



rideau lakes
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

The Paint-In

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association Newsletter

Summer 2024

All ready for Paint The Summer, Holly Jolly planned for December

Paint The Summer, the RLAA's annual summer art show and sale, will be held again at the Westport Arena, August 24 and 25.

As last year, set-up will be done by the volunteer Paint The Summer Committee on the morning of the Friday before (August 23) so artists can hang their works that afternoon.

Members can expect an update from PTS Chair Fred Fowler at the July RLAA meeting.

HOLLY PLANS

In the meantime, the plans for another RLAA event are coming along. The Holly Jolly Christmas Show is scheduled for December 7 & 8, at the Royal Canadian Legion, in Perth. Judy Hollinger has the list of participants.

This will be a "boutique" style show, with racks and tables; price point up to \$200.

Samples and a full inventory of items for sale is required in order for the committee to set up the site.

More details will be available soon.



TAKING THE TOUR—See Page Two

President's Message

"Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up."

Pablo Picasso

That seems to be a good sentiment for this group. As we progress into this summer season life seems to want to interfere with so many demands. Thank goodness for the Wednesday paint-ins; it give us time and space to forget our everyday chores to play with colour and shape, light and dark, everything that goes into creating our own expressions of art, including helpful encouragement and advice from our fellow members

In addition to the annual Paint The Summer show, this year we also have the opportunity to display our artwork at the Holly Jolly show in December. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the

committees organizing these shows for their tireless efforts to make them a success.

I also hope everyone who participated enjoyed our annual picnic held in June. Thanks to Karen Metz for organizing this event.

On a housekeeping note, our annual general meeting will be held in September and it is time to change the executive. If anyone is interested in participating in the organization of this great association please contact one of the current executive members. The current executive members have agreed to continue if no one else comes forward but "new blood" keeps the association fresh.

I wish everyone a good summer and keep painting.

Sherry Rogers
RLAA President

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Taking the tour at Tri-Art in Kingston

By David Gilmore

An enthusiastic group of six RLAA members met at the Kingston Tri-Art factory on May 8th and were conducted on a tour by owners Steve Ginsberg and Rheni Tauchi.

Starting with three founding members and a single paint line, in a 100-sq. ft. area in 1994, Tri-Art has grown to employ over 60 local staff, produce 20 different paint lines and make all the packaging for their products in a production area of over 29,000 square feet. Tri-Art Mfg. now sells products locally, nationally and internationally.

AUDIOPHILE

Our tour began in the beautifully-decorated reception area and proceeded to a display of Steve's pet project: audiophile equipment. They manufacture high quality speaker systems and I even saw a vacuum tube amplifier on the shelf.

The focus of the factory is making acrylic, oil and watercolour paints, packaging, stretched canvas, innovative surfaces to paint on, brushes and other accessories.

We heard how they have paid a great deal of attention to the chemistry of paint with assistance from sources at Dupont and Queen's University. Tri-Art aims to overcome drawbacks in other paint brands especially with respect to controlling viscosity (thickness) so the paint flows easily.

LOWER-PRICED

This is the basis for the lower-priced Rheo line of paints. The same approach is used in the higher-quality (Hi Viscosity) paint lines except the pigment to water ratio is increased (65% solids).

It's interesting that one has to treat high-quality paint 'like a sports car' by making sure it is hydrated and by thinning it with medium, not water. In

spite of inflation, they have maintained the quality of their paints.

Changes to some pigments have been made to reduce their toxicity and save costs. Light-fastness is best on the top-line paints but is still very good for the student-grade paint. Pigments need to be ground to various degrees and then made ready to accept a liquid (wetting) coating on each particle (so-called dispersion).

TRICKY PART

This is a tricky part of the process, which Tri-Art has mastered and now has about 1,200 recipes for preparing paint. There can be up to 18 components in a given paint so each batch must be carefully checked for quality.

We saw how viscosity, resistance to cold and heating and colour is verified. A human is still required to verify these: a very valuable human!

The assembly of stretched canvas frames and other substrates on which to paint was witnessed next. Tri-Art uses end-of-roll fabrics and metal to make painting surfaces. This saves putting these into landfills. Also, all plastic waste from the manufacture of containers is recycled.

SOPHISTICATED

A sophisticated paint storage and retrieval system has recently been installed from Germany. This equipment shortens the time to prepare online orders. It was fascinating to see high speed handlers whizzing up and down aisles!

In summary, Tri-Art has developed a world-class facility for manufacturing paint which can compete with the best in the world. It does this in an efficient manner using modern technology.

What was most impressive was the friendly and easy-going nature of the owners and good relations with the staff; some of whom have been with the company from the beginning.

(David Gilmore, an RLAA member for many years, arranges speakers for the association's monthly meetings. David also provided the photograph on Page One.)

Learning about pastel painting



On Saturday and Sunday May 25th and 26th, a workshop featuring Aili Kurtis (above left) teaching about pastel painting was enjoyed by 10 participants, most RLAA members (including Dayle VanAlstine, above right). Aili came amazingly well prepared with info and materials. She gave a detailed history of the use and elements of soft pastel then guided members through a process of developing composition and value and underpainting that will be helpful in all

mediums. Aili generously provided materials and so much more. On Day Two everyone worked on at least one painting and most completed at least one painting. Aili spent time with each person, offered assistance and expert guidance and at the end of the day she reviewed all of the work with input from all members. Aili has agreed to return next year to focus on another medium. I will be first on the list to attend. *(Photo/story by Deborah Jodoin)*

SOME TIPS FROM OUR FACEBOOK GURU

How our members can enhance our social media presence

By Chris Dickson

This article follows up on the note that was sent to members earlier this summer.

