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It's All About the Art!

by Molly Moldovan

Highlighting the Art Gallery of Bancroft

When you think about Art galleries, does your mind conjure up institutional settings of somber atmosphere, where art is quietly viewed and opinions are expressed in hushed voices?

If so, think again. Galleries are living, breathing spaces, animated by the art within and the informed, welcoming people who staff them! Located at 10 Flint Avenue in Bancroft (just off the main street downtown), the Art Gallery of Bancroft is, for our region, that place.

For nearly 40 years the AGB has been promoting art and the creatives who make art in our area: mounting monthly exhibitions; hosting artist talks and interesting workshops by featured artists. And, it's home to an interesting and eclectic gallery shop filled with work by local artisans and artists. A curatorial committee arranges the exhibition schedule, drawing largely on local and regional artists. There have been exhibitions from all areas of artistic expression, including the human figure, industrial or urban themes and history, all in a wide range of media. Exhibitions change monthly, with the official opening of each show on the first Friday of the month.

There is the very popular annual juried exhibition, which attracts a large entry of exceptional quality. The entire space overflows with amazing art and prizes are awarded in a variety of categories.

Like many small public galleries, the AGB exists because of the energy and commitment of its volunteers. New volunteers learn the day-to-day business of the art gallery and about each exhibition - the intent behind the artist's work, how the work is made. Interactions with the visiting public become interesting and sometimes enlightening discussions for both visitor and volunteer. If you have time to give and an interest in the arts, consider joining the AGB's group of dedicated volunteers.

As a non-profit public art gallery, the AGB is self-funding. Without municipal or arts council support, the key to its continued operations is membership. Members have a vote at the annual general meeting, receive regular updates on events and a discount on gallery shop purchases. An AGB membership is also an amazing, reasonably-priced gift for anyone in your life who is artistically inclined. Most important of all, your membership supports the AGB's ongoing activities and, by extension, the artists who exhibit there. Membership ranges from a modest \$20 to \$500, with tax receipts available for memberships of \$50 and up and can be purchased from the AGB website, artgallerybancroft.ca

April's exhibition, "Correspondences: Arts of the Loom and the Easel" will feature **Carolyn Jongeward's** hand-woven tapestries and abstract paintings. The paintings and tapestries are paired to highlight one or more types of correspondences, such as vibrant colour relations and colour mixing; geometric proportions and forms; or rhythmic patterns and symmetries. The exhibition will run from April 3 – 27 with the official opening on April 5 at 7:30 pm.

In May, the AGB will feature **Anita Murphy's** exhibition of painting and sculpture, "Experiencing Yellow." On from May 1 through June 1, the official opening will be on May 3 at 7:30 pm.

We hope you will make time to see these and subsequent exhibitions – the opening nights are wonderful opportunities to meet the artists and discuss with them their art practices and the motivation that drives their art.

Molly Moldovan, is a visual artist living and working in North Kawartha since 1989. An exhibition of her work, "Turbulent Heart" was shown at the AGB in March 2018.

Please see page 2 for a few samples of this art at the AGB.

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