



Ottawa Watercolour Society
La société d'aquarelle d'Ottawa

NEWSLETTER

Revelation, by Ken Finch



Critique Session with Renate Hulley

by Jane Barlow

On Saturday, January 24, Renate Hulley found a way to bring out the critic in all of us in a thoroughly creative and entertaining manner—something she discovered while teaching at the Ottawa School of Art. Armed with watercolour paints, brushes, and dishwashing soap,

Renate placed a clear plexiglass sheet over the painting and demonstrated how we could paint on the plexiglass, experimenting with new ideas that could be used to enhance the original piece. By dipping the brush in the liquid soap first, which allowed the paint to adhere to the surface of the plexiglass, and then mixing the paint, we could try radical changes and actually see how they looked on the painting.



An excellent technique for critiquing one's own work

We were able to bring the colours from the foreground into the sky, darken the shadows, accentuate the focal point, or even highlight areas in a way that allowed us to see the benefit. This process can be invaluable, particularly when you feel that something drastic needs to be done but you feel too intimidated and afraid to mess with a work that has value to you. All who were present found this a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive experience. We left with a whetted appetite for more experiences of a similar type.



Many thanks to all who came and to your willingness to be a part of this fun experience. My plan is to try to set up another critique session in the spring.

OWS Walter Baker Centre Exhibit

with contributions from Pauline Goss and Rick Sobkowicz

Dhanashri Bapat



Above, from left: 'Floating Reflections' by Dhanashri Bapat; 'Sunset Islands' by Dhanashri Bapat; 'Waterlily Pond' by Dhanashri Bapat.

Barbara Brintnell



Above, from left: 'Reach for the Clouds' by Barbara Brintnell; 'Tumbling Ice' by Barbara Brintnell; 'Lake Spring' by Barbara Brintnell; and,

Alain Godbout



Above, from left: 'Rust in Peace no12' by Alain Godbout; 'Au bout de mon champs' by Alain Godbout; and, 'Mamie' by Alain Godbout.

Pauline Goss



Above, from left: 'Forest Colour' by Pauline Goss; 'Wild Berries' by Pauline Goss; 'Day' by Pauline Goss; and, 'Misty' by Pauline Goss.

Six OWS members contributed a total of 16 paintings to the OWS exhibition at the Walter Baker Sports Centre. The Society takes this opportunity to thank Dhanashri Bapat, Barbara Brintnell, Alain Godbout, Pauline Goss, Renate Hulley, and Brian Seed for their contributions.

OWS Walter Baker Exhibit (Cont'd)

The artwork is quite varied in style and quite exceptional. Thank you, Pauline and Brent, for erecting the exhibit and our thanks to the City of Ottawa for the beautiful lettering put on the wall to identify this site as that of the Ottawa Watercolour Society.



Brian Seed

There will be a new exhibition of Society painters at the Walter Baker Centre beginning on March 28. This is also the date on which paintings will need to be picked up from the current show. Each exhibit is for a duration of two months.



Above, from left: 'Serenity' by Brian Seed; and, 'A Barn in Winter' by Brian Seed.

Renate Hulley



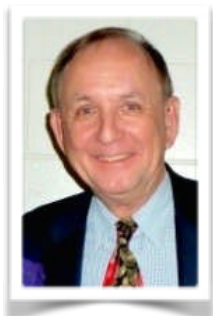
Above, 'Yellow and Blue Pansies' by Renate Hulley

We will continue to suggest optional themes for the Walter Baker exhibitions, which will be announced in the email distributed for every new show at the Walter Baker Centre.

In addition, this year we will be announcing a special exhibit of plein air paintings at Walter Baker. We hope to see many great paintings done during the plein air painting sessions proposed by Jane Barlow for 2015. The plein air exhibit will take place sometime this fall. More details to come.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Sobkowicz



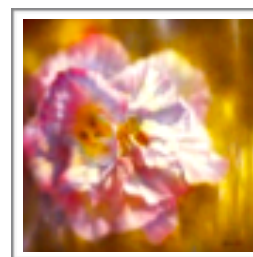
Looking for inspiration? Ideas? Instruction? There is an excellent art magazine exclusively for watercolourists containing all of these things and more. "The Art of Watercolour" is published in France in both English and French (the French copy is titled "L'Art de l'Aquarelle") The English edition is locally available at major bookstores such as Chapters and Indigo, and the bookstand price is \$14.99 (Cdn) per issue or by subscription from the publisher for 30 euros (approximately \$41 Cdn) for a digital copy or 39 euros (approximately \$53.40 Cdn) for a paper copy.



