

Art Avenue

CONNECTING, INSPIRING, PROMOTING OUR ARTIST COMMUNITY FOR 75 YEARS

\$5



ABSTRACT EXHIBITION

FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 11, 2017



1ST PLACE:
DENNIS JA BROWN *Odd Man Out*
watercolour on paper, 19" x 26"



2ND PLACE:
MARIANNE MEYER *An almost perfect day*
acrylic on canvas, 30" x 40"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
ROSE-MARIE KOSSOWAN, AFCA
Tried To Be Free
oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
RENATA KERR *Dawn of Creation*
acrylic on canvas, 36" x 36"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
KERRIE STAFFORD *Patterns of Life*
mixed media on canvas, 18" x 24"



3RD PLACE:
JAN LOUISE HENRY *Legislated Colour #6*
acrylic on canvas, 30" x 30"

BLOOM!

MARCH 28 TO APRIL 9, 2017



3RD PLACE:
DEANNA BEAUJOT *Spring Graduates*
watercolour on paper, 18" x 14"



2ND PLACE:
ANN WILLISIE *Apple Blossoms*
oil on canvas, 30" x 30"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
WILLIAM LIAO
A Dance to the Music of Time
oil on board, 20" x 16"

(1ST PLACE ON COVER)



Art Avenue

A FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS PUBLICATION



Abstract Exhibition, Kerrie Stafford, *Patterns of Life*



Bloom!, William Liao
A Dance to the Music of Time



Fall Aspens Green Lake, Flying U Ranch

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- 11 2017 Ode to Oils

ON THE COVER

1ST PLACE, BLOOM!

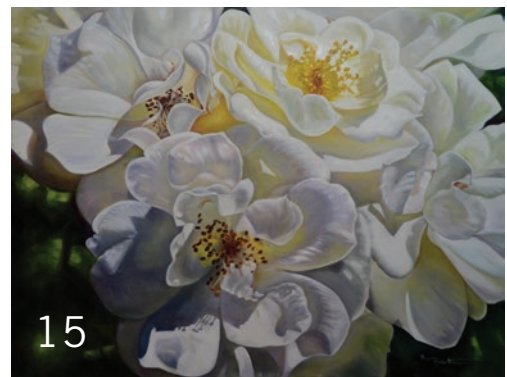
GLENYS TAKALA *A Vessel & Petals*
mixed media on gallery canvas, 12" x 12"

FEATURES

- 08-09 How does the Gallery sell your artwork?
Gallery Coordinator Helen Duckworth discusses art sales strategies
- 12-13 Mike Svob: Redefining the Value of Colour
Interview with the successful Canadian artist and long-time member
- 15 Big Red Dots
Which paintings sold in FCA's gallery in the past two months?
- 16-19 Success!
A two-part feature showcasing our new AFCA & SFCA members



Ode to Oils, Tara Barker, *Rising Water II*



Bev Robertson, *Stop and Smell the Roses*

Art Avenue

MAY/JUNE
2017

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- fcaartists.wordpress.com



VIDEO ▶

OIL TECHNIQUES: PAINTING EN PLEIN AIR



Join FCA Member Sheree Jones as she discusses the magic of plein air while painting in North Vancouver. Discover why Sheree uses greyscale value studies, what her favourite brush type and sizes are for plein air painting, plus watch a bonus video about working with a limited palette.

Watch *Oil Techniques: Painting en Plein Air* and *The Limited Palette* with Sheree Jones online at opusartsupplies.com/shereejones

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AA DIRECTOR'S COMMUNIQUÉ



I am coming up on my fourth anniversary as Executive Director of the Federation of Canadian Artists, and I'm still looking for that slow time of year that I was promised when I started.

All joking aside, I wouldn't be happy with a slow time of year because that would mean that I wasn't doing everything possible to make the Federation everything it should be—everything it will be. FCA members aren't "customers" who "get only what they pay for"; they're artists who need help establishing their careers. And when I see artists work

as hard as they do, I want to help as much as I can.

Upgrades to the gallery are complete, and Barry, our full-time Gallery Sales Assistant is building on what Helen started. Artwork sales are up over last year's fantastic results. I'm happy to be able to send more artists cheques than we have ever done before.

Carol and Sonia are making some noticeable improvements to Art Avenue. It's looking great and it is now much easier to find what you're

looking for. I was happy to read about Robert Bateman, SFCA in our last issue and read the article about Mike Svob, SFCA with great interest. I love reading about the success our members have attained nationally and internationally.

With an eye on continuous improvement, now it's time to work on our education program, another of our pillars. To this end, I will be working with Alyssa, our new Membership and Education Coordinator, to continue developing the Fall Plein Air Retreat, a very successful program from past years. The retreat is a fantastic opportunity to mix business with pleasure: learning, networking and socializing rolled into a unique getaway. Take a look at the website: www.FCAretreat.com

Alyssa and I have also continued work on the Foundations Program. The Foundations Program will cover all the foundational principles integral to being a great painter. Too many of us started painting with a brush in hand and skipped right over the fundamental principles like composition, brushwork and colour theory. The Foundations Program will offer an opportunity for an overview of these principles so you can assess for yourself what specific areas may need improvement for you to become an even better painter. More information about this to come in a future issue.

