



rideau lakes
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

The Paint-In

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association Newsletter

Fall 2025

AFTER ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PAINT THE SUMMER

Next up: Art Rodeo, Holly Jolly...

Another successful *Paint The Summer* has been put to bed and what a success it was.

Fred Fowler, who has led the show committee for the past few years, told the September RLAA meeting that while a few details need to be reconciled, it appears there were sales totalling more than \$31,000. Almost 1,200 people attended the show over the two days (100 people per hour!) and \$1,375 was raised for the local food bank.

RLAA members are now looking

forward to the fall and winter, with an art rodeo scheduled for the November meeting and the Holly Jolly show at the Perth Legion at the end of November.

The Art Rodeo, being organized by Doris Power, anticipates 6-8 artists to complete a painting of a topic of their choice in 40 minutes, after which, they are judged by the audience.

As of press time there were still spaces open. If there are still spaces available by the October meeting artists may register then.

The Holly Jolly show sale has been booked for November 29 & 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Perth Legion.

At the September meeting, Barb Jordon noted the show is open to members in good standing, with an active membership of at least six months.

The registration fee is \$90 (\$60 participation fee, plus \$30 in lieu fee which will be refunded upon completion of your volunteer assignment). Payment can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer to: rlaa.treasurer@gmail.com.

(Past) President's Message

"Art should be something that liberates your soul, provokes the imagination and encourages people to go farther".

Keith Haring

That could also be said about this art association.

When I started my journey towards the President's position with RLAA I was a little intimidated. If we couldn't convince Fred Fowler to be president for life, there would be some very big shoes to fill.

However, here we are, four years later and I am passing this on to Deborah Jodoin who I know will do a wonderful job and put her own spin on this position.

I appreciate your confidence in allowing me to try to lead or guide this wonderful group of artists for the past few years.

We have gone through some tough times, recently, but with the help of some very strong and inventive members we are stronger than before, and I think acting more as a group than as individuals.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have sat in front of you and hammered with my little gavel, to have met so many new artists to our group and hopefully to have grown as well.

I saw a quote from Meister Eckhart: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is "thank you", it will be enough."

Well I have said many different prayers in the past, but right now that is what I want to say to you all: Thank You.

Sherry Rogers

RLAA Immediate Past President

New positions update

Deborah Jodoin was acclaimed president at the RLAA annual general meeting in September. She replaces Sherry Rogers, who will co-chair *Paint The Summer* with Barb Jordon.

Donna McPhail, who was also acclaimed, taking over as RLAA vice-president, replacing Margaret Martin.

Jackie Coldrey takes over the communications secretary role from Cathy Pruefer, assisted by Leane Bailey.

Leane Bailey takes over from Chris Dickson as Facebook coordinator, while Chris moves to workshop coordinator. Margaret Martin will now report on the Paint-ins.

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Another successful Paint The Summer show was held again at the Westport Arena in August, with more than 1,000 people coming through. Among those were long-time RLAA member Dave Dawson, left, seen here chatting with exhibiting artists Linda Rush and Ron Veh.
(Photo by Ben Bennett)

Quick workshop update

On November 1 and 2, Aili Kurtis will return with a workshop on large-format stylised acrylic landscape painting. **This workshop is full.**

On December 6 and 7, there will be an oil painting workshop with artist Monika Rosen: Illuminated Landscapes.

Monika Rosen is a figurative and landscape painter based in Kingston, Ontario, holding an MFA from the New York Academy of Art and a BFA from Queen's University. Working primarily in oil, her paintings navigate themes of vulnerability, transformation, and the rhythms of an interconnected ecosystem

Delve into what makes a glowing landscape with a felt sense of light. Working from a landscape photo to start, the participants will learn about mapping out composition with a "wipeout"

underpainting. Includes colour mixing, scumbling direct painting (wet-on-wet) and glazing. Fees are \$150 for members, \$200 for non-member.

There will be more information at the October RLAA meeting.

Thanks, Fred!



After several years as Paint The Summer Chair, and a few more as RLAA President, Fred Fowler, was awarded a nice "thank you" gift right before this year's PTS show, assuring everyone he would share it (which no one believed for a minute—and that's fine—he's earned it). Making the presentation was Barb Jordan, a key figure, along with many, many volunteers, in this year's show, who will co-chair next year's event with Sherry Rogers. Great job everyone!
(Photo by Deborah Jodoin)

Current speaker line-up for 2026

By Doris Power

In January, we will have two artists from the Hive in Bath: Amanda Lloyd & David Slack

(There is no meeting in February.)

