



**ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT  
ON ARTISTS:**

# **Art For All**

WORDS BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT  
PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



Like wine tasting, art appreciation can be intimidating. Niagara Escarpment artists want to take the snobbery out of investing in art.

◀ Kelly McDonagh, artist and co-owner with Susan Hoeltken, of In2Art Gallery in Oakville. Here she stands between “Nocturne in Blue” by Ivo Stoyanov, left, and “Jade in Bloom” by Kaitlin Johnson. The studies of running shoes are Kelly’s own work.



**T**oo often, people worry that when they want to buy art, they'll be ridiculed for not knowing enough: about styles, various media, art history, famous artists. Talk to an artist about art and come across as a dummy? It's better just not to bother.

Buying art need not be alarming. While some people might know tons about influences, allusions, pastiches and other hoity toity aspects of fine art, the truth is that just as in wine tasting, what other people think doesn't matter. What matters is how it appeals to you. Do you like it? Better yet, do you love it?

In2Art Gallery of Oakville was opened and is run by two artists, Kelly McDonagh and Susan Hoeltken, and their focus is guiding people through the art buying process.

"There's no stupid question," says Kelly. "If you like it that's a good place to start. Our best service is we go into people's homes with several pieces of art so they can try them out."

They carry the original work of about 65 artists, all Canadian, primarily from Ontario and Quebec. They offer mainly landscapes, but also figurative and large abstract pieces, in all media: acrylic, encaustic, etchings, oil, mixed media, photography, watercolour. Their prices make it possible for everyone to buy art, as pieces range from \$50 to \$8,000. The largest size of work they have offered has been in the range of 70 square inches.

"We specialize in emerging artists," adds Kelly, "so we always look for new artists." Every year in summer and in the pre-Christmas season, they hold "little art" shows, of smaller works of art costing less than \$350.

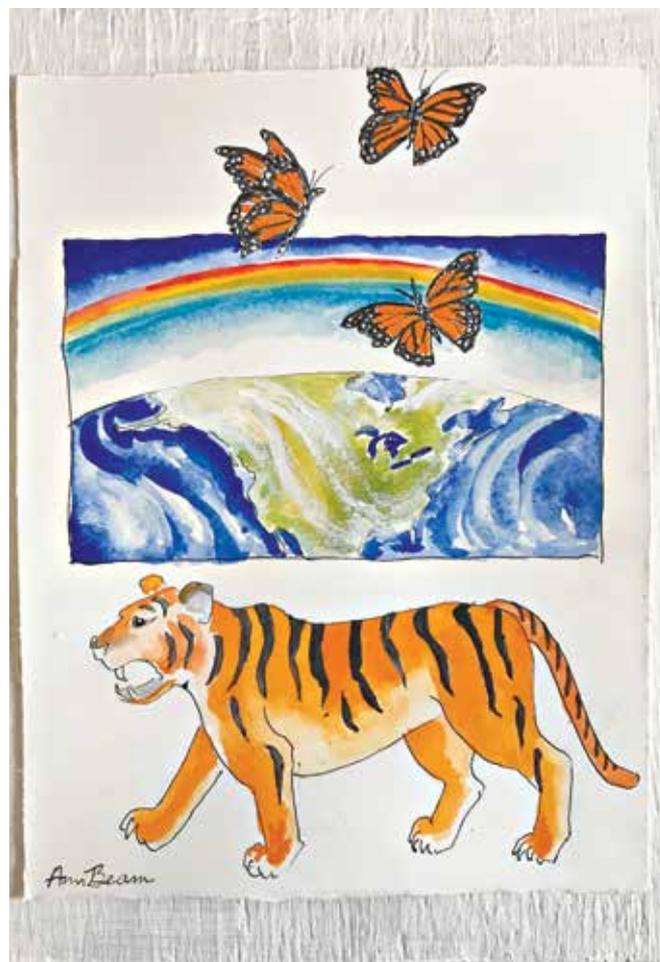
Kelly and Susan remain in contact with their artists about what they're working on, so if people want something for a special place, they may know what will soon be available. They will also arrange for artworks to be commissioned, at no extra charge.

### **New Work**

Ann Beam, who owns Neon Raven Art Gallery in M'Chigeeng on Manitoulin Island, has a new work called "Transitional Shift: from Tiger to Monarchs" with an interesting genesis. She explains it fully in her book *Ann's Amazing Art Life (Part 1)*, which she published this year. She dreamed of welcoming a flock of Monarch Butterflies into her house, but then she followed the Monarchs into a jungle.

