



rideau lakes
artists' association

www.rideaulakesartists.com

The Paint-In

Rideau Lakes Artists' Association

Summer 2026

PAINT THE SUMMER

Here's an update on our summer show

RLAA artists are getting organized for the 2026 *Paint The Summer* show and sale at the Westport Arena. There will be a full update at the July RLAA general meeting from Barb Jordan.

As of press time, there were 41 artists signed up for the show, which will be held August 22 & 23. (Set-up for the show will be the Friday afternoon, August 21.)

Returning as our sponsor this year is Julia Scotland, an RLAA member and a broker with Coldwell Banker Settlement Realty.

IN MEMORIAM

Again this year the show will feature an "in memoriam" display to honour members who have passed on. Also, Ron Veh's widow Suzanne will be displaying his work in a booth in the show.

The promotional postcards will be printed soon and the show will be

running print and electronic ads in the *Humm*, the *Perth Courier-Journal*, and the *Westport Review Mirror*.

The social media ad campaign (Facebook & Instagram) will start on July 22.



There was a full turn-out for the RLAA picnic, June 12 at the North Crosby Hall, with Carolyn Huff-Winters stepping up as barbecue cook, with other sides and desserts provided by my RLAA members. There was no formal meeting but there was a well-received presentation on website design by Amherstview (Kingston) artist and musician Gary Barnett. (Photo by Sherry Rogers.)

President's Message

Confession time...

Your president has a couple of confessions to make.

Firstly, we have an excellent website and I'm not making the most of it.

Our webmaster Jessica Godin has been encouraging our members to display their work on the Directory of Artists pages it for some time. This is a wonderful tool for getting artists' work seen by hundreds if not thousands of people. We should all use this opportunity.

As our primary art show *Paint The Summer* approaches the "hits" on our Facebook pages managed by Leane Bailey increase very much. This is another great opportunity.

Now for another confession. I'm not on our Facebook pages either.

I am going to make the promise that by the time you read this message I will have a presence on both.

The Paint The Summer committee has now started the process of getting ready for the show and it is quite a job. I encourage every member to get involved, even if not exhibiting in the show.

The other message I want to get out is the importance of attending monthly meetings.

The meetings are a chance to be a part of the direction that the association takes and are an excellent opportunity to inform the members what you are up to, including workshops you are giving and shows you are in.

This information goes out to all members so I encourage you to use it. These meetings also include useful presentations arranged by Doris Power and they are always very interesting. So don't miss this opportunity either.

Deborah Jodoin
RLAA President

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A FULL HOUSE RLAA Portrait Workshop



THE GANG'S ALL HERE

RLAA artists show off their work after a successful portraiture workshop at North Crosby Hall taught by Judy Hollinger. Among them was Cheryl Nickerson whose portrait of her son Jake is seen below. (Photos by Chris Dickson.)

By Caroline Evans

The end of April saw Judy Hollinger and a full house of RLAA members tackle the ins and outs of painting a human.

Judy started off with a short overview of classic portrait views, lighting a sitter, ways to achieve accuracy by measurement, the Loomis system of building a face, and other tools of the trade. Then we got down to the doing.

Job 1 — tinting our canvases with a warm burnt sienna acrylic to aid in accuracy of values.

CHARCOAL

We then progressed to charcoal, and sketching by measuring to the millimetre, of a choice of black and white examples provided.

Then came an exploration of the Zorn-style limited-colour palette of red, white, yellow ochre and black, with blue as an option.

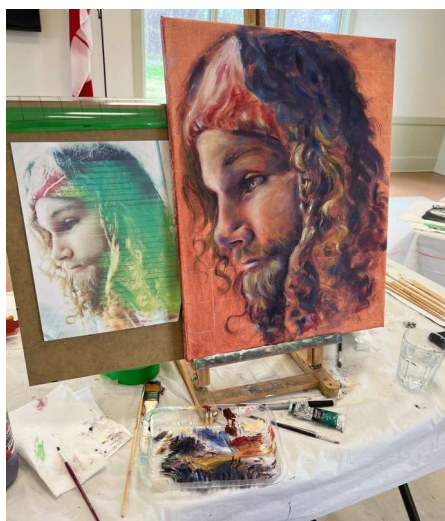
I didn't do the math, but the number of possible hues, shades and tints was eye-opening. And then, on to gridding, "sizing up" our own choice of photograph to help with a basic under-drawing.

MASTERPIECE

Next came the great work—painting a masterpiece of our own choosing. And didn't we do well?!

With Judy's practised encouragement, everyone got to where they wanted their artwork to be, with many finished or nearly so by the end.

Thanks, Judy, for an educational, joyful and productive weekend!



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/
rideaulakesartists/](https://www.facebook.com/rideaulakesartists/)**

Events

July 10 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
www.rideaulakesartists.com. Update on *Paint The Summer*.