The latest edition (issue 17) appeared in local bookstores at the beginning of March.

Each issue features articles on some of the best watercolour artists living today, showing examples of their work along with an explanation and photos of how they paint from composition to the finished stage. Many of these articles include a description of the paints and tools the artist uses. The artists' tips are invaluable.

The latest issue features the artists Chien-Chung Wei (Taiwan), Morten Solberg (United States), Barbara Nechis (United States), Chen-Wen Cheng (China), Adisorn Pornsirikarn (Thailand), Franck Perrot (France), and Konstantin Sterkhov (Russia). There are items on many other artists. Here are some examples of the artists' works to give you an idea of the calibre of their work:



Above, from left: Chien-Chung Wei, Morten Solberg, Barbara Nechis, Chen-Wen Cheng

The magazine also provides information on watercolour competitions, what is happening around the world in the watercolour community, and an interesting section on artists that magazine readers have identified who may be of interest to watercolour artists. Contact particulars are provided should you wish to contact any of these artists, and there are pictures of their artwork to give you an idea of their painting style.

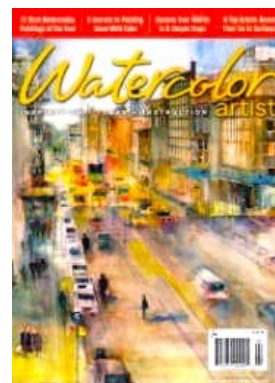
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

If anything you find in this magazine strikes your interest, do not hesitate to go online to find more on either the artists or other subjects. Some of the artists have websites containing more pictures of their artwork, their painting style, and short instructional YouTube videos that you can view for free and from the comfort of your home—at your leisure and as often as you wish or need to see the video.

By the time you get to the end of each issue, you can't help but feel inspired and empowered.

There are a couple of other magazines that I would like to bring to your attention. The February 2015 issue of "Watercolor Artist" (a monthly publication with a bookstand price of \$10.99) has several interesting feature articles. One article on the Best Art of 2014 contains photos of the chosen artwork, with commentary from the artists and the jurors who awarded them. If you are interested in participating in juried art shows, this article is insightful.

Do you sometimes get stuck on what to paint?



There is an interesting article on the watercolour artwork of Carrie Waller, who finds inspiration from items found in the home. Her artwork is very reminiscent of well-known Canadian (New Brunswick) artist Mary Pratt. It is amazing what Carrie has done with incandescent lightbulbs. The article describes in detail and with photos how she painted this work. She has also done a dramatic work using storage jars.



An article on the artwork of Keinyo White shows what you can do with portraiture using the white of the paper, perspective, and contrast to produce dramatic and refreshingly new artwork that may be of more appeal in today's marketplace.

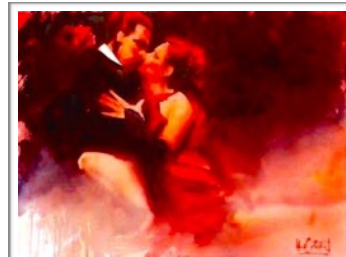
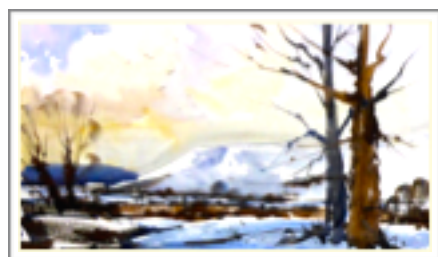
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

There are other artists featured in this issue, along with other subjects (e.g. three secrets to painting snow with colour—a great article for artists living in Canada at this time of year!) and tips that members may find interesting reading.



The third magazine, "The Artist", is a British monthly publication (bookstand price \$10.50) and contains articles on different art media, including watercolour. There are a number of different articles on watercolour artists Steve Hall and Alvaro Castagnet, whose styles are a dramatic shift from those who paint in realism, as shown below.

There is an article by Tim Rose explaining how to master tone and temperature in watercolour.



Above from left, artwork by Steve Hall and two works by Alvaro Castagnet.

I hope you get a chance to look at any one or all of these issues. You may find something that excites and inspires you. And don't forget, if you find something that is of particular interest, go online and take a peek at what you can find under the artist's name or subject. You may find an instructional video that is just what you were looking for, something that will address a problem you are experiencing or if you are trying to figure out how to paint something in particular.