In March, our speaker is Gary Barnett, an artist who creates websites for artists.

RLAA member Carolyn Huff-Winters is scheduled for April

Joanne Kells will be our speaker in May

In June, we will have our annual picnic. July will be all about *Paint The Summer* with our new show coordinators.

Events

October 10: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
Speaker: Jeanne Hudson

November 1 & 2 Bath Artisans "Falling Into Winter" show, St. John Hall, 216 Church St, Bath, ON
www.bathartisans.info

November 1 and 2, RLAA Workshop with Aili Kurtis—FULL

November 14: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. Art Rodeo

November 29,30: Holly Jolly Art Show, Perth Legion.

December 6 and 7 RLAA Workshop: Illuminated Landscapes - Oil Painting with Monika Rosen.

December 12 : RLAA Christmas luncheon, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.

INSPIRING WORDS INDEED

Fear no art: a call to creative courage

PART ONE

(Editor's note: The following is adapted from a presentation given by well-known local artist Aili Kurtis to the RLAA general meeting in August. To ensure these inspiring words are available to all members, we are including the speech in our newsletter, in two parts. Part two will be in the winter Paint-In, coming out in January.)

By Aili Kurtis

Art has always occupied a sacred space and a dangerous space. It is beauty and protest; reflection and provocation.

At its best it holds a mirror of truth to society, amplifies voices from the margins, and dares to imagine the world otherwise. But because art speaks truth, it is sometimes uncomfortable, sometimes revolutionary. It is often feared.

The phrase "Fear No Art" emerged as a defiant response to censorship. It was also popularized as a catch phrase in the form of buttons and posters and was sold in over 300 museums.

But the phrase "Fear No Art" has a far older echo, stretching back through history wherever power has tried to silence the imagination: in banned books and burned paintings.

Totalitarian regimes fear art because art threatens their control. Art is not dangerous because it is violent; it is dangerous because it opens minds and eyes.

CONDEMNED

Back in 1497, all objects condemned by religious authorities--such as paintings, sculptures, musical instruments, mirrors and books--were burned in the public square in Florence, in protest of artistic and social excesses. This was the "Bonfire of the Vanities", and some of Botticelli's masterpieces might have been destroyed.

In the 1930s there were also burnings of books and paintings. "Degenerate Art" was a term adopted by the Nazi Party to describe modern art.

These "degenerates" included artists like Dali, Picasso, Mondrian, Chagall, Kandinsky, and many, many, more. Artistic movements that were condemned were: Cubism, Dada, Expressionism, Impressionism, Surrealism, Fauvism.

"Degenerate Art" was the title of an exhibition held by the Nazis in Munich where the art was poorly hung and

included text labels mocking the art and the artists.

One text was "Nature, as seen through a sick mind". Ironically, this exhibition drew huge crowds.

China's Cultural Revolution destroyed traditional art and punished dissenting artists. The Soviet Union banned abstract art and forced artists into "Socialist Realism". Art was reduced to being functional propaganda.

Totalitarian regimes demand ideological conformity. However, art encourages the opposite. Art is about critical thinking, emotional depth, and imagination—traits that undermine blind obedience. Art builds bridges--not walls--because it reminds us of a shared humanity.

INSPIRATIONAL ESSAY

The Czech playwright and poet, Vaclav Havel, wrote an inspirational essay in which he stated that "imagination and creativity can defeat fear and control". He encouraged everyone to get involved in creative activity and after his peaceful

"Art expresses what words alone cannot and connects directly with our emotions."

Czech Republic.

The "Singing Revolution" led to the independence of Estonia. They gained their freedom from the Soviet Union with no bloodshed—just voices raised in harmony.

Banksy and Ai Wei Wei are two of the most influential artists of our time because they use art as a weapon of truth, resistance, and freedom. I was in Seattle recently and went to the Seattle Museum of Art that featured a huge exhibition of works by Ai Wei Wei.

He was quoted as saying: "Art should be a nail in the eye, a spike in the flesh, gravel in the shoe".

