
Tay River Tattler

Arts News & Views from Tay River Gallery

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PASSIONS OF THE HEART

Ten Ottawa area artists express their passion for art with introspective works on topics that intrigue them in the Feb/March show, *Passions of the Heart*.

We are pleased to present works by Dave Acton, Karen Phillips Curran, Catherine Kelly, Sandra Hawkins, Catharina Breedyk Law, Martha Markowsky, Gilda Pontbriand, Vivien Tytor, Gary Webster, David Zimmerly

A wide range of subject matter is represented in emotive art that covers the spectrum from endearing sentiment to

high drama. Evocative works expressive of the artists' inner world is the common thread in works presented in watercolours, mixed media, acrylics, photography and textile art.

We had an overwhelming response of high calibre submissions to this juried show and we thank all the applicants and regret that we could not accommodate more due to gallery space limitations.

We welcome the following guest artists to the gallery in this show:

Dave Acton, Sandra Hawkins, Gilda Pontbriand, and Vivien Tytor.

Vivien Tytor is an Ottawa-based artist who has explored various media in both figurative and abstract styles. Vivien has participated in various solo and group exhibitions throughout the region. *Muse in Fusion* is a large abstracted work in acrylic with strong visual impact. The subject is a queen of hearts who ultimately blends physically with her musical instrument because of her attachment to it. Tytor's four photographic artworks on display venerate the musical instrument.



Sandra Hawkins is a dynamic independent visual and media artist working experimentally across medium and disciplines. Based in Ottawa, her paintings, photography, multi-media installations, videos and performance art are shown across Canada and internationally. Her two watercolor landscapes, *Pines* and *Pine Sunset* are painted en plein air to capture the freshness of the experience and compel the viewer's attention. For Hawkins, "Landscape painting for me is more about sentiment than specific geographic location. It is a place of the heart that goes beyond linguistic limitation to include the primal and emotive."

Gilda Pontbriand is an Ottawa area artist who studied visual arts in Canada, Mexico and France. Her art encompasses a spiritual dimension and her practice of art is a constant search for different subjects, media and techniques. Gilda researched ancient symbols from Mayan culture in a recent trip to Mexico. These Mayan symbols with focus on life cycle and renewal are the subject of Pontbriand's four mixed media paintings created in the artist's signature rich palette.

Dave Acton, Arnprior area artist, is a member of the Ottawa Art Association and exhibits regularly at the Ottawa Little Theatre. Acton displays a group of small watercolours addressing a variety of themes : a dancer enthralled, a child's wonder, offerings of sweets , "ladies in waiting ", and an example of unusual "beauty in the eyes of the beholder".

Catherine Kelly, longstanding Ottawa RA Camera club member, is an Ottawa-based photographer who combines a passion for travel with her love of her craft. Artistically rendered, her photograph depicts a scrawny street kitten as the focus with the dramatic backdrop of Paros, Greece.



David Zimmerly, Perth area photographer and world traveller, brings Guatemalan children to the focus in his series for this show. It is not surprising to see this former field anthropologist portray people in their environment with his sharp photographic skills as this is a recurring theme in Zimmerly's photography.

Gary Webster of Perth provides a close up photo of a butterfly and a large poppy that demonstrate intense concentration and focus. Capturing the beauty and simplicity of nature through photography is Webster's passion.

Karen Phillips Curran, Perth area watercolourist, exhibits a small group of mixed media works from her Beauty and the Beast series. A focal image accompanied by descriptive script is common to all four. A *Certain Smile* and a *Breath of Rose* look at the lighter side of passion with a hint of sentimentality and humour, while *Great Waves* and *Thrashing Wildly*, juxtaposed are dramatic portrayal of a more tumultuous dark passion. A fifth work, *Aphrodite*, is a mixed media figurative painting by Curran, created in the style of early icons.

Catharina Breedyk Law is a versatile textile artist, prolific in range of works

and has exhibited in many fiber art shows throughout the region. Her body of work is eclectic and includes subject matter from medieval to contemporary. She teaches fiber art classes year round from her studio in the Perth area. Catharina exhibits a large quilted wall hanging in luxurious fabrics with fine detailing. *Offering of the Heart* is a work is based on 15th century tapestry and depicts a male suitor offering his lady a piece of fruit.



Martha Markowsky, Ottawa /Montreal area artist was recently elected as a member of the Canadian Society of Artists. Congrats Martha! In *Passions of the Heart*, Markowsky exhibits a group of her introspective works that focus on people situations in bar scenes with their heart rendering search for passion, romance and friendship. These are small oil works painted in dark tones that lend to the mystique and drama of the bar atmosphere.

Visitors are welcome Wednesday through Saturday from 12 – 5 p.m. during February. No reception is planned for this show due to unpredictable weather /road conditions this time of year and as we all travel the highways, safety is our main concern. Extended hours coming in March will be posted on the website.



Warm your hearts on a cold winter's day and catch this exhibit before March 31st rolls around!

UPCOMING SHOW BLOOMS IN APRIL

Our Spring group show **BLOOMS** will feature acrylic floral paintings from four Ontario artists: Leah Dockrill, Bill Keast, Andrew Neil Olscher, and Gilda Pontbriand. Florals take on a whole new meaning in this show. 'Hypnotic', 'Exotic', 'Vivacious', 'Soulful' are just a few adjectives that come to mind. May will feature a continuation of Blooms with Blooms II.

For June 2007 watch for the solo exhibition featuring new works by **Shirley Mancino** in Towards Abstraction.

Our summer show extravaganza will feature the works of many dynamic artists exhibited throughout the gallery in the lower and upper gallery rooms

Two more solo exhibitions are planned for Fall 2007, with **J. Allison Robichaud** featured in September and **John Alexander Day** in October.

Enough already...let's not spoil the fun!