Enjoy, have fun painting, and don't be afraid to push your limits. You may be pleasantly surprised with the results.



Painting by Mary Nunn

Paintouts and Program News 2015

by Jane Barlow

Paintouts

In response to an interest for paintouts expressed by members, I am continuing to develop the program for plein air painting for the OWS. These outings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday and fourth Saturday of the month, from May until October, with a suggested meeting time of 9:15 a.m. (15 minutes grace for late arrivals). Generally speaking, members have suggested that they prefer to have locations that are within about an hour's drive of Ottawa, that they are open to painting a wide variety of outdoor subjects, and that they would prefer to have access to a washroom.

I am looking for volunteers to coordinate each session. Although each coordinator plays a very important role as organizer for the session, they may or may not paint or even have any experience with plein air painting. Have a look at the dates and let me know as soon as possible which date you would be interested in. If you need to make a change later, I am sure we can figure something out. The coordinator will choose where the location of the paintout will be (see location suggestions) and send out an email reminder through Rosy Somerville, our email communications liaison, at rosy.somerville@rogers.com about a week before the date of the paintout. RSVPs are expected by email or by phone to the coordinator to notify him/her of an intent to attend. We are asking you to provide contact info in case of a cancellation or in the event of difficulty finding each other at the paintout. The coordinator will clarify the meeting place, and when locations are distant they will perhaps suggest a place to meet for carpooling. If there is carpooling, a small fee (\$2) will be requested to help with fuel costs. The leader will arrive at the meeting place by 9:15 to greet participants, but the artists will choose their own spots for painting.

Paintouts and Program News 2015 (Cont'd)

The paintouts will last from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. everyone will meet up at an agreed upon spot to show and share ideas about the work they have produced. Everyone is welcome to come.

We understand that some members who are interested may feel they are not yet ready to participate in painting, but please come out and observe the process. This is meant to be an easygoing, fun experience. Feel free to paint, sketch, shoot photographs, or simply enjoy the outdoors.

I am requesting that each coordinator provide feedback to me after their event so that I can track any changes that need to be made. This is a work in progress.

The dates will be: May 13 and 23, June 10 and 27, July 8 and 25, August 12 and 22, September 9 and 26, and October 14 and 24.

Location suggestions: Black Rapids (T\$), Arboretum (T), Central Experimental Farm (TB), Fletcher Wildlife Garden (T), Andrew Haydon Park (T), Hog's Back Falls (T), Mooney's Bay (T), Rockcliffe Gardens, Strathcona Park, Maplelawn (TB), Fairfield's House (TB), Billings Estate (TB), Ottawa Market (T\$B), Pinhey's Point (T\$B), Mud lake, Manotick (TB), Mackenzie King Estate (T\$B), Pink Lake (T), Mousette Park (T), Merrickville (TB), Parliament Hill (T\$B), Chapman Mills Conservation Area.

(T=toilet, \$=some cost for parking, B=buildings)

Keep in mind this is just a list of suggestions based on my awareness of these places. Several members have also offered their cottages or gardens. Any other ideas are welcome. Any questions, please email me at barlowjanem@gmail.com or call 613-224-4409.

Programs

Colour

The next programs event is a lecture on colour being presented by Mary Nunn, supported by Wallack's, occurring at the downtown Wallack's at 231 Bank Street, on Saturday, March 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30. We are looking forward to this being an interactive experience, with samples of Golden Qor watercolour materials and a door prize donated by Golden. RSVP is requested to Jane Barlow at barlowjanem@gmail.com or 613-224-4409

Paintouts and Program News 2015 (Cont'd)

June 6-7 workshop with Doug Mays



"Hotel Entrance - Monterosso Cinque Terre", Doug Mays

This workshop is now over half full. It will be held at the College Square Loblaws near Woodroffe and Baseline from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for two days, Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7. The cost is \$150 and you can reserve your space by payment made out to "Ottawa Watercolour Society". Cancellation can be made up to two weeks before the date of the workshop, May 22, minus a \$20 handling fee. Send your payment to Jane Barlow, 4 Beaver Ridge, Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 6C7.

This is going to be a full weekend of loose, impressionistic-style landscape watercolour painting with an emphasis on capturing the light. Demos will be done, with plenty of time for asking questions and hands-on experimentation.