Patrick Meyer
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AA NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Ainscough	<i>Bowen Island BC</i>	Jeff Ferst	<i>Tucson AZ</i>	Lenny Lane	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Karen Sargent	<i>Nanaimo BC</i>
Rene Beerthuizen	<i>Vernon BC</i>	Rick F Foulger	<i>Nelson BC</i>	Carol Mackay	<i>North Vancouver BC</i>	Cheryl Shaw	<i>Shawnigan Lake BC</i>
June Bloye	<i>Surrey BC</i>	David Fraser	<i>Victoria BC</i>	Michel Martel	<i>Naramata BC</i>	Dianne Shelling	<i>Surrey BC</i>
Sandra Bowen Young	<i>Delta BC</i>	Diane Gane	<i>Penticton BC</i>	Judith McMillan	<i>Vancouver BC</i>	Caryl Skauge	<i>Calgary AB</i>
Bill Burton	<i>Blind Bay BC</i>	Shelley Garries	<i>Langley BC</i>	Eugenia Medynski	<i>Parksville BC</i>	Alina Smolyansky	<i>Vancouver BC</i>
Nancy-Jean Cameron	<i>West Vancouver BC</i>	Marc Grandbois	<i>L'Anse-St-Jean QC</i>	Christina Motyka	<i>Port Alberni BC</i>	Sari Spencer	<i>Powell River BC</i>
Rosemary Cashman	<i>Vancouver BC</i>	Ann-Christine Gurholt	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Sara Nadeau	<i>South Surrey BC</i>	Heidi Stewart	<i>Abbotsford BC</i>
Laura Chandler	<i>Prince George BC</i>	Charley Hampton	<i>Vernon BC</i>	Mira-Weronika Natoniewska	<i>Surrey BC</i>	Sheila Stienley	<i>Swift Current SK</i>
Cherie Churchman	<i>Kamloops BC</i>	Helen Hamzavi-Zarghani	<i>Langley BC</i>	Denise Nonomura	<i>Stratford ON</i>	H. B. Barry Strasbourg-Thompson	<i>BFA Chemainus BC</i>
Ghislaine Cleiren	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Mindy Hardiman	<i>Surrey BC</i>	Rosalie Olson	<i>Winnipeg MB</i>	Jacqui Tremblay	<i>White Rock BC</i>
Pierre Cloutier	<i>Ottawa ON</i>	Natasha Harvey	<i>Kelowna BC</i>	Carrie Osborn	<i>Qualicum Beach BC</i>	Joan Turecki	<i>Terrace BC</i>
Marie Manon	<i>Corbeil Calgary AB</i>	Sherry Heinzle	<i>Glen Robertson ON</i>	Cynthia Pasloski	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Michelle Vandyk	<i>Chilliwack BC</i>
Heather Curry	<i>New Westminster BC</i>	Brenda Hoddinott	<i>Halifax NS</i>	Rick Pennell	<i>Abbotsford BC</i>	Jackie Versfelt	<i>Maple Ridge BC</i>
Paula Di Marco	<i>Vancouver BC</i>	Patrick Horning	<i>Surrey BC</i>	Louie Pisterzi	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Zofia Wiclawek	<i>Surrey BC</i>
Helen Duckworth	<i>Burnaby BC</i>	Michelle Hudson	<i>Amaranth ON</i>	Sandra Purton	<i>Penticton BC</i>	Julie Witten-Land	<i>Ardrossan AB</i>
Sharon Duguay	<i>Kelowna BC</i>	Karen Kay	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Jacqueline Ramsay	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Tadas Zaicikas	<i>Edmonton AB</i>
Laura Dupont	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Kandice Keith	<i>Garibaldi Highlands BC</i>	Rachael Rector	<i>New Hamburg ON</i>	Anita Irena Zilinskas	<i>Calgary AB</i>
Marnie Joy Erickson	<i>Calgary AB</i>	Allen Klatt	<i>North Vancouver BC</i>	Denise Reichert	<i>West Kelowna BC</i>		
Patricia Falck	<i>Langley BC</i>	Diana Kwan	<i>Vancouver BC</i>	Su Rickett	<i>Bowen Island BC</i>		
		Rolando Lampitoc	<i>Galiano Is. BC</i>	Leslie-Anne Rogers	<i>Vancouver BC</i>		

1. ASA "FIRE" SHOW & CALGARY STAMPEDE ART AUCTION

Ray Swirsky is showing his work *Inferno* at the Alberta Society of Artists' juried exhibition "Fire", which moved from Edmonton to Calgary this year (Southern Jubilee Auditorium), and is on until May 19. Ray also has paintings entitled *Bow Valley Fire Sky* and *Serenity* featured at the very popular 36th Annual Calgary Stampede Art Auction. Artwork is on display at Western Showcase's Art Gallery (BMO Centre, Stampede Park) beginning July 6 with a live auction July 13.

2. US MEDICAL SCHOOL CHOOSES ARTWORK AS SPECIAL AWARD

Valerie Gobeil's artwork, *Medical School*, was commissioned by a naturopathic medical school in the US to be the prize awarded to a top student. The 18" x 24" oil on canvas will be awarded to the graduating student voted Most Outstanding Classmate, Class of 2017 who is considered to be "the most empathetic with patients, and most supportive of classmates." The award ceremony will take place in June at the College of Naturopathic Medicine in Tempe, Arizona. After receiving this artwork, the college decided to commission Gobeil again to paint a very large piece depicting the history and philosophy of medicine to be placed in the college's entrance.

3. JURIED ONLINE ART COMPETITIONS

Kathy Hildebrandt, AFCA has had her work accepted into three international online exhibitions. She participated in the Society of Canadian Artists' Open International Online Juried Exhibition (featured until June 15), International Society of Acrylic Painters' 8th Annual ISAP Open Online Show, and the Richeson75 Still Life & Floral International Art Competition. Her pastel entitled *Bad Boys, Bad Boys, Whatcha Gonna Do* received Third Place in the SCA's exhibition. All of these shows' artwork is available for viewing online indefinitely.

4. JEWISH FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL ART SHOW

Monica Gewurz's diptych entitled *Friendship Shawl* was accepted for the Sidney & Gertrude & Zack Gallery's juried Festival Ha'Rikud Group Show. It takes place within the 14 Annual Ha'Rikud Festival in Vancouver, which is themed Friendship this year in celebration of Jewish and Israeli culture. Opening reception May 4, 7-9 p.m. Exhibit continues to May 22.

5. 18TH ANNUAL LOOK SHOW BEST IN DRAWING

At the 18th Annual Look Show, hosted by the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, the pastel artwork entitled *Duet* by **Pancrasio "Pan" Tan, AFCA**, won Best in Drawing. The community arts exhibition staged at The Bay Centre, Victoria, from March - April, 2017, showcased over 450 artworks and installations including Pan's 19.5" x 19.5" pastel.

6. CSPWC ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION

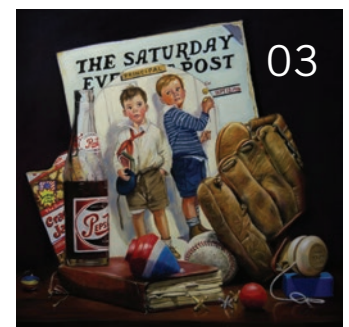
Rex Beanland's watercolour painting *In The Pit: The Conversation* was juried into "Water Reflections," a national show sponsored by the Canadian Society Of Painters in Water Colour. The show will be held at the Santa Fe Gallery in Owen Sound, Ontario, until May 26. Rex's painting *Early Morning, Welcome To Calgary* was also juried into the 2017 Calgary Stampede's Art Auction, previewing July 6-13, BMO Centre, Stampede Park.



Ray Swirsky, *Inferno*



Valerie Gobeil, *Medical School*



Kathy Hildebrandt, AFCA
Bad Boys, Bad Boys, Whatcha Gonna Do



Monica Gewurz, *Friendship Shawl*



Pancrasio "Pan" Tan, AFCA, *Duet*



Rex Beanland, *Early Morning, Welcome to Calgary*

AA MEMBER SHOWS

1. The 7th Annual Mid Main Art Fair featuring 18 artists is on June 11, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Vancouver's historically beautiful Heritage Hall on Main St. FCA artists participating: **Fran Alexander, Enda Bardell, Jane Crosby, Lorn Curry, Jeanett Jarville, Sheree Jones, James Koll, Carol Mcquaid, Sonia Mocnik, Elisabeth Sommerville, Jeff Wilson, Grazyna Wolski.** www.midmainart.com

2. **Renata Kerr** has a group exhibition at the Peachland Art Gallery, Peachland, BC, with artists Carmen Venturi and Maureen Lejbak, who are collectively known as "Bin 151". The abstract show runs from May 27 – June 25. www.renatakerr.com

3. **Anne McGilvary's** solo show, "Aromatherapy," is featured at Palliser Art Gallery and Framing in Calgary, Alberta, April 4 to June 30. Her landscape paintings display her interpretation of "perfect scents" in original wild flower panoramas. www.annemcgilvary.ca

4. North Vancouver artist **Robin Timms** is showing work at the Ferry Building Gallery's "Oh Canada" exhibition in West Vancouver, BC, with 12 artists June 27 to July 16, celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. Opening reception: June 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

5. **Jeff Wilson**, AFCA has a solo show, "Back in the Eastside," at the Langham Art Gallery, in Kaslo, BC. The exhibition showcases work illustrating Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and runs from May 5 - July 2. Opening reception: May 5, 7 - 9 p.m.

