

Apsley Autumn Studio Tour:

Spotlight On Our Artists

By Molly Moldovan

Continued from July ...

In last month's Voice, I presented the seven artists of Studios A & F; in this issue I'll introduce you to the remaining 16 artists participating in the 2018 tour.

This will be **David Grieve's** (Studio G) first year on the tour. His bold, textured style of painting is a distinctive signature. David's beautiful depictions of Jack Lake vistas are uniquely, recognizably, his own.

Studio H will be buzzing like a creative hive this year: Anchored by stained glass artist **Kathy Robichaud**, there will also be three guest artists. Concentrating on the copper foil method, Kathy uses traditional techniques to produce stained glass pieces based on her natural surroundings and beautiful view of Chandos Lake.

Catharine Scott is passionate about the artistic vision she has for her jewellery, taking joy in her ability to form and create meaningful pieces of wearable art.

Potter **Judy Sparkes** is obsessed with the relationship between great food and handmade pottery. "Eating from hand-made pots elevates the dining experience. I love the idea of the pot as a vessel ... it gives and it receives...it nurtures us and in turn, nurtures our relationships. Everything is more enjoyable in a hand-made pot."

This is **Dolores Hopps'** first year as a guest artist. Her quilts range from lap to king-size, in glorious colours, stripes, florals and shot cottons that have the look and feel of silk. There will also be wall hangings, runners and smaller items. Many of Dolores' pieces have wool felting incorporated into the quilting, plus beads, silk, and quite a number of other interesting embellishments.

Potter **Cathy Pennaertz** (Studio K) has spent the time since last year's tour experimenting with new clays and glazes. Always whimsical, her vessels, figurines and functional pieces are delightfully colourful and very collectible.

Al Hasselfeldt (Studio L) is back with us after a year's hiatus. Al's sculptures emphasize the natural grain and texture of the stone that he carves, resulting in beautiful three-dimensional pieces of art.

Molly Moldovan (Studio M) has been busy in the studio, adding a new body of work to her perennial subjects – near-landscapes and weatherscapes – joyful, multi-layered, colourfully luminous and often fluidly transparent depictions of natural phenomena that exist only in her imagination. The new, non-objective works reference the chaotic world in which we live. Molly describes these new paintings as art that makes you think, question and feel.

Glass artist **Susan Higgins** is back for her 11th year as Molly's guest artist. Susan's work is infused with expressive colour and evocative themes of nature. Crushed and sheet glasses are layered, sometimes with metal inclusions, then kiln fired. Susan creates beautifully engaging imagery in plates, bowls and freestanding glass art.

Shelley Brown's (Studio N) art is an intuitive expression of what is inspirational to her. She loves abstract art because the experience of it is individual—without boundaries, meditative. Shelley shares her studio with her partner, photographer **Shane Climie**, whose main photographic interests lie in the exploration of nature, wildlife and rugged landscapes, especially in and around Southern Ontario.

Rachel Conlin (Studio O) deals in the soft, the luxurious and the beautiful: practical, wearable art that feels good. Rachel hand washes, dyes, spins and embellishes wool from her own flock to make skeins of yarn to continue your own creative project, as well as finished, wearable pieces.

Rachel Charlebois (Studio R) turned her welding skills to making interesting, artistic and sculptural pieces. Some are assembled, others she makes from thin plate steel cut out with a plasma cutter to her own original design, ground and polished to remove any imperfections before giving them a clear coat to prevent rust. Rachel has created many new items – some are sculptural, some are functional, some can be made to order and personalised. All are interesting and original.

Lisa Mace's (Studio S) light-hearted, quirky paintings of trailers make an interesting juxtaposition to her moodier landscapes. All are rooted in her life experience, emotional testaments to family connections and shared experience. This year, Lisa has two guests.

Frances Timbers transforms sterling silver wire into bracelets and necklaces using a variety of traditional and modern chain maille techniques. From the medinas of Marrakesh to the pyramids of Egypt to the Tibetan Himalayas, Frances has been exploring both outer and inner landscapes, which find their way into her work in subtle ways.

Britt Olason returns to the tour after a hiatus of several years. Inspired by the inherent beauty of wood, Britt designs and makes stylish, functional furniture and playful objects.

Now that you've met the artists and artisans who comprise the Apsley Autumn Studio Tour, we hope that you'll be inspired to visit us on September 15 & 16, where you'll find a warm welcome and interesting artwork. If you haven't got your brochure yet, they are available at local business locations throughout the summer or can be downloaded from our website, <http://www.apsleystudiotour.com> and click on the [Studio Tour Map](#) link.

Molly Moldovan is a visual artist and founding member of the Apsley Autumn Studio Tour, now in its 25th year.

Please see featured artists on Page 7.

Ride Wanted for grade 11 student to / from Lakefield College School for the school year. Remuneration provided. Please contact: Heather 613-332-8545 or Ed 705-656-3301