Introducing Artist Ken Finch

On an overcast day in late February, I took a drive out to Metcalfe to visit with OWS member Ken Finch and his wife Betty in their cosy home in the woods. Both were very generous with their time and hospitality, and it is obvious that both are devoted to each other—and to their boisterous dog Brandy.

After serving a lovely lunch, during which Ken regaled me with stories of artist friends, art philosophy, and his life with Betty over the years, we got down to business and Ken showed me a number of his works, representing the themes of landscape, portraits, and epiphanies.



Ken believes there are four stages for an artist: student, artist, painter, and master. “If you get to be a painter, that’s really something”, says Ken.

I hope you enjoy this brief glimpse into Ken’s life and work. - Elizabeth

Ken Finch, a long-time Ottawa resident, was born in Toronto and studied drawing and painting at the Ontario College of Art, graduating in 1963. He has conducted numerous workshops in Ottawa and was featured on Carleton University’s Continuing Education TV Program series, “Brave New Universe”.

From 1975 to 2000, Ken taught drawing and painting at the Ottawa School of Art and for several years in the Diploma Program at Algonquin College. He was also the recipient of a Special Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to Algonquin’s Visual Arts Program.

Ken’s professional activities include his time as Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Artists Representation of Ottawa (CARO). He also served on the Ottawa School of Art’s Board of Directors as Faculty Representative and was appointed Chairman of the Program Committee.

Introducing Artist Ken Finch (Cont'd)

In 1986, Ken designed a new Intensive Studies Program for the Ottawa School of Art, which was awarded an Ontario Arts Council grant. He was also co-founder of a pre-university Art Portfolio Presentation Course.

Ken is a Fellow member of the Ottawa Watercolour Society. In 1989, he received their Award for Excellence in Painting and in the late 1990s the President's Choice Award.

Over the years, Ken's work has been seen in many group exhibitions in Ottawa as well as in solo and co-exhibitions at Erindale College (University of Toronto's Blackwood Gallery), Wallack's Gallery, the Sussex Gallery, York Gallery, Victoria College (University of Toronto), and at the National Arts Centre. His work is also represented in numerous public and private collections.

In 2002, Ken officially retired from teaching in order to devote himself to full-time studio work.

Artist's Perspective

My painting expresses my belief in a quixotic, dreamy, irregular beauty. When I look around me, I see nothing static, nothing ever quite complete in itself. Conventional forms dissolve as soon as one looks closely. Logic and appearances are always in tension, reminding me of this curious fluidity that pervades the universe, which I seek to express continuously in my life and work.

"Painting is alchemy", from "What Painting Is", by James Elkins.

Alchemy is the process that turns something ordinary and even "base" into something unique, valuable, and magical. Its essence is in the bringing together of diverse materials in order to reach a more meaningful and enduring form.

The work of the contemporary artist Mary Conover (maryconoverartist.com) embodies an "alchemy of light". In her pulsating-like abstractions, she suggests a new vision of land, sea, and sky and new and vital connections between self and nature.

It is interesting to note that the poet Rainer Maria Rilke and the composer Arnold Schoenberg both used alchemy as an "artistic working principle".

Introducing Artist Ken Finch (Cont'd)

I am pleased when a painting of mine has something anticipatory about it, something that can be understood as a proposal, not something didactic or logical but rather free and effortless, despite the presence of a hidden geometry. The lines, the colours, the anti-naturalistic drips, the controlled accidents and splashes of paint are all designed to provoke the eye to participate in the creative process and the real activity that goes on all the time, both around and within us.

"Blooming Lovely"



"Reflections"

I work intuitively and spontaneously but with an intuition and spontaneity that is backed up with knowledge and experience. Taking this direction helps me to vary from the norm and to explore new ideas and exciting possibilities.

There is an ambiguity about my compositions that I have come to accept.



"October Blue"

Introducing Artist Ken Finch (Cont'd)



Nature is process, not a static collection of objects. The line of a tree branch may extend itself into the cleft of a rock and further into the reach of a cloud. It is only our delimiting minds that separate these things, not reality.

"Lonesome Tree"

Throughout my life, the simple quality of light has always had a profound effect on me, whether it be fractured, luminous, dappled, or moving delicately across the fields near Metcalfe, Ontario, where I live and work.



"Contemplation"

The News from Manchester

by Rosemary Randall



Greetings to all from Manchester, UK. I finally have my computer and home/studio set up and love it here. Yesterday I saw that the daffodils were up in the parks, tulips were almost there too, and palm trees grow outside all year round.