6. The Heine family celebrates 150 collective years as professional artists with a "Canadian Legacy" show from May 2 - 27 at McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville, BC. This is the first time three generations have shown their work together, with art by **Harry Heine**, SFCA, his children **Caren Heine, Mark Heine** and **Jennifer Heine**, and granddaughter Sarah Heine.

7. Nanoose Bay, BC artist **Cindy Mersky**, AFCA, SCA has work featured in two shows: The Watusi and Sacred Stories are in Society of Canadian Artists National Online Exhibition, running until June 15, www.societyofcanadianartists.com; The Whispering Wind, Brunch at Black Rock and Rapture of the Deep were in a group exhibition at JD Stevenson Gallery in Chemainus, BC, in April.

8. **CORRECTION:** Elisabeth Sommerville's hand-drawn stone lithograph *Avian Pattern* was not shown in March/April Issue for "Limited Editions: The Art of Printmaking" at CityScape Art Space. Richard Tetrault's piece was incorrectly shown. *Avian Pattern* was recently sold at the FCA Gallery.



Sonia Mocnik, *Vancouver Memories*



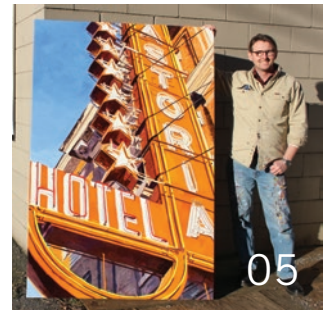
Renata Kerr, *Visions Gate*



Anne McGilvary, *Aromatherapy Show*



Robin Timms, *Islands*



Astoria and Jeff



Mark Heine, *Resurrection*



Cindy Mersky, *Sacred Stories*



Elisabeth Sommerville, *Avian Pattern*

HOW DOES THE GALLERY SELL YOUR ARTWORK?

By Helen Duckworth
FCA Gallery Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW?

Art sales have increased substantially within the FCA Gallery.

This article gives you some insight into the successful strategies we have implemented in the gallery in last two years that have contributed to the increased sales.



NEW FCA GALLERY INITIATIVES

PATRON INQUIRY FORMS

Patron Inquiry forms are a simple paper method to help track potential leads. Staff can share up to date information about the progress on current leads so if the person who received the lead initially is not in the gallery, another can pick up where they left off. Any potential client who completes the form is added to FCA's database to receive pre-sale emails.

TRACKING CLIENT PREFERENCE

Now clients and potential clients are added to our database, giving staff quick access to client sales history and detailed preferences such as:

1. Specific artists' the client has expressed interest in
2. Their sales history, the names of the artists' they've purchased work from
3. Artists' styles they admire, but have not yet purchased

This information helps the FCA to create targeted sales emails. For example, if clients have purchased artworks by an artist in the past, an email is sent announcing that the same artist has an art piece in the upcoming exhibition, providing a "sneak peak" and early opportunity to purchase.

STANDARDIZED PURCHASE WRAPPING

All artworks being delivered or collected by hand are given the same outer wrapping treatment. Each artwork is wrapped with a thank-you card explaining a brief history of the Federation, our website address and how the purchase has supported a non-profit charity. Each artwork is also wrapped with my business card, should they have further inquiries or wish to purchase again. For consistency, all artwork collected in person by the client

is wrapped in brown paper, tied with simple string and finished with an FCA gold seal.

This attention to detail makes the FCA stand out amongst our competitors. The intention is that when people see this style of wrapping, simple though it is, they will come to associate it with the Federation.

EMAIL LEADS AND SALES FOLLOW-UPS

Although follow-ups are labour intensive, they are vital to closing sales and creating a pleasant and professional client culture. Many artists and visitors have the impression that artwork "sells itself." This is rarely the case. Staff will often be required to follow up with an interested potential client three to five times to close a sale through a variety of "touch" methods including phone calls, encouraging repeat visits from that client to the gallery, correspondence with the artist and marketing emails.

Whenever a same-day sale cannot be closed, FCA staff follows up with the potential client the same day through a personalized email. This email includes a photo of the piece that attracted interest, further information about it, a short biography of the artist and direct link to that artist's website.

These emails are visually appealing, consistent and have often resulted in a phone call to ask about purchasing the piece. If we can close the sale at this point, we do. This is followed by a "thank you" email. If we don't get a reply, additional emails are sent when the exhibition is due to close to remind the client that these artworks are soon leaving the gallery.

"Thank you" emails were inspired by good, old-fashioned customer service and just common sense. For every sale we make, the client receives a personalized email, thanking them for the purchase, and giving more information about the artist and a link to their website, if they have not received this information already. Many galleries and artists think the sale ends at the handshake. However, we've seen from experience that continuing a genuine relationship with clients after the sale brings them back. They know that at the Federation, they'll not only find high quality art, but also a level of customer service that isn't found elsewhere.

CLIENT PRE-SALE EMAILS

Emails are sent to our database of clients prior to the online and in-gallery launch of exhibitions. Anyone who has purchased or voiced in-

(Continued p.9)



Packaging

CENTRAL OKANAGAN



3RD PLACE: Cecile Derkatch, *Trumpets-A-Swaying*

NEWS

With membership steadily increasing, the COC added online shows to its existing show calendar. The first is the "Watercolour" juried online exhibition, available for viewing through centralokanaganfca.com until May 1. Paintings are also available for sale through the Central Okanagan Chapter's website https://centralokanaganfca.com/show/2017_watercolour_online_exhibition/

The winners of this cash-prize online show are: 1st Place, **Juve Furtado's** *Snowy Perch*, 2nd Place, **Diana Palmer's** *The Lookout*, 3rd Place, **Cecile Derkatch's** *Trumpets-A-Swaying*. The next online show will be "Sketches", available for viewing May 1–July 1. These shows are designed to provide an affordable, accessible venue to both exhibit fine art and to award excellence. There are no size restrictions and no shipping or framing costs. The response from the membership has been very positive.

ARROWSMITH



Andrea Kennedy, *Delightful*

SPRING EXHIBITION

The Arrowsmith FCA Chapter Spring show was held April 10 - 29 at the Old School House Arts Centre in Qualicum Beach, BC. Award winners are as follows: 1st Place **Andrea Kennedy** for her 16" x 12" watercolour *Delightful*, 2nd Place: **Dawne Brandel's** 20" x 20" acrylic, *December Birch*, 3rd Place: **Donna McDonnell's** 12" x 18" pastel *Magnolia*. Honourable Mentions went to **Peggy Burkosky**, **Joanne Giesbrecht** and **Barbra Regamey McDonald**.