So, to "fear no art" is not just about censorship, or to defend the right of artists to speak—it is to also affirm the



Photo by Chris Dickson

right of everyone to feel, to be disturbed, to be moved, inspired, or be awakened.

Art can question authority and reframe how people see the world without a single word. It can cross language barriers because it is the "language of being human".

Art expresses what words alone cannot and connects directly with our emotions.

It reminds us of what we all share—joy, grief, anger, hope. You don't need to speak a language to be moved by a painting or a song.

The source of art is the artist's awareness: our thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. Whether abstract or realistic, art reveals how we interpret and symbolize the world around us.

Because art externalizes the inner self, it is "consciousness made visible". Art can be called "consciousness at play" – consciousness exploring and knowing itself. It is the vitality of life expressing itself.

In a sense, painting is not so much a "doing" as a "revealing". We are revealing the truth of ourselves--and we're sharing that revelation with others!

(Aili is an award-winning artist who paints in acrylics, oils, and pastels. She paints the rhythms and patterns underlying the natural world. Aili has been featured in The International Artist Magazine and the Pastel Journal. She has given workshops to RLAA members and has another booked for November—already full.)

Looking forward to the Art Rodeo, Holly Jolly

(Continued from Page One)

The number of participating artists will be capped at 40 (first come, first served). Please email Chris Dickson at artbychrisdickson@gmail.com to advise her that you are registering.

For those not familiar, the venue is set up as a 'boutique' for the shopping public, and features Christmas/holiday themed decor. All items for sale will be hung and arranged on display by the show committee.

New studio space opens in Perth

A series of art discussion circles is being held at a new studio/gallery space in Perth.

The Conscious Collective has opened at 40A North Street, Perth and is open from 11-4 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The four artists—Bel Angeles, Carol Richardson, Opal Adams and Genevieve Leduc, held an opening event in late August.

While the format for the discussion is very informal, among the topics which may be covered are:

- * Drawing on Everyday Creativity
 - * What does a sustainable art life look like for you?
 - * Artist Communities: where are they?
 - * Building Consistency (and Experimentation!) while Avoiding Burnout
 - * The Impostor Syndrome:
- For more information visit, www.consciouscanvascollective.com.

Participating artists will volunteer for a half-day shift at the show, or for another role related to equipment set-up, or equipment transfer.

Artists can sell smaller paintings (max. 320 sq. inches), or other hand-produced, original, artisanal products, such as jewellery, pottery, wearables, 3D art, greeting cards, etc.

Organizers invite participants to donate their sturdy paper shopping bags, which will be re-used to wrap sold items.

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

The new 2026 RLAA calendar will also be available the Holly Jolly show. Of the 200 ordered, 75 were presold, 10 were sold at the *Paint The Summer* show leaving lots available for November, notes Holly Jolly committee chair Barb Jordan.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

The RLAA Executive Committee has established an Honorary Membership category for qualifying members of the organization.

Criteria have been established by the Executive Committee as follows: be a member in good standing for a minimum of 20 years, be over the age of 80 years, have actively participated/volunteered in RLAA activities, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, upon the recommendation of the executive.

The Executive agreed that the recommendation of Donna Copp for Honorary Membership be approved and that she be made an Honorary Member as of September 2025.



The recent *Fantasy in the Forest* held near Perth Road Village in September again attracted large crowds. Among the many artists and artisans who exhibited at the show were RLAA's own Kristi Bird, suitably attired for the occasion in her own inimitable style.

(Photo by Lydia Robbins)

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE DEP'T

Correction: In the summer *Paint-In* the list of RLAA members who volunteered to assist in the May 28 spring clean-up of the North Crosby Hall storage shed should have included Doris VanDenBrekel. Our apologies, Doris, and thanks for the help!

The fine print

The Paint-In is the official newsletter of the Rideau Lakes Artists' Association.

The editor is Ben Bennett.

RLAA activities include oils, watercolours, acrylics, and other mediums.

We hold our monthly meetings (except February) at the North Crosby Hall, south of Westport. For an up-to-date monthly meeting and paint-in schedule please check our website at www.rideaulakesartists.com.

To submit articles or information on workshops, seminars etc., please contact newsletter editor Ben Bennett at bbc@rideau.net.

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