

Six Degrees of Freedom



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Exhibit at Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery

399 The West Mall Etobicoke, Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2

Exhibition Date: August 28 to September 27, 2016

Participating Artist are:

[Biljana Baker](#) [Gail Backus](#) [Nancy Newman](#) [Doreen Renner](#) [Brenda Stonehouse](#) [Bruce Stonehouse](#)

BILJANA BAKER

Biljana is a full-time watercolour artist who resides in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She was born in Yugoslavia, came to Canada in 1964 and grew up in Toronto. After high school she studied Fashion Design and Fine Arts at Ryerson University and upon graduation was employed in Toronto as a Fashion Designer.

The softness and spontaneity of watercolours are the motivating factors in her unique presentation. Innovative mat carving also adds another dimension to her work.

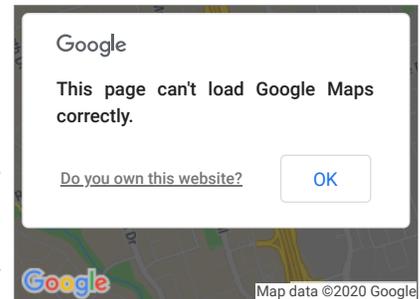
She has participated in numerous group and solo shows across Canada and the United States. Her paintings can be found in private and public collections worldwide.

Biljana has studied with many prominent artists in Canada, USA and Europe which has led to a career teaching watercolours in Thunder Bay at Confederation College, the 55plus Centre, and Learning Through the Arts and CAHAP programs.

Her involvement in the Thunder Bay Art Community has been very extensive and very rewarding. She produced several prominent shows -- People, Places and Things, Flavour and Flair, and Superior Creations. She organizes workshops by bringing in prominent artists and promotes student artists through sponsorship.

She is a member of Lakehead Visual Arts, Six Degrees of Freedom, [Artisan's Northwest](#), [Thunder Bay Art Gallery](#) and the [Pictograph Gallery in Atikokan](#), as well as an associate member of the [Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour \(CSPWC\)](#). She is past co-chair of [Clean, Green, and Beautiful](#), and was past chair of the [Public Art Committee for the City of Thunder Bay](#).

Biljana has been nominated for the Arts and Heritage Visual Art Award; illustrated a book entitled "The Art of Healing"; and has been profiled on the TV Home and Garden Show "Craft Scapes" with Sue Warden.



Biljana Baker was a proud three time recipient of the Exhibition Grant from the [Ontario Arts Council \(OAC\)](#).

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Gail Backus

Gail is a graduate of York University with a B.A. (Fine Arts Major), and a B.Ed. (Art Specialist). She has had the benefit of art instruction from many well regarded artists, and has exhibited her work with several galleries in the Greater Toronto Area.

Gail is presently a member of the following: Ontario College of Teachers, Canadian Federation of University Women, Central Ontario Art Association, Mississauga Arts Council, Visual Arts Mississauga, The Mississauga Watercolour Society, Neilson Park Creative Centre, Humber Valley Art Club, Art Works Oakville, The Colour & Form Society, Headwaters Arts, Lakeshore Arts, and a Signature Member of the Toronto Watercolour Society.

Gail has received several awards including Second Place in a juried show for the World Exposition in Kariya, Aichi, Japan. She has also had paintings accepted in many other juried shows including the Humber Valley Art Club, the Artworks Show at the Oakville Town Centre, The Colour and Form Society, The Toronto Watercolour Society, and the Art Gallery of Mississauga, to name a few. She has participated in the Lakeshore Art Trail in Mississauga for many years.

Gail enjoys painting a variety of subjects. She uses both watercolours, and acrylics to achieve a fresh and spontaneous quality in her work. More recently, she has been experimenting with colour and form to express her feelings about ideas.



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Nancy is an award-winning artist, teacher and juror. She is the Past President of the Toronto Watercolour Society (TWS) and the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA). Nancy has exhibited her work in many solo shows and juried group shows including TWS Aquavision, Art Aurora, Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA), and Blue Mountain Foundation of the Arts (BMFA) shows. She has received several First Place, Honourable Mention and People's Choice Awards.

Nancy has been a guest instructor for many art societies such as the Banbury Group of Artists, the Bayview Watercolour Society, Don Valley Art Club and the Marsh Street Painters, Clarksburg. She gives workshops and teaches regular sessions of classes at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Nancy has been an instructor at the Haliburton School of the Arts for many years. In June of 2015, Nancy was an instructor for the Blue Mountain School of Landscape where the focus was painting en plein air. She has been asked to return in 2016. For a complete CV, please see Nancy's website, www.nancynewmanart.com

"Those who continue to grow, despite their age, are always in a continuous state of gearing up for life's next challenge. They maintain a forward momentum and are infestiously enthused about life, which is after all an adventure, not a guided tour." Anonymous

My challenge is to learn something new every day and to create a reflection of the small things in life which bring me joy and spark my imagination. As an educator I believe in and practise lifelong learning. Art keeps me enthused and allows my adventure to continue.