NANAIMO



Tom Hutton with NFCA President

UPCOMING SHOW

The 2017 Nanaimo Fine Art Show will be on November 3, 4 and 5, 2017 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. It will include a gala on November 3, and "Meet the Artists" evening with silent auction on November 4. Jurying for the show will take place beginning Summer 2017 to September 1. 1st prize: \$1000, 2nd: \$750, 3rd: \$500, People's Choice Award: \$500 gift certificate. Facebook page: www.nanaimofineartshow.com Questions regarding the show: nanaimofineartshow@gmail.com

NEWS

This year's winner of the Vic Wilson Award was presented to **Tom Hutton** for his years of support and many hours of contribution to our Chapter. The Vic Wilson award was established years ago in memory of past NFCA president Vic Wilson.

(Continued from p.8)

terest in FCA Gallery artists receives this email and is given the first opportunity to view and purchase before exhibitions open to the public. These emails discuss upcoming exhibition dates, opening and/or artist receptions and offer an exclusive online preview of the exhibition before anyone else. Currently 458 clients subscribe to this list.

SMALL ARTWORK DISPLAYS

We replaced a magazine stand that formerly held small original plastic-wrapped artworks, with a display specifically for these artworks to enable visitors to browse freely and encourage them to actually pick up the artwork. We still encountered a problem though, with potential clients thinking these works were prints and that the \$150 – \$200 price tag was steep for a print. We resolved this issue simply by labelling each artwork with an "Original Artwork" sticker. As a result, we regularly see close to \$1,000 in sales per month from these displays alone.



Small artwork stands

CALGARY



Mary Ann Hews, *Colors of Spring*

UPCOMING & RECENT CHAPTER EXHIBITIONS

The Chapter's "Absolutely Art" Show will be held at the Earl Grey Golf Club May 26 – 27. Award winners of the "All Things Spring" show held in March at the Edgemont Community Centre included: 1st Place, **Mary Ann Hews' *Colors of Spring***, 2nd Place, **Deanna Beaujot's *Neighbourly***, 3rd place, **Kathy Hildebrandt, *AFCA More Reasons I Was Tardy***.

NEWS

Linda Wilder, SFCA and **Janet B. Armstrong, AFCA** were juried as Signature FCA Members this year, raising the total Calgary Chapter Signature Status members to 25. Linda will be artist in residence for Mountain Galleries at the Fairmont Banff Springs April 28 – May 5 and again starting July 7 in conjunction with her solo Spring show in the renovated space.

WORKSHOPS

Ingrid Christensen, a "tonalist" with an "obsession for colour," offered a figure-painting workshop in March. With her bravura brushwork, she encouraged freshness in strokes that capture "loosely accurate" proportions by mapping out large tonal patches in three values.

PEACE RIVER



David Langevin, *Dark Winter Storm*

WORKSHOP

David Langevin traveled North to add sparkle to our spring thaw and Mud Season. His three-day workshop at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery enticed 20 participants, some joining him for a third time! Here, David covered his canvases with numerous, thoughtfully-placed layers of glazes, veils and tints. He explained that the layers create multiple shades of colour without having to mix paints on a palette. These layers play with light similar to the works of Old Masters who used multiple layers of oil paint to attain a plethora of hues and luminosity. Participants fashioned an evergreen tree and then Aspen trees using glazes, veils and tints. Intermittently, David demonstrated the process involved in the creation of his "tree portraits" using acrylic mediums to lift the tree from the substrate before applying colour.

UPCOMING SHOW

The Peace River Chapter's next juried Art Show, "Our Home and Native Land," will run from May 12-29 in the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, Dawson Creek.

FRASER VALLEY



Joyce Trigg, *Seeking the Shade*

NEWS & MEETINGS

Two members attained Signature Status (AFCA) this year due to their excellent work: **Veronica Davies** and **Audrey Bakewell**. As of this year, the Chapter now calls The Reach Gallery/Museum in Abbotsford "home." The May 13 meeting will feature a demonstration by **Patricia Peters** of working with cold wax and oil. June's meeting will feature a pot luck social before the Chapter breaks for summer.

EXHIBITIONS

The Chapter recently closed its Spring Exhibition in the Turnbull Gallery at the South Surrey Recreation and Arts Centre. This juried exhibition featured 44 works by Chapter members. Award winners were **Joyce Trigg** (1st Place) for *Seeking the Shade*, **Veronica Davies** (2nd Place) for *Selfie Portrait* and **Beverley Biddulph** (3rd Place) for *Last Light*. Awards of Excellence went to **Fran Alexander** for *Reflecting Light 1*, **Jo-Ann Wichary** for *One Hump or Two* and **Deborah Strong** for *Master Builders (Bushtits)*. The Chapter's next show is in August at the Kariton Gallery in Abbotsford.

FCA Workshops

Composition Can Be Fun

Christine Camilleri, AFCA



May 15 2017

Plein Air on Granville Island

Gaye Adams, SFCA



June 3 & June 4 2017

Online Critiques

Various Artists



Various Dates

Register Now!

Visit www.artists.ca/education or CALL 604.681.2744

NORTH OKANAGAN



Juve Furtado, *Snowy Perch*
1st Place COFCA Watercolour Online Show

WORKSHOPS/DEMONSTRATIONS

In March, **Juve Furtado**, **AFCA** and **Doug Wasilieff** presented a demonstration on Photographing Artwork. After both artists discussed their preferences for natural or artificial lighting to take photographs of their work, they explained how to prepare photos by editing/resizing in JPEG format using Elements 11 and programs available for free from the internet. These standards are required for FCA shows (and other submission applications). In April, **Pennylane Shen's** workshop "Navigating the Art Industry: Professional Practice for Emerging Artists" offered these insights: 1. Keep your message clear. Don't promote yourself as anything but an artist (such as a gardener) in blogs/website/facebook. 2. When presenting work to galleries, never "drop in" with your art. Approach via email with 2-3 images, and don't follow up more than once.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The NOFCA's 2017 exhibitions are taking shape. A non-juried show will be held at the Performing Arts Centre Coat Check Gallery in Vernon, May 15-July 17 with the theme "Our Canada". We join Mackie House for "Canada 150" Sept. 17-23. Details: NOFCA's website.

VICTORIA



Sandhu Singh, *Oldest Chinatown in Canada*

UPCOMING CHAPTER SHOWS

Juried 2017 Spring Exhibition May 13 – 26, Reception: Saturday, May 20 1:30 – 3 p.m., at Community Arts Council Gallery, 636 Fort St., Victoria. Hours: Wed – Sun 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

DEMONSTRATIONS

In March's Demonstration, **John Pryce** discussed some of the choices of grounds and textures of linen and canvas on a basic transparent and opaque block-in on a 16" x 20" acrylic primed panel. John, who was recently awarded AFCA status, also had a successful career as an international architectural illustrator. His loose, eloquent technique is the result of years of experience in drawing, colour and composition.