"They led me to a Tiger, who was majestically posing a formal picture of himself, calm and in a side profile...kind of like a sculpture. I suddenly had the realization that the Monarchs and the Tiger had a link...They were both made of the same colours!...orange, black and white...Their colours were identical!...They didn't have any other colours." Ann adds that this inspired her to create ceramics and mixed media paintings that placed the Monarchs and tiger together.

"In one of these works," she continues, "there is a Tiger Image (that came from a cardboard box!) with an image of the Earth over his head. There is a rainbow over the Earth...and then there are Monarchs at the top...flying over the Earth and the Rainbow. This was titled "Transitional Shift"...(from Tiger to Monarch). Then I was inspired to refine this and do even more works with the Tiger, Monarchs, and the Rainbow over the Earth!"



▲ "Transitional Shift: from Tiger to Monarchs" by Ann Beam. Watercolour on paper 12" X 15." PHOTO PROVIDED.

## **FEATURED GALLERIES**

### **in2art Gallery**

350 Lakeshore Rd. East,  
Unit 1B, Oakville, 905.582.6739

### **Neon Raven Art Gallery**

53 Corbiere Rd., M'chigeeng,  
Manitoulin Island,  
705.377.6088

### **The Gallery Upstairs**

3 Mill St., Milton, 905.875.8134

### **Owen Sound Artists' Co-op**

942 Second Ave. East,  
Owen Sound, 519.371.0479

### **Golden Gallery**

Highway 6, Tobermory,  
519.596.2280



▲ In2Art Gallery is located at the east end of Oakville's popular Lakeshore Rd. shopping district, to make it possible for people to buy art without having to go to Toronto.



► Art is everywhere at In2Art Gallery and not just on the walls. Canvases are stacked against the walls, in piles and in boxes. There is something for all price points here.



▲ One of several outdoor “rooms” that surround The Gallery Upstairs, full of outdoor art pieces. A good gift shop for unique items, with pieces ranging in price from \$25 to \$4,000.

Ann Beam was extensively featured in “The Power of Artistic Expression” in the Autumn 2015 issue of this magazine. The article can be seen online at [www.NEViews.ca](http://www.NEViews.ca) under Magazine – Back Issues.

### Bateman, Newlove

Prints by Robert Bateman and original works by Tina Newlove take pride of place in The Gallery Upstairs, in Milton, which carries a great deal more art than it seems from the outside. While interior walls are filled with the works of these cherished artists, there are also several outdoor “rooms” that have been created to display sculpture and other kinds of garden art suitable for remaining outside year round.

Although Bateman prints can be bought online, gallery owner Hedi Nowak



▲ Ann Beam works with mixed media, frequently including used corrugated cardboard from boxes, especially with text printed on it. She also creates “window” in her pieces. This piece, “Team Lift 12,” is one in a series of 15 “Team Lift” artworks. Ann describes this one as “3 ft. x 4 ft., acrylic on canvas with recycled cardboard on panel with cedar bark heart window.” PHOTO PROVIDED.

