

## Apsley Autumn Studio Tour: Spotlight On Our Artists

By Molly Moldovan

In this issue and in the months leading up to the tour, I'll introduce you to the 23 artists participating in the 2018 tour. This month, Studio A: Kim Tucker and Barb Hawthorn; and Studio F: Susan Rankin, Brad Copping, David Smith, Vivienne Jones and Rusty Girl.

**Kim Tucker** will be showing from her new studio location – a converted church - on Hwy 28 in Woodview. The studio space is interesting and comfortable, and full of exciting new work. Kim's work will include her nuno felted silk and merino scarves, felted sculptural works as well as her conceptual work. For Kim, each day in the studio holds the potential for new discovery of both the functional and decorative qualities of wool, silk and found objects. This year in the creation of her felted wearable work, she has been focusing on texture and pattern, often taking inspiration from what she sees in nature.

Kim's guest is mixed-media artist **Barb Hawthorn**, who has delved into many artistic mediums over the years and is inspired to create works that combine various printmaking and collage techniques. Barbara explores issues of identity, personal history and memory - considering how we define ourselves, how we remember ourselves and how we might reinvent ourselves. Hawthorn says: *"My work is experimental and open-ended, I create soulful works inspired by memory and story, both real and imagined - what was, what is, and what might have been."*

**Susan Rankin** is an avid gardener who continues to explore the idea of garden through her vessel and sculptural works and is well known for her vibrant floral vessels. Susan examines how glass has been used historically and transitions form and style with a contemporary feel.

**Brad Copping** works from his home at the edge of the Canadian Shield. He has found muse and foil in this transitional landscape where he maintains a successful practice, as both a sculptor and a functional glass blower – often traversing the line between, sometimes on foot, sometimes by canoe.

**David Smith** is inspired to create new works in water-colour and acrylic by the surrounding landscape. A past member of The Society of York Regional Artists, David has won many certificates for his works in watercolour and has done numerous commissions. "The rhythm of the landscape, the colour and quality of light found within it has always been a source of inspiration for me creatively and spiritually."

**Vivienne Jones** is a contemporary artist based in Toronto, whose work is very much influenced by natural forms. She creates highly distinctive jewellery using both traditional and non-traditional materials. Vivienne's family retreat is a beloved old school house in the Apsley area

**Rusty Girl Metalwork Studio** is owned and operated by Clare Scott-Taggart is a custom metalworking shop in Toronto, Ontario that designs and makes railings, furniture, arbours, limited-run production pieces for the garden, and sculpture. Clare designs and fabricates all the work. A graduate of Sheridan College's School of Crafts and Design, Clare pays close attention to quality of craftsmanship and integrity of design. She divides her time between commission work, sculpture (public and private), and teaching. Clare makes objects for both indoors and out, responding to the site and clients' needs with pieces that are beautiful, unique and well made.

Also, if you can't wait until next month's article to read about the other artists of our tour, have a look at our web site, [www.apsleystudiotour.com](http://www.apsleystudiotour.com) and click on the [Artist Studios](#) link. In case you haven't got your brochure yet, they are available at local business locations throughout the summer or can be found on the [Studio Tour Map](#) link our web site.

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

Featured Works shown below:

- *Left:* "Girl", mixed media work by Barb Hawthorn
- *Centre:* "Evening Sun" by David M. Smith
- *Right:* Silver ring and earrings by Vivienne Jones