Sandhu Singh's Watercolour Demonstration in February revealed his fast watercolour style to portray busy street scenes, seascapes and landscapes with haze and mist. He fearlessly approaches his subject with looseness to portray its movement. Although watercolour is unforgiving and complex, there is softness in his work that creates a powerful, understated mood. Sandhu believes that composition is the most important aspect of painting; he captures the essence of the subject using strong tonal values along with bright colours to achieve balance.

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN



Donna Goett

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

May 5 - 26: Spring non-juried show, at Leir House, Penticton, BC. July: Art at Tinhorn Creek, Tinhorn Creek Winery, Oliver, BC. July 15 -16: Summer Chapter Show and Art Walk, Noble Ridge Winery/Liquidity Winery. There will be 16 art stations throughout the connecting wineries, plein air painting, wine tasting and a "Vine Dining" evening at Noble Ridge.

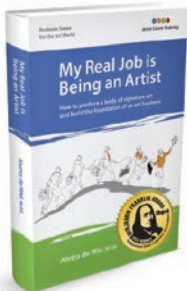
CALL FOR ARTISTS: FCA-SOS "Connections" Juried Art Show and Conference. Sept 22-Oct 26, 2017. Shatford Centre, Penticton, BC. Open to all FCA Active members. For info: www.fca-sos.ca

NEWS

George Traicheff won the "Art Educator" award at the 4th Annual Penticton & District Arts Awards. **Marianne Meyer** placed 2nd in the FCA's "Abstract Exhibition" in Vancouver, BC. A mural depicting skaters by **Lyse Deselliers** was commissioned by International Avenue BRZ for the City of Calgary, and was unveiled in March at Tim Hortons 17th Ave SE as part of a neighborhood rejuvenation project. **Donna Goett** had her watercolour *It's All About the Boots* accepted in The BC Cowboy Heritage Society's "Art of the West Show and Sale" at the Kamloops Cowboy Festival. **Diane Bennett-Way** will be the Featured Artist at Jojo's Café in Osoyoos, BC until May 31.

Artist Career Training

"My Real Job is Being an Artist" is here!

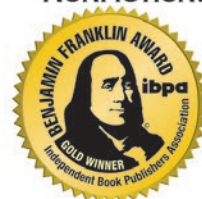


If you haven't started your art career, you'll learn what to do to become a working artist.

If you already have an art business, you can take stock of what's working and what you could improve.

Order your copy of "My Real Job is Being an Artist" now.
<http://budurl.com/RealJobLaunch>

WINNER OF THE 2016
IBPA BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
AWARD FOR
BEST NEW VOICE:
NONFICTION!



MIKE SVOB: REDEFINING THE VALUE OF COLOUR

By Carol Crenna

Mike Svob, SFCA, has been a full-time artist for 35 years. He has had over 70 exhibitions and produced 25 large-scale murals throughout North America, with paintings held in private collections globally. Art Avenue speaks to the Impressionist (and former FCA president) known for his signature bold colour.

AA: *What gave you confidence to become a full-time artist?*

MIKE: In the 70s, when there were very few professional artists in Canada, my father-in-law lost his job and became a full-time painter. Despite being in his 50s, he became a great success and made me realize it was possible.

AA: *Why did you join the FCA?*

MIKE: After higher education, I wanted to become a full-time practicing artist and meet people who made a living as practicing artists (not art teachers). I found the FCA in 1981—the only place I know where you can network with a diverse group of painters who share the same goals. At that time, Allan Edwards, Brian Johnson, George Bates, Brian Travers-Smith and Robert Genn became friends and influenced me. I took classes from many members including Kiff Holland and Alan Wylie. The most important lesson I learned was that to do well, you have to devote yourself to painting full-time, not just talk about it. A painter needs to paint. A lot.

AA: *Do you mean in order to become good at it, or because you won't make a living if you don't?*

MIKE: The latter. The harder you work at it, the “luckier” you get, the more “talented” you become, the more “connections” you find—all reasons artists use to conclude why another person is doing better than they are. However, in my experience, making connections doesn't make an art career. You can and must find your own audience for your own art. I tried street corners, church basements, bazaars, outdoor fairs, hotel lobbies, restaurant walls...



The Summer Show at Louise, 36" x 84", acrylic

AA: *Why do you work in oil, acrylic and watercolour instead of focusing on one?*

MIKE: Being a practicing artist means that you never “arrive,” you always strive to learn more, to get better. If you feel you've exhausted the potential of one medium, start another. A new medium forces you to think and react differently; you must reinterpret and relearn. Some of what's learned in the second medium can be transferred to the first. As a result, you discover unique ways of communicating through your art. This keeps it interesting.

AA: *Don't you worry about people wanting to buy a “signature Svob”?*

MIKE: No. I have changed my style many times because I get bored. I paint the painting and then hope that I will find someone to buy it. I have been lucky in this regard.

AA: *You aim to complete paintings in one day. Why?*

MIKE: Since I keep most ideas in my head only, I get better results if I complete them in one day. By focusing on it from beginning to end, shapes, values, colours, edges stay firmly in my mind. Unlike people that plan work in stages or processes, if I leave it for a few hours, when I return it's like I am starting over. I am currently working on a 3' x 7' painting that I can't complete in a day. So I create a sketch, draw it on the canvas and use a grid to get the right proportions and shapes in the right place. But each time I come back to it, I say, “So what was I trying to do here?” After spending hours on it today, I might not remember the concept tomorrow, and repaint all the same areas over differently.

AA: *When is your painting done?*

MIKE: I don't feel that a painting can ever be done. It can always be better. If it's overworked, that just means you have to repaint that area over again.

AA: *Do you have a consistent technique?*

MIKE: The only part of the practice that remains consistent is that I work big to small: big idea to small, big shape/pattern to small.

AA: *You are known for strong colours. How do you have the confidence to push the colour when working plein air?*

MIKE: I try to capture what I see, but if I don't like the colour, I will capture the shape, pattern or lighting, and do what I like with colour. Artists commonly add white to a colour to lighten it, making the painting cold, chalky and dead. This is not as visually interesting as using the transparency of paint layers. When teaching, I sometimes take students' white paint away.

AA: *How do you create realism with brights?*

MIKE: It is about value. When a good musician plays their instrument, they use its full range. The most important way to use paint's full potential is with value, not colour. If you don't employ the full range of tones, paintings become flat, lacking depth and brilliance. Don't just paint red, paint a tonal range from pinks to crimsons. To begin, I initially plan my dark, mid-tone and light values in large shapes of sky, mountains, trees, but I don't consider colour.

AA: How do you decide that a mountain is going to be purple and orange?

MIKE: I pick colours I like. If you want the object to look like a particular mountain or person, you can play endlessly with different colours, but you cannot fiddle much with value and shape.

AA: Do you prefer certain colours?