I have found the art supply store, where I bought two tubes of Windsor & Newton's new limited edition colours and was given the third one. I'm wondering whether you have them in Ottawa. They are beautiful: Transparent Orange, Yellow Titanate, and, my favourite, Phthalo Sapphire, all Series 3.



This is a photo of a sculpture entitled "Eleanor Rigby", which was at the Beverley Art Gallery in Liverpool. Eleanor Rigby was a bag lady in Liverpool who died penniless and was immortalized by the Beatles. The artist, Leonard Brown, created this sculpture out of one million pounds' worth of decommissioned shredded bank notes.

Finally, there was a great International Food Fair in the fall at St Albert's Square, the heart of Manchester, and this was one of the beverage vendors.

I hope you are all painting, and I look forward to seeing your images from the next OWS exhibition.

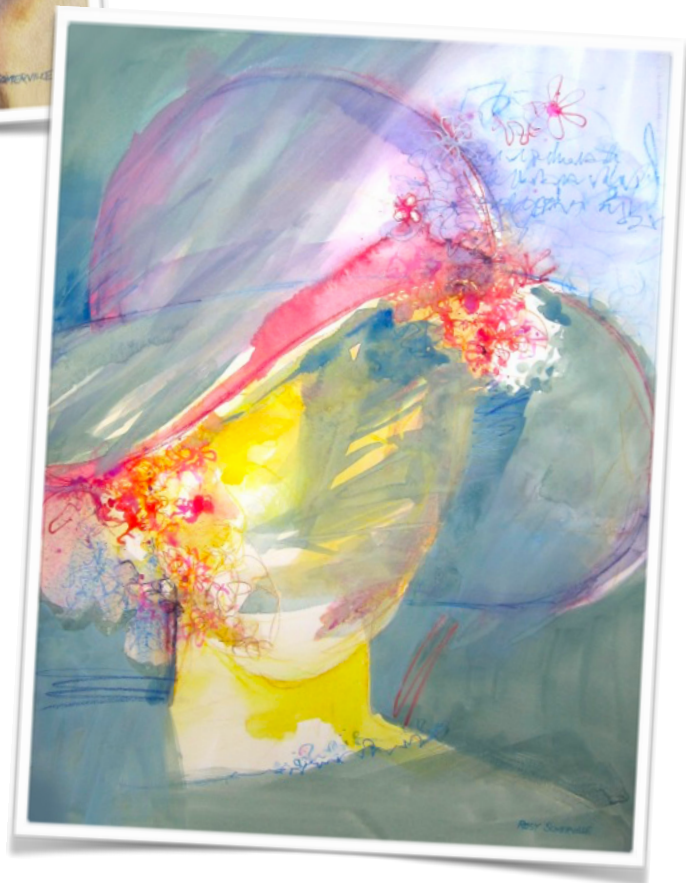
Cheers, Rosemary



OWS Artist at Local Restaurant



Rosy Somerville will be displaying watercolours at Il Primo Ristorante, 371 Preston St, <http://www.ilprimo.ca> Ottawa, from March 3, for two months.



UPCOMING EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS

Colour Matters – March 21, with Mary Nunn

The next programs event is an interactive lecture on colour being presented by Mary Nunn, supported by Wallack's, occurring at the downtown Wallack's at 231 Bank Street on Saturday, March 21, from 10:30 am to 12:30 noon.

Mary has been creating new test sheets and developing colouring mixing combinations and paint applications. You may just discover a different approach that will solve a current dilemma or open new doors for exploration. We will look at the temperature, staining, granulation, and opacity of paints and what order to best apply them. You will have an opportunity to try out some new paints, mix some colours, and hopefully have fun. Share with us your palette of colours that works best for you. What colours do you restock the most often?

Let's work together to grow the OWS and help each other flourish.

RSVP is requested to Jane Barlow at barlowjanem@gmail.com or 613-224-4409. Please let Jane know as soon as possible so that we can open this up to others.

"Spring into Art III" art conference - Register Now!

Where: Carp Agricultural Hall

When: Saturday, April 11, 2015

Who: Five speakers:

- Jesse Stewart - Interdisciplinary Art Practice
- Franc van Oort - Inspirations and Demo
- Shawna Tregunna - Relevant Social Media for an Artist
- Barbara Gamble - Interdependent Aspects of an Art Career
- John-Philippe Smith - Heritage stone cutter and conservator

Lunch is included. Seating is limited

Cost: \$50.00 until February 15, \$70.00 after.