So, what do we need from the members in order to maximize our social media impact and let people know about the amazing organization that is RLAA?

Coming Events

July 12: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
rideaulakesartists.com

August 9: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
rideaulakesartists.com.
Guest speaker: Rob Laffier.

August 24-25: RLAA annual art show: *Paint The Summer* Westport Arena, rideaulakesartists.com.

September 13: RLAA Annual General Meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
rideaulakesartists.com.

October 13: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
rideaulakesartists.com.
Guest speaker: Sarah Hale.

November 8: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
rideaulakesartists.com.
Guest speaker: Debra Krakow.

December 13: RLAA general meeting and Christmas lunch, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.

There are several ways we can do this, including sharing events that we are participating in, sharing our work, and of course promoting RLAA events.

SHARING EVENTS.

If you are involved in a show or are going to be showcased in a gallery etc., please send me the poster for the event (artbychrisdickson@gmail.com) and a link to the website and/or social media. If you don't have a poster, just send the pertinent information and links to the website and/or social media. I will share your info on the RLAA Facebook and Instagram pages approximately two weeks before the event.

SHARING OUR WORK.

Have you painted something you are particularly proud of lately? Showing our social media followers the kind of quality work our members produce will promote our organization and our artists.

In order to maximize the impact of these posts, please include more than just a picture of the painting. That might earn a few "likes", but we want people to look further. If you also give me a couple of lines about the piece it will bring more interest.

INSPIRATION? CHALLENGES?

What inspired this work? What challenges did it present? Is this piece part of a series? People are interested and if you have your own website or social media and you also give me that, this post can also bring people to your pages.

This kind of information could serve many purposes. It could spur more interest in your work and it could help inspire prospective new members to take a closer look at the RLAA.

While we all want to see our work on

RLAA social media, we have to make sure to share the spotlight. To avoid backlogs, I request that individual members not submit items more than once a month.

Thank you for your help in making our social media active and interesting.

(Chris Dickson looks after Facebook and Instagram for the RLAA: artbychrisdickson@gmail.com)

Let's Get Social!

Don't forget to follow us along on

www.facebook.com/rideaulakesartists



and



www.instagram.com/rideaulakesartistsassoc

If you have an upcoming show, event, or something that you would like to share on our social media pages, please send details to artbychrisdickson@gmail.com



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Learn more about

RLAA activities here:

www.rideaulakesartists.com

(past newsletters can be found at:
[www.rideaulakesartists.com/
newsletters](http://www.rideaulakesartists.com/newsletters))

[www.facebook.com/
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DON'T MISS THIS WORKSHOP: JULY 27 & 28

Interiors: looking for the light, and more

(An "interiors" workshop featuring Margaret Martin is scheduled for the weekend of July 27/28 at North Crosby Hall. Here is some background to whet your appetite—Ed.)

By Margaret Martin

Here in Canada, we inhabit rooms, interior spaces. But what would they be without lighting? And the light we seek is a natural light that enters from the outside world.

People looking at art are looking to recognize something, when they view a painting.

Perhaps, like me, the light bringing vision possible into an interior space, is what attracts them. And simultaneously they look for a human who inhabits the space, or for evidence of that human.

In my approach they find evidence, but no "body" is there!

There are probably as many approaches to interiors as there are artists. If we choose to represent an interior as our subject, why has this particular room attracted us?

THE CHALLENGE

I think for me, it is the challenge of organizing a pleasing composition that



reads accurately (believable perspective), that reveals light on the surfaces, reflections, lamp auras, etc., that provides different illusions of textures (fabrics, steel surfaces, wood patinas) and gives evidence of a human occupant.

So you begin with a reference, imagined, sketched, or photographed. This is a reference that has somehow captivated you, and you think about the bones - which for the interior is the planes in space (floors, ceilings, walls) - maybe a receding space or a protruding space - these represented with an area of paint (blocked

in), and with lines - the windows, the doors. You show the space of the interior to the viewer.

And you think about volume - that is, the objects in the space, like furniture and think of these only as volumes for the start...to fill in a volume with a tone or colour.

You block in/sketch these bones until you are satisfied you have a framework. The finer finishes and details such as smaller objects and reflections, etc., come at the last.

So, speaking of believable perspective, it is good to note that as you practise rendering this subject, it gets easier to "see" when perspective is accurate. Also important though, is that many artists play with perspective in painting interiors. Leaving crooked lines and perspective "wonky" is sometimes their signature.

So we are back to the start - there are as many approaches to portraying interiors as there are artists painting them.

The cost of the workshop is \$150 for RLAA members and \$200 for non members. Contact Deborah Jodoin to register: (jdjodoin@hotmail.ca).

ALSO!

Coming this fall, date to be confirmed, but likely in September, *The Eyes Have It*, a workshop by Barb Rielly.

The fine print

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



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