July 11, 12 : Arden Studio Tour, various locations around Arden. 10 am., to 4 p.m.

August 14: RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
www.rideaulakesartists.com. Members' flea market/swap sale of art supplies.

August 22-23: *Paint The Summer*, Westport Arena.
www.rideaulakesartists.com.

September 11 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m. www.rideaulakesartists.com.
Speaker: Linda Coulter, fabric artist.

October 9 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
www.rideaulakesartists.com. Speaker to be determined.

November 13 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
www.rideaulakesartists.com. Art rodeo.

December 11 : RLAA general meeting, North Crosby Hall, Westport. 1 p.m.
www.rideaulakesartists.com. Christmas lunch and gift exchange.

The fine print

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

RLAA activities include pastels, 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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

An artist who goes from a “mess” to a completed work

By Carolyn Huff-Winters

(Editor's note: At the May RLAA meeting one of our members, Carolyn Huff-Winters, spoke about her work and showed a number of pictures to illustrate her creative process. Given there were some technical issues, and to be sure those who did not attend could get a sense of this very different but really interesting style, we invited her to share some of her thoughts in a newsletter article.)

As guest speaker at the May RLAA meeting, I had planned a presentation that included numerous pictures of finished works but also pictures to show the “mess” I started with and several more photos showing progression, and a final picture of the finished piece.

My presentation was in 'the cloud', and unfortunately, that's where it stayed. Luckily, I had brought several finished paintings, and a few sheets of W/C paper which were messy with charcoal. I had brought the messy ones to show what I considered unworkable for one reason or another.

Here are two photos to round out my presentation.

The photo on the left is of a charcoal mess before anything is done to it. On the right is the finished painting, 'Tenacity'. These show you what the initial charcoal mess looked like. Somewhere in the mess I could see a starting point, not a finished painting, but a place to begin the painting.

From that starting point, I 'read' the charcoal and let it give directions of what's next, where to remove charcoal, where to leave it be, or where to gently push and pull it to get an effect I want.

(To learn more about Carolyn and her work visit her website: www.carolynhuffwintersfineart.com.)



Trying to solve the Mandara mystery

By Ben Bennett

In April, while staying at a friend's place in Toronto, I was admiring a painting he had on his mantelpiece.

My friend said he was moving and as a result was in major downsizing mode. He then asked me if I would like the painting, and it now sits proudly on my mantelpiece.

At first glance, I thought it was a print of an impressionist's view of Paris in La Belle Epoque. But once I got closer it turned out to be an original by someone called Orlando Mandara.

I absolutely love this painting and so after thanking my friend profusely, I set out to learn more. Let the research begin.

NO TRACE

After the usual internet searches via various search engines, and some more sleuthing via art websites, I can find no trace of this guy.

On the back of the painting is a very yellowed, torn piece of paper, with typing from an old machine by the looks of it, offering a possible glimpse into the man's history. Unfortunately, not all the paper is attached; all that remains is shown on the right. The fact that there are some typos and some overtyping suggests the writer may have not been using his or her native language—yes, we are indeed stretching here.

There is a university-level art school in Naples. The *Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli* (Naples Academy of Fine Arts) is over 250 years old, but note the Italian spelling of Naples is Napoli not Napoly as in the note.

Searches from various angles featured in the clues given have turned up nothing.

WAS HE A CHILD PRODIGY?

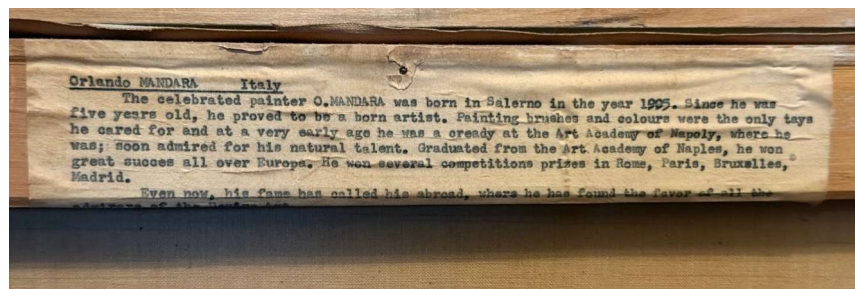
Even if he was a child prodigy, and assuming the text saying he was born in 1905 is accurate, it would have been the 1920s at the earliest that this could have been painted. And Paris, or whatever European city it depicts, would have featured automobiles and the people would have been dressed a lot differently.

So, is this an “homage” to the Impressionists, albeit painted decades later?

If the painter had indeed won competitions across Europe would there not have been some kind of record?

Do any RLAA members have any thoughts or does anyone recognize the scene? Is it actually Paris?

It may not be quite enough to qualify for a television series, but the Mandara Mystery certainly has the potential—especially if our sharp-eyed and education RLAA members have any theories....



IMAGES AD