Details at <http://www.westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

UPCOMING EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS (Cont'd)

Art Classes

Rosy Somerville is offering "Watercolour Plus" classes at her home studio in Carp. Please visit rosysomerville.com for more details.

Spring Term 2015

10 weeks, Tuesday, April 14 - June 23

Intermediate

Ten classes. 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$200

No class June 2

10 weeks, Wednesday, April 15 - June 24

Intermediate

Ten classes. 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$200

No class June 3

8 weeks, Thursday, April 16 - June 18

Introduction/Refresher

Eight classes. 1:00 - 4:00 pm, \$160.00. No class May 7 or June 4

The Davis Art School is offering the following spring classes for adults:

Painting: Acrylic and Watercolour - Instructor: Marcia Lea, MFA, B.Ed.

This course is designed to give students maximum creative expression as they work on individual projects while benefitting from technical demonstrations and group critique. The class size is seven or under to maximize the consultation time with instructor.

Weekday: Mondays, 10 am to 1 pm, April 6 to June 22 \$350+HST No class May 18

OR Evening: Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9 pm, April 7 to June 16 \$350+HST

OR Weekend: Saturdays, 2:30 to 5:30 pm, April 11 to June 20 \$350+HST No class May 16

Supplies not included in above course

Drawing Essentials - Instructor: Marcia Lea, MFA, B.Ed.

The essential elements of drawing will be taught in this course designed for beginners or artists who wish to reinforce their technical and conceptual knowledge. Classes will be small to allow for individual attention.

Monday 1:15 to 3:45 pm April 7 to June 16 \$350+HST Includes all supplies

See davisartschool.com or call (613) 790 1888 for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS (Cont'd)

West Carleton Arts Society Fall Show and Sale 'Expressions of Art' 2015 will be held on October 9, 10, and 11 (Thanksgiving weekend) in the Carp Agricultural Hall, Carp Fairgrounds, 3790 Carp Rd.

Application forms and show guidelines available for download at <http://www.westcarletonartsociety.ca>.

Deadline for application for selection is June 1.

Please apply, and share with your networks.

OWS Artist in Fabriano Watercolour Festival

Each year Fabriano, Italy, holds a prestigious international artistic exhibition dedicated to watercolour painting. Alain Godbout, OWS Fellow, has had his painting, "Ophélie" (watercolour 28x21 on Fabriano Artístico), accepted by the Canadian delegation to the festival. Over 700 participants from 25 countries are represented in the festival, which is sponsored by the city of Fabriano and the well-known Italian papermaker. The show runs from April 23 to May 17.



Home Pages and Websites

(If you don't see your name on the list and would like to have it in the next newsletter, please get in touch with Rosy Somerville.)

Janet Agulnik - janetagulnik.com
Alan and Audrey Bain - alanaudreybain.artbo.net
Dhanashri Bapat - dhanashri.com
Anne Barkley - annebarkley.ca
Brenda Beattie - brendabeattie.com
Josie Braden - anya.corto.ca
Barbara Brintnell - www.BarbaraBrintnell.ca
Ted Duncan - tedzworks.com
Arlette Francière - arlettefranciere.com
Ann Gruchy - anngruchy.com
John Hiscock - jphiscock.ca
Renate Hulley - renatehulley.artbo.net
Arlene McGee - arlenemcgee.com
Pam McKinnon - pammckinnonart.com
Shirley Moulton - shirleymoulton.com
Ewa U. Mroz - SeventhSisterStudios.ca
Mary Nunn - marynunn.com
Victor Pavlov - victorpavlov.com
Yvon Perrier - yvonperrier.com
Rosemary Randell - rosemaryrandell.com
Adriana Saba - adrianasaba.com
Pat Smith - jazzbo.ca
Rosy Somerville - rosysomerville.com
Betty Sullivan - bettysullivanart.com
Charles Spratt - cspratt.net
Anne Remmer Thompson - anneremmerthompson.ca
Shernya Vininsky - shernyavininsky.ca

Note from the Editor

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to get in touch: liz33@rogers.com If you would like to be profiled in a future edition of the newsletter, I'd love to hear from you. And if you would like to write an article for the newsletter, something you think other OWS members would like to hear about, please send it along. - Elizabeth