorothy Black

**Karen Phillips Curran** received an Honourable Mention for her watercolour work, "Stones" which depicts the interaction of stones and water. Stones figure prominently in this painting with the flowing water subtly cascading amidst the solid forms. Karen sees earth and water the ultimate symbiotic pair striving for immortality and water's rhythmic movement as reflecting our earth's rhythmic travels through the universe.

Karen Phillips Curran is a local watercolourist who has exhibited her watercolours in various locales which have included Ottawa, Toronto, London, Florida, Bermuda and Mexico since the 1990s. Karen has recently explored the magic of creating polaroid image transfers. Her watercolours place emphasis on natural and man-made structures, light and colour. Karen works on a monumental scale as head scenic painter at the National Arts Center, creating sets for productions. Karen and her husband, photographer John Kessel, have a studio/gallery in Rideau Ferry, Ferrytales Studio, where they exhibit their works in photography, watercolours and mixed media open for public viewing on weekends in summer months.

First place in the Student Category was awarded to **Yana Klimava** for Blue S, a large acrylic painting portraying the sea on the island of Sardinia, Italy. Yana chose finger-painting as the main technique for the piece with the finger-painting strokes creating the rhythm and perspective in the landscape. A silhouette of a human-like figure in the water is created with a paintbrush. Sardinia brings many nostalgic memories to Yana and the silhouette for the artist symbolizes the clearest memories of her experience. Yana Kimava, an 18 year-old student at Canterbury High School was born in Minsk, Belarus and moved to Canada in

2000. During her early years she studied in a Visual Arts Lyceum for a period of eight years. Yana works in watercolour, acrylic and pencil and hopes to become an industrial designer in the future.

**Victoria Jenkins** portrays her love of dancing in her stoneware clay sculptures, "Foxtrot" and "Dancing at The Starlight Ballroom". Victoria has created many functional and humorous sculptural pieces in her twenty years of working with clay. The whimsical expressions are a delight to the viewer and a reminder to see the joy in life. These particular works are finished in acrylic colours. Foxtrot is a freestanding sculpture of two dancers and Dancing at the Starlight Ballroom is a 3 D wall piece.

Victoria graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and relocated to Ontario. She is a longstanding member of the Ottawa Guild of Potters and conducts workshops from her studio in Carleton Place in the spring, fall and winter.

**Nancy Green**, mixed media artist exhibits her work, "One, Two, Three" which examines the intricacies of nature and element of time by drawing on natural materials such as clay, metal, paper fibre and wood. Nancy has drawn the images on a clay tile which demonstrates the repetition in nature and the unique form. The delicate images are arrested at their various stages for examination and reflection as one of her "studies" as she refers to her works as a series of studies which denote the artist's artistic practice of examining and recording. Nancy Green has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of Ottawa. Nancy has developed her skills for the past twenty years and exhibited her artwork in many regions of Canada and is active within the artistic communities around her studio in Dunrobin.

**Carolyn Molson** 's photograph "Rhythms of the Sea", magically captures the inherent rhythm of the waves in unison with their magical lulling ability frozen in time in the image in the rare opportunity which she describes in writing to the delight of gallery viewers who feel a sense of immediacy between her moment of capturing on film and the resulting image. Carolyn, a long-standing member of the R.A. Photo Club is an award-winning photographer who has had her work published in Canada and the United States.

**Catherine Kelly** captures the illusiveness of time in her photographic work "Clock and Geranium". The misty nature of the print connects past to present and the rhythm of passing time is repeated in the design of the vase and the petals of the geranium, form repeating itself. Catherine Kelly, member of R.A. Photo club pursues her passion for photography at home and abroad capturing nature, and various subjects of study including churchyards and castles.

**Tony Cowan's** photograph, "Flow Patterns" depicts two rocks with the swirl of water amidst the rocks. Coined "Zen-like" by a viewer, in its capture of "rhythm" in its calming nature. As rhythm can be pulsating and frenetic or mellowing and peaceful, viewers gravitate to their preferred perspective. The soothing nature of rhythm is a popular one with the crowds.

Tony Cowan, photographer from Killaloe, Ontario has been working in the field of photography for twenty years and operates a photo business called Photowords, with his wife, Laurie Wagner.

**Susan Wulf's** exquisite stained glass mirror in walnut frame, titled "Flow Reflected #1", portrays an uncomplicated view of rhythm which she says can mirror

your approach to life- as a source of inner peace – for we can choose a rhythm that allows us to be at one with our surroundings in nature. Susan works with her husband Ron at their studio in Tichborne Ontario, Bridesmill Studio creating works in glass, metal and wood.

**Jason Hein**, a student artist's work, "Mystical Forest" is a small surreal acrylic painting of tangled trees, rootless and ready to take flight. Jason feels the curved elongated trunks are rhythmic in form and repetition and suggest movement. Jason is a third year Graphic design student at George Brown in Toronto and lives in rural Carleton Place.

**Garry Martin's** work, "Neon Rain, an acrylic abstract depicting rhythmic movement of rain falling in the cityscape with the colours from city lights. This is a more frenetic pulsing portrayal of rhythm. Garry Martin, Perth resident has had a career in music for many years and is focused on his acrylic painting now. Garry has exhibited in Ottawa and has sold his paintings throughout Canada.

Jurors included art professionals Nancy Boland and Carol Donegan. Nancy Boland has worked in the Advertising field for over twenty years in the Ottawa area. Nancy is a versatile artist who has worked in different media since graduating from Georgian College in the 1980s. Nancy has worked in acrylics, watercolour, coloured pencil, photography and also for a number of years in stained glass creating tiffany lamps and large panels. Her most recent accomplishment has been book illustration.

Carol Donegan has worked as graphic designer for an Ottawa advertising firm for the past twenty years and also worked in various media such as acrylics, watercolour, photography and textiles.

John Topelko, our third juror, former art director of Canterbury High School, and former summer art instructor at Ontario College of Art, has worked in oils throughout his career and also won awards for printmaking. John Topelko regretfully could not attend the judging for best of show due to unexpected illness.

For those who do not have the opportunity to visit the Rhythm exhibit, a glimpse of the works can be gleaned from our web site in the Events page under July calendar event where simple clicking will take you to a view of the works discussed in this article. Please respect copyright laws as all images are copyrighted by individual artists. The exhibit continues until the end of July.

## Events around Town

So many events to entertain this month. For a complete listing check out the calendar of the Humm, [www.thehummm.com](http://www.thehummm.com) Just a few notable mentions:

**Stewart Park Festival**, July 25, 26, 27  
Three days of free music concerts, provided free of charge in Perth Stewart Park and other locations in Perth. Great family entertainment.

**The Perth Citizen's Band**, July 10  
Stewart Park at 7:30 and July 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p/m/ at Inge Va Heritage House, 66 Craig St.

Perth Metal Meltdown, Anvil and Spit play at Code's Mill July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Garden Theatre Production, **Much Ado About Nothing**, Barn Door Productions held at Perth Manor gardens July 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19

**Celtfest**, Celtic family entertainment, Almonte's Gemmil Park July 20<sup>th</sup> day event.

## Parting Thought

Now that the hazy crazy lazy days of summer are upon us, put your feet up and enjoy the season! Whether "enjoying summer" involves puttering in a garden, strolling on nature paths, swimming, boating, bicycling, reading a book under a shady tree, or sunbathing on a beach, .....the list could go on forever....best wishes for a safe and peaceful holiday this summer with your loved ones!