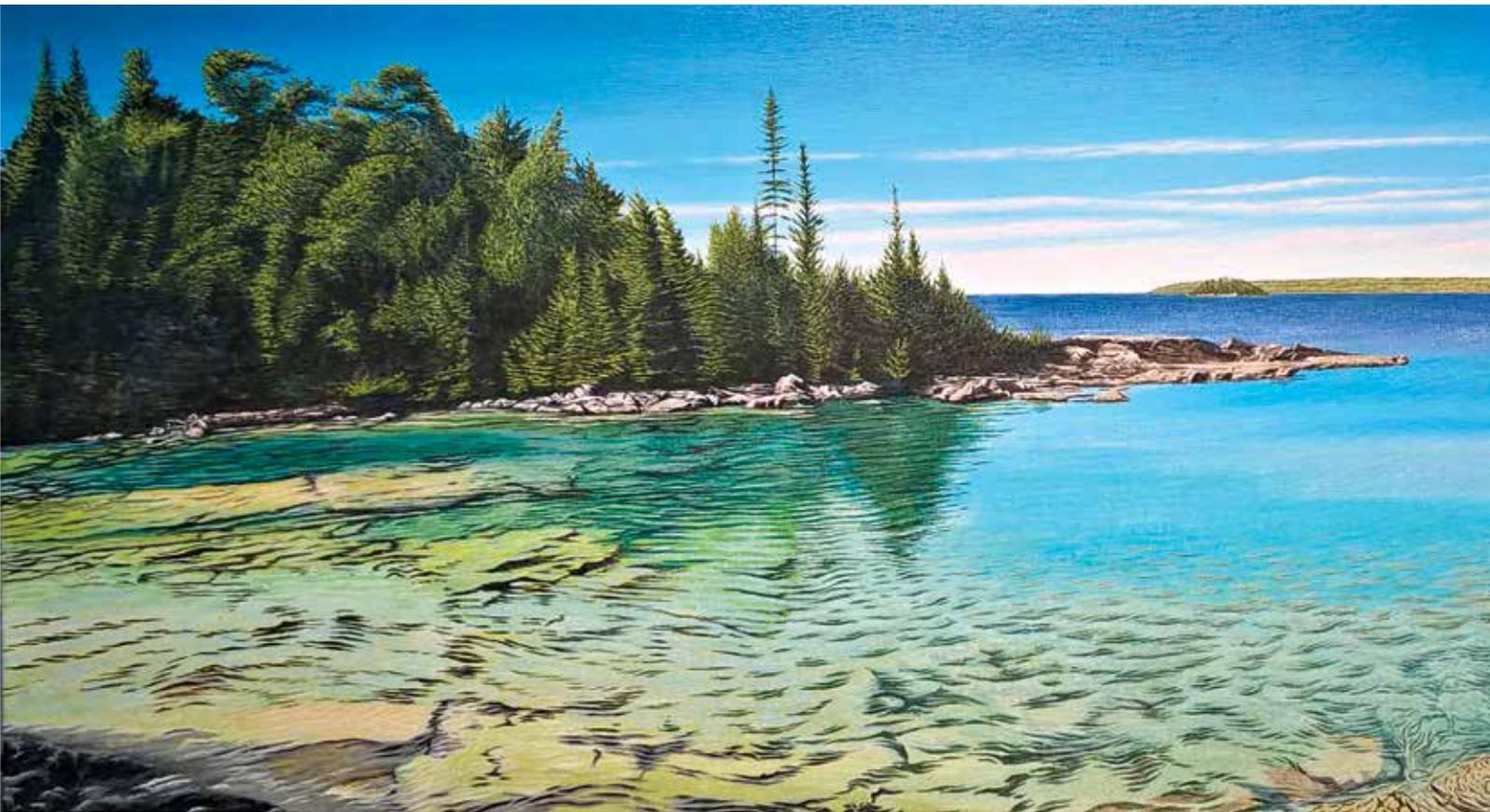




▲ Hedi Nowak, owner of The Gallery Upstairs in Milton, holds a work by Tina Newlove in front of a wall of works by Newlove.



▲ A large selection of Robert Bateman prints for sale is on display inside The Gallery Upstairs.



▲ Kent Wilkens of Golden Gallery in Tobermory describes one of his Escarpment works in progress: “A nice view from a quiet bay at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, looking north towards Flowerpot, Middle, and Bears Rump Islands. Complicated water, with the ripple patterns on top, increasing depth, muted rock shapes under the water, and light amplification playing on the rocks from the surface ripples. The water is about half done at this point, with some tidy up still to do on the trees, and some foreground details to deal with as well.” Photo provided.

► Owen Sound Artists’ Co-op member jeweller Naomi Assenheim of Meaford works out of a woodland studio among the rocks and trees of the Niagara Escarpment. She uses gemstones, crystals and fossils and is inspired by natural materials.



emphasizes that in her gallery “You can actually see the Batemans and how they look with different frames.” Hedi also provides custom framing services.

The contemporary realism of Tina Newlove’s works

can be had in all sizes, from the very large to very small pieces, making it possible to own her work on any budget. Hedi bought her first work by Newlove for her own private collection 25 years ago, and she has

been selling Newlove works for about a dozen years.

“I’m always honoured to sell her work because galleries are fighting for her,” says Hedi. As an artist who lives locally, “she’s a treasure for Milton,”

adds Hedi. “And of course Bateman was another treasure for Milton.” **NEV**

*Gloria Hildebrandt and Mike Davis are co-founders and co-publishers of Niagara Escarpment Views.*



▲ Kate McLaren lives and creates pottery on the Niagara Escarpment overlooking the Bighead River valley. Her pottery is easily recognized and distinctive for the evolving tree motif, always changing and refining as she explores a wide range of glazes and clay bodies, using different techniques, temperatures and kilns. Her work is available at Owen Sound Artists' Co-op.