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Annual Autumn Beauty, Courtesy of the "Apsley Autumn Studio Tour" September 17 & 18

By Susan Higgins

The annual Apsley Autumn Studio Tour will be held this year on September 17 & 18. Every September, art and craft enthusiasts look forward to the Apsley Tour for the opportunity to see what local artists have produced in the past year. They are sure to find new art, functional items for the home, and distinctive handcrafted jewellery.

This year there are 17 host studio locations and 6 guest artists on the Tour. Many of the host artists welcome visits from the public year-round, but guest artists bring their work specifically for the Tour weekend, often the only opportunity to see their work in the Apsley area.

Guest artists can come from anywhere, and jewellery maker Frances Timbers is perhaps the most unusual. Frances was a professional weaver who lived at Glen Alda and participated in the Apsley Tour for many years in that medium. Now she spends her winters in a small town in Panama making sterling silver jewellery. This will be her second year as a guest artist showing jewellery. Frances loves to stay connected with her former community, and looks forward to seeing many familiar faces.

Glass artist Susan Higgins from Huntsville has been showing with abstract painter Molly Moldovan for ten years, and has developed her own following among Tour visitors. Susan makes both functional work and autonomous glass art pieces with imagery rooted in nature.

In addition to visiting with Molly and seeing her regular customers, Susan enjoys visiting the Apsley area for nostalgic reasons, as her childhood summers were spent on nearby Stoney Lake.

Clare Scott-Taggart, otherwise known as "Rusty Girl" has been showing at the White Dog Studio with glass blowers Susan Rankin and Brad Coppington for many years. Clare specializes in custom metal furniture, sculpture, and garden accessories. Gardeners bring their own creativity into play when they think about and buy her work, and she especially enjoys that collaborative process.

Other guest artists on the Apsley Studio Tour this year include contemporary jeweller Vivienne Jones of Toronto at White Dog Studio, potter Judy Sparkes from London Ontario, showing at the studio of fabric artist Delores Hopps, and jewellery maker Catharine Scott from Whitby who will be with stained glass artisan Kathy Robichaud.

Images and information about all of our artists can be found at apsleystudiotour.com. On September 17 & 18, watch for the black and white STUDIO TOUR signs that mark the participating studio locations of the Apsley Autumn Studio Tour.

Editor's Notes: Guest artist Susan Higgins will be showing her distinctive and highly collectible works of fused glass at Studio N. Also, see back cover for sample works which can be seen in this year's Studio Tour.



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