MIKE: It is human nature to prefer warm tones. When I moved to BC, I started painting the environment's cool greys, blues and greens, but they looked depressing. I paint with warm colours because I enjoy seeing them.

AA: You will be teaching at the FCA Plein Air Retreat.

MIKE: Sometimes it is easier to teach for money than to sell artwork! Yet, when you finally make enough money selling art, you often teach far less, and spend much more time by yourself in the studio or at art shows where most people tell you your work is fabulous. Without teaching and interacting with new eager and talented artists, you can lose your enthusiasm and become jaded. You forget it's fun!

AA: You had your own single engine airplane that you flew to remote areas to go trekking. Now that's plein air!



From Dark to Light, 18" x 24", acrylic, at Flying U Ranch.

MIKE: Right now, I am painting mountains inspired by a month hiking in the Rockies last summer. I am in love with what I see in the outdoor world. Being able to spend my life interpreting that through my art is a great privilege.

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS' PLEIN AIR RETREAT

Flying U Ranch, 70 Mile House, BC
September 24 - 30, 2017



2017 Instructors
Gaye Adams
Doug Levitt
Janice Robertson
Mike Svob

Register Now!

visit www.FCAretreat.com or

call 604.681.2744

Photo courtesy of Mark Hobson

FCA EXHIBITION CALENDAR MAY–AUGUST 2017

2017 FCA EXHIBITION CALENDAR	Muse	O Canada!	Painting on the Edge	LIMITLESS
				
	Submission Deadline: May 19, 2017	Submission Deadline: June 2, 2017	Submission Deadline: June 16, 2017	Submission Deadline: July 28, 2017
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	May 19, 2017	June 2, 2017	June 16, 2017	July 28, 2017
OPEN TO:	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	INTERNATIONAL OPEN CALL	INTERNATIONAL OPEN CALL
DELIVERY DEADLINE:	June 2	June 16	July 14	N/A
EXHIBITION DATES:	June 6 – 18	June 20 – July 2	July 18 – August 6	August 1 – October 31
QUALIFYING	Yes	Yes	Yes	Online Exhibition - No
COLLECTION DATE:	June 22nd Onward	July 6th Onward	August 10th Onward	N/A
PRIZES OR AWARDS	Awards in Title	Awards in Title	Cash Prizes	Cash Prizes and Bursary Support

2017 FCA EXHIBITION CALENDAR	Summer Gallery	Small, Smaller, Smallest	365	ten ²
				
	Submission Deadline: July 21, 2017	Submission Deadline: August 4, 2017	Submission Deadline: August 25, 2017	
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:	July 21, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 25, 2017	August 11, 2017
OPEN TO:	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	INTERNATIONAL OPEN CALL
DELIVERY DEADLINE:	August 4, 2017	August 18, 2017	N/A	September 1, 2017
EXHIBITION DATES:	August 8 – 20	August 22 – September 3	November 1 – December 31	September 5 – 10
QUALIFYING	Yes	Yes	Online Exhibition - No	No
COLLECTION DATE:	August 24th Onward	September 7th Onward	N/A	September 14th Onward
PRIZES OR AWARDS	Awards in Title	Awards in Title	Cash Prizes and Calendar Feature	FCA Fundraising Exhibition and Sale

Exhibition programming and submission deadlines are subject to change. Please check at www.artists.ca or call 604-681-8534

BIG RED DOTS

WHAT PAINTINGS SOLD? A sampling of what recently sold at the FCA Gallery:

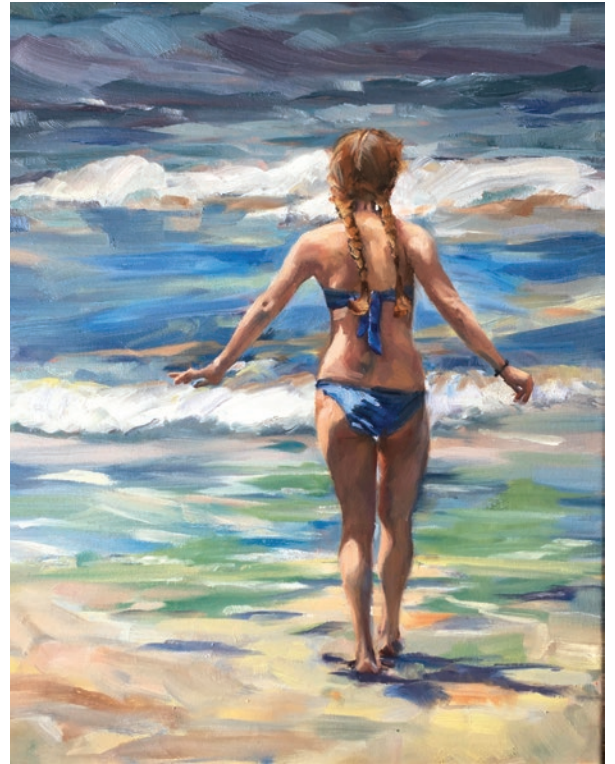
NUMBER OF PAINTINGS SOLD WITHIN THE PAST 2 MONTHS
39



ALLYSON THAIN *There is Always a Cost*
Acrylic on wood panel, 20" x 20", \$400
PURCHASER: from Richmond, BC



ALLYSON MACBEAN *Autumn Reflection*
Acrylic on canvas, 16" x 12", \$450
PURCHASER: from Vancouver, BC



MEGHAN SHARIR *With a Light Step*
Oil on canvas, 18" x 14", \$500
PURCHASER: from Calgary, AB



BARB HANINGTON *Shattered Dreams*
Oil on canvas, 40" x 40", \$2500
PURCHASER: from Queensland, Australia



GENNADIY ZHUKOV *Irises by the sea*
Oil on canvas, 27" x 31", \$1000
PURCHASER: from Texas, USA



KATHY TRAEGER *Coke Addict*
Acrylic on canvas, 60" x 30", \$1350
PURCHASER: from White Rock, BC

AA SUCCESS!

A two-part feature celebrating the talent, expertise and hard work of Canadian artists recently awarded their Federation of Canadian Artists signature status: AFCA & SFCA



JANET B. ARMSTRONG, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** Calgary, AB ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** John Singer Sargent ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Red! Cadmium Red Light or Pyrrole ► **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 34 ► **BIGGEST CAREER**

MOMENT: After leaving a rented studio to establish a new one, in 2008 I launched a commercial gallery, Just Imajan, representing 43 artists, which has won four consecutive Gold Awards. ► **INSPIRATION:** The world around me—nature, architecture, travel, animals, people—influences my representational style that comes from within. ► **BACKGROUND:** After attending Alberta College of Art, I was a graphic artist with Gulf Oil. I taught painting for 12 years, and then settled down to paint (in oil/acrylic) almost every day. Highlight: I attended two residencies at Banff Centre. Receiving Signature Status is an honour and reminder to myself of how far I have come.