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DOREEN RENNER, CSPWC, OSA, SCA, CFS

Doreen has a Fine Art Diploma from Sheridan College. She is an Elected Member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, The Society of Canadian Artists, The Ontario Society of Artists and the Colour & Form Society. Her paintings have been in numerous juried exhibitions throughout Canada and the United States. Her work has been recognized with many awards and in 2008 she was the recipient of the Mississauga Arts Award for Established Artist. Her paintings hang in private and public collections and most recently acquired by the Provincial Government of Ontario for their archives.

"My images explore interpretations of nature's everyday events and are inspired by an internal response to an emotion, a memory or a life experience. They are created solely by intuition and are further enhanced by interesting patterns and calligraphy creating dramatic images meant to capture the imagination of the viewer. I am constantly challenging myself by pushing boundaries which, in turn, has allowed me to evolve as an artist."

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BRENDA STONEHOUSE

An accomplished oil painter, Brenda Stonehouse shares her passion for the natural environment of Ontario's rugged and majestic landscape through her canvas.

Having spent time in Eastern, Central and Western Ontario, the Muskoka Region and Thunder Bay, Brenda brings to life a wealth of experiences and flora as seen through her eyes.

Brilliant colours, mesmerizing shadows and releasing emotions of calmness and serenity upon those who witness Brenda's work have made her a favourite at art exhibitions and shows across Ontario.

Brenda's work can be found in a number of private collections both in Canada and abroad.

More recently, Brenda's work has featured in a cover story for Link Magazine - a publication dedicated to art and artists for discerning readers across Eastern Ontario.

A long-time member of the Lindsay Gallery, Brenda is a tireless supporter of the arts and artists sharing her work and experiences through panels, discussions and blogs. Her work can be seen on her website at www.brendastonehouse.com.



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BRUCE STONEHOUSE

My motivation as an artist is driven by the desire to make the best of this life. In doing so, I create paintings which are inspired by literary, social, political and environmental sources. As well, my own valuable life experiences are important as they pertain to human dynamics.

While creating paintings, I strive to bring out a form of expression that directly communicates what I want to say. I use rich brushwork to define the features of nature, still life, architecture and people in a lavish rendering of oil or acrylic, colours, light and shadow.

'Impasto' technique is employed to build up paint and colour on a warm under painting creating a surface with depth, expression and energy. Coloured shadows of trees fall across the canvas as I play with the forest light: filtered, broken, irregular to bestow a kind of radiant surreality upon objects. Ideally my paintings will have an impact, not just on the viewer's eyes, but on their entire body.

Biography

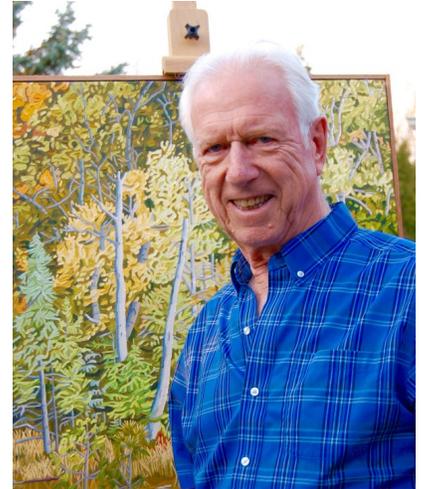
Bruce commenced studies in art at the Ontario College of Art & Design University in Toronto. Later he continued with studies at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay where he graduated in 1998 with the Degree of Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts.

His academic journey equipped him proficiently to perform the roles of both sculptor and painter. Bruce has created several large sculptures for private, and public installations e.g. university, hospital and gallery. For the past twelve years, he has directed his energy exclusively to creating paintings. His painted works of art, like his sculptures, are found in many collections.

Bruce strives to chronicle the differing regions of Canada. His canvases are based on touch, and affection for the natural world. Rich brushwork is evident to define the features of the landscape, and cityscapes in a lavish rendering of oil, or acrylic, colour, light & shadow.

With a desire for the betterment of the arts, Bruce volunteers to serve on many municipal boards and committees. Currently, he serves as Vice-Chair of Peterborough's Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee, and Chair of their Public Art Advisory Committee.

For most of his life, Bruce has worked and lived in communities that enabled him to remain close to nature. He and life-partner Carol now reside in Peterborough, on the bank of the Otonabee River and the treed landscape he loves to paint.



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