YOKO ASARI, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** Victoria, BC ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Vermeer, Renoir, Chagall ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Ultramarine Blue, Naples Yellow and Orange ► **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 20 ► **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Illustrated/published a picture poetry book

In the Dance in 1994 (poetry by Ray Blanchard) that instigated my move to North America, building a bridge between distant places. ► **INSPIRATION:** I use realism to reach deeper into invisible messages within familiar sights, even on a street corner, capturing the moment in watercolour/oil, and the quiet beauty of ordinary things. ► **BACKGROUND:** I completed a Fine Arts Oil Painting Major in Tokyo. I was art director and background painter for Japanese film and TV animation for 15 years. I ran an art gallery in Oregon for several years before relocating to BC. I am grateful to receive AFCA status, which is great encouragement.



AUDREY BAKEWELL, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** South Surrey, BC ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Mike Svob; I have 3 of his paintings... so far ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Quin Coral ► **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 7 ► **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** My first sale at FCA Gallery. It was to an

international collector. ► **INSPIRATION:** My inspiration comes from the Canadian landscape and travels abroad, and is founded in fluid application of both watercolour and acrylic. ► **BACKGROUND:** In addition to being a painter, I am an internationally recognized power skating coach. I hold a Master of Arts degree in physical education from the University of Alberta, and Event Planner certification. It has been a lifetime goal to achieve AFCA status. To be a recognized validates my work, and humbles me.



PEGGY BURKOSKY, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** Qualicum Beach, BC ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Joseph Zbukvic ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** French Ultramarine Blue ► **YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 33 ► **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Receiving Tokyo

National Art Museum awards, and the invitation to exhibit at "Fabriano in Aquarello" International Exhibit, Fabriano, Italy. ► **INSPIRATION:** I am a traditional oil, watercolour, charcoal portrait artist. I'm influenced by conservative, formal illustration styles with an emphasis on strong design principles. ► **BACKGROUND:** I have been a commercial designer/illustrator and fine artist since 1973. I have had solo exhibitions at ExaART Gallery Kobe, and won Gold Award at Ikki Kai Exhibition, Japan. I had a Joint Exhibition of Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolor (England), and exhibited at Canada House Gallery, London. I am delighted to gain signature status since I respect Federation initiatives to set standards of excellence.





LEANNE CHRISTIE, SFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Vancouver, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Frank Auerbach ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Titanium White—because it is strong and opaque ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 9

▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Painting is about honouring painters who preceded me to build on the foundation they laid. This understanding has played an important role in opening a new door that leads into activating time and relationship through painting. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** To understand how the mind changes when it becomes the mind of a painter, and to activate all aspects of oil painting so that I can effectively communicate through it. And my daily 24km bicycle commute from home to studio gives me an intimate kinship with the flow of urban streets. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I received my BFA from Rhodes University, South Africa, and became a full-time painter when I moved to Canada in 2008 after a decade in Europe.



VERONICA DAVIES, AFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** South Surrey, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Kristy Gordon ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Cobalt Teal for painting, Red for everything else ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 3

▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Having my painting Day Dreaming accepted into FCA's 2016 Small, Smaller, Smallest show. I received Honourable Mention, sold it, and it led to a commissioned piece. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** I'm passionate about portraiture, drawing inspiration from Old Masters and contemporary realism. I work to capture my subjects' personality, expressing their own favourite attributes. My joy is to represent the beauty of humanity and breathe life onto a canvas. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I completed a year of Fine Art at Okanagan University College, was educated in graphic design, and have worked as a graphic designer/professional illustrator for 10 years. I began focusing on fine art 5 years ago, continuing to educate myself through mentorships/workshops.



AMY J. DYCK, AFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Langley, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Yesterday? Klimt. Today? Degas. Tomorrow? ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Ultramarine Blue, until I stumble across a sunrise or new tube of paint that changes my mind ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:**

30—I sold cartoon animal drawings for a dime at my parent's church meetings. ▶ **FIRST COMMISSION:** 16 years ago ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Recently filmed working in my studio discussing art for CBC TV Arts video, released in April. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** My representational, yet not traditional, work using oils and drawing mediums pulls from anatomical studies and Old and New Masters. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** Instruction comes from a design certificate, workshops, friendship with a generous artist always two steps ahead of me, and art/anatomy books and DVDs. I teach others charcoal drawing, encaustic, plein air, oils. It is fantastic to be associated with an organization that stands for quality and growth.



CHARLIE EASTON, SFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Vancouver, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** John Singer Sargent, Edgar Payne, David Hockney, Brent Lynch ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Cadmium Orange—it hits hard on its

own, but also tempers blue well ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 7 ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Artist residencies I experienced in Haida Gwaii, Banff and Whistler ▶ **INSPIRATION:** I moved to Canada in 2006, and fell in love with the same scenery that inspired the Group of Seven. I paint landscapes and seascapes in oils/acrylics, preferably plein air. I invite viewers to hike or ski by my side, and see views that get me excited to be alive! My style mirrors my life: minimum fuss, maximum enjoyment. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I come from a family of British artists. My work is represented by galleries across North America and Europe where I regularly have solo exhibitions. I am very aware of Canada's rich tradition in art, and am thrilled to receive SFCA designation, following in footsteps of many excellent artists.





BARB HANINGTON, AFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Kelowna BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Dennis Weber, Jerry Markham ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Cadmium Red Light, Alizarin Crimson by Old Holland, Oil ▶ **# YEARS AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 10 ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** I have been commissioned to paint several large scale murals, the most recently one of an orchard truck 10' x 20', placed 25 feet above ground in Kelowna. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** Painting trucks (in oil) comes from people and their memories of days gone by, and all the men in my life who love their vehicles. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I have no formal education, but have taken many workshops. I find learning what is possible with paint to be exciting, challenging, remarkable. I am always surprised at the end result of what I have learned on the canvas.



CAROL KOEBBEMAN, AFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Victoria, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Today it's Jeremy Mann. ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Manganese Violet ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 3 1/2 ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** The request for a commission from the Inn at Laurel Point, an Inner Harbour hotel in Victoria, BC. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** My mother's painted portraits are a great influence. I admire work that is truthful, authentic and well-drawn. I appreciate understated yet strong messages combined with great composition. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** It took me a while to arrive at painting (I made textile art and then furniture), but when I did, I pursued portraits with passion. After moving from California to Victoria in 2009, I became absorbed in oil painting realistic, contemporary faces and figures that communicate personally and immediately. I have won several show awards, but achieving signature status means so much more!



LAURIE KOSS, SFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Kelowna, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** My mother, Mary Eagle ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Yellow Ochre ▶ **# YEARS AS A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 15 ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** March 2nd, 2015—the day that Canada Post stamps featuring two of my paintings were unveiled. ▶ **INSPIRATION:** I have always felt tremendous respect for nature, which can create something as awe-inspiring as a flower. This love is reflected in painting flowers large so that details often overlooked can be appreciated. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I studied commercial art at Capilano College and Fine Arts/Art Education at UBC. I was commissioned by the Royal Canadian Mint to paint a Black-eyed Susan for its 2015 \$20 collector's coin, a finalist for Kelowna's Civic Award, and recipient of Okanagan Arts Council's "Excellence in Visual Arts." I am honoured to receive SFCA, and grateful to the supportive FCA community.



JIM LAING, AFCA

▶ **LOCATION:** Kelowna, BC ▶ **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Jan van Eyck ▶ **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Transparent Red Iron Oxide ▶ **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 11 ▶ **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** Being asked to mount a month-long solo show in the Lake Country Municipal Hall (Okanagan) ▶ **INSPIRATION:** Working in oils, acrylics, pen and pencil, my work includes still lifes, children at play, portraits and landscapes. I am fascinated by how light falls across a subject, influencing its colours and mood. ▶ **BACKGROUND:** I grew up in Montreal with a love of painting, and after many years of travelling nationally/internationally with my profession, I now paint full-time. I am self-taught, but have benefited greatly from FCA workshops. The FCA has meant much to me and my development as an artist. I am delighted to have been awarded AFCA status.





WILLIAM LIAO, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** Vancouver, BC ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** Richard Schmid, Ray Turner, Zhaoming Wu, Jeremy Mann, Malcolm T Liepke, David Downton, Mark Lague ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Payne's Gray, Burnt Umber, Permanent Rose ► **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 16 months ► **INSPIRATION:** Growing up in Beijing after the Cultural Revolution, I was surrounded by classical Chinese culture and new European art. Both influences continue to define and inspire my work. Specializing in portraits and landscapes, I begin painting with some type of a connection with my model or scene. The end result is not about the painting's aesthetic, but that it's a reflection of the energy I've received. ► **BACKGROUND:** I had 7 years of professional training after graduating from Beijing Normal University with a Bachelors of Arts, majoring in Fine Arts. I work in graphic design in addition to painting. As a Canadian artist, it is an honour to be an AFCA member.



JOHN STUART PRYCE, AFCA

► **LOCATION:** Victoria, BC ► **FAVOURITE ARTIST:** I do not have a favourite. I am constantly learning from others even when teaching. ► **FAVOURITE COLOUR:** Alizarin Crimson ► **BIGGEST CAREER MOMENT:** I have been fortunate to have received awards, but there is one experience that I am forever grateful to have had. In 2004, I spent a day with Robert Genn. After chatting about art at his studio, Robert asked if I would do a painting for his newsletter. He took me to an old farm as a subject, and then returned shortly with camera, notebook and dog. ► **# YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:** 35 ► **INSPIRATION:** I was introduced to Richard Schmid's work in 1967. His drawing, composition and colour theory skills set the bar high for artists. ► **BACKGROUND:** I completed an art major at HB Beal Tech. in Ontario. During a successful career as an international architectural illustrator, I continued to pursue my passion for landscape painting. It means a great deal for my work to be accepted by my peers and the Federation.



► Please look for **SUCCESS! Part 2** in *Art Avenue's* July/August issue.

ODE TO OILS

APRIL 11 TO 23, 2017



2ND PLACE:
WILLIAM LIAO *Last Movement*
oil on canvas, 12" x 12"

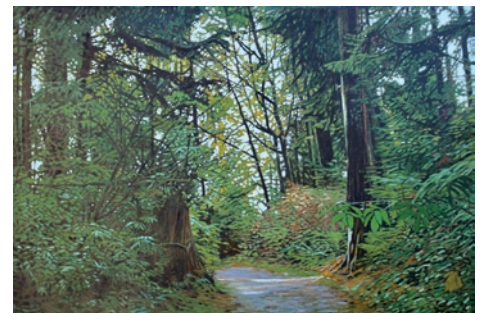


1ST PLACE:
M. GILMOUR *Posh Condiments on a Diner's Table*
oil on panel, 11.8" x 17.7"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
CHEN GUANG WANG *Vase of Flowers 02*
oil on canvas, 20" x 20"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
ANN WILLSIE *Icelandic Poppies*
oil on canvas, 36" x 36"

HONOURABLE MENTION:
TARA BARKER *Rising Water II*
oil on canvas, 30" x 30"



3RD PLACE:
DAN VARNALS *Stanley Park Trail*
oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

AA ART IN THE LIFE OF...

CATHERINE SHEPPARD'S PASTEL PARROT

I am absolutely amazed at the diversity of brightly coloured birds that there are in our world. I challenge myself to capture their natural beauty through my art. My husband and I travel to wildlife parks, zoos and conservatories in search of these feathered creatures.

While visiting the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington, we spotted this brilliantly coloured Military Macaw. It is one of the larger parrots found in the forests of Mexico and South America. I photographed this rare parrot with my Nikon D300 camera that gives me the fine detail I need to characterize my art in a true-to-life manner.

I took 25 shots while he was preening himself. When I reviewed the photos, I quickly knew which one would make an interesting piece; I look for something unexpected that would be intriguing to capture in pastels. I want the myriad vibrant colours and textures to excite the senses of the viewer, and express the feelings that I had when I first set eyes on this magnificent bird.

I chose a Sennelier sanded art board as a base because it works well to hold the many layers of pastel needed to recreate the multitude of feathers. Soft pastel is very near to pure pigment with very little binder to hold it together. This is why the colours are so brilliant and last for a surprisingly long time.

I start with a sketch with a white charcoal pencil. I position the bird on the art board in a spot that creates balance and also offers visual appeal. I work from top to bottom and from left to right to avoid smudging. Sometimes I will turn a piece upside down, keeping the board clean, but also making sure my orientation remains correct.

I work the feathers in sections, which look like an abstract piece of art at first. I start with Prismacolor NuPastel Colour Sticks that are a hard pastel, and then build up with softer Unison or Rembrandt pastels for that rich colour that gives a velvety appearance. This is further enhanced by rubbing the colours into the sanded paper with my fingers, varying the pressure as I go, to produce just the right look. A fair amount of blending is required to create the seamlessness from one feather to another.

While working on a section, I finish off with Stabilo Carbothello Pastel Pencils that are sharpened to a fine point to render the fine detail in each feather using diagonal strokes. With pastels, I can achieve the unbelievable hues, and control the softness while bringing out the textures of individual feathers. While colouring the feathers, I realize just how diverse they actually are in this beautiful bird. I aptly titled the art piece "A Vibration of Colour."

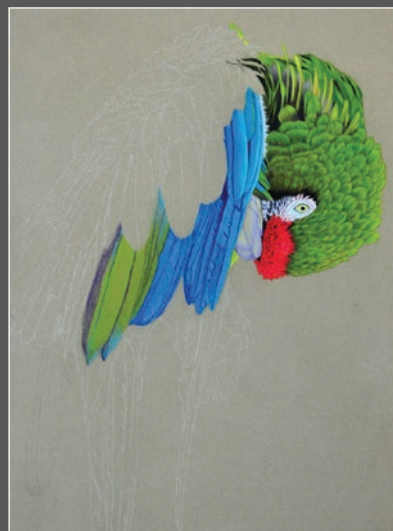
Catherine Sheppard, SFCA, has been a professional artist for over 30 years. She began using pastels 6 years ago.



Macaw 4



Macaw 1



Macaw 2



Macaw 3