

Stittsville/Richmond EMC

New OWAA art exhibit splashes down for summer

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EMC Entertainment - The Ottawa West Arts Association is helping residents cool down with its new exhibition 'Make A Splash' which opened on July 10 at the Goulbourn Recreation Centre. It features artwork from 39 different members in a wide variety of mediums including oil, water colours, abstract, photographs, mixed media, wood work and more.

Sue Perley-Robertson, chair of the OWAA, feels they have to take all of the different mediums into account when choosing a theme. Her piece is an abstract painting titled 'Water Majic'. It depicts a waterfall in the centre with water splashing around, with bright vibrant blues. But not all of the works are filled with blues as she explains the various interpretations of the theme.

"One would associate with water the colour blue, that is a given. So if the painting has blue in it then it's water related. Some it's fairly obvious when you look at it, some it's the texture and the movement," said Perley-Robertson. "The thing is, too, you can interpret the theme as you like. Splash can also be a splash of colour. Splash can be like, 'Wow I'm making a splash,' a statement, you don't have to take it literally as the water theme either."

Terry Sametz is the curator of 'Make A Splash' and thinks having the gallery in the GRC is a perfect fit for the community because sooner or later everyone is going to walk through for a meeting or some sort of activity. The gallery opened in November 2008. He feels now that the members have a professional space to display their art, all the artists are improving.

"This is the highest splash of talent we have had and this is probably our strongest show and something we preach from the beginning is artists really need an opportunity to display their work. We are so starved for space in the city and if you give them a chance their work takes off," said Sametz.

Sametz finds it funny how artists interpret a title and feels there's a splash but they are not overloaded with just water scenes. He feels people will never get bored with the art as it has a good intellectual pull in all of the work. He is impressed with sculptor Norman Pirollo's work and feels he will soon get picked up by a larger gallery.

Pirollo explains his piece titled 'Meandering' a powerful piece of wood work that intermingles two different types of wood.

"It depicts a stream of water and I contrasted the lighter water with the darker shore line. I specifically chose Tiger Maple with the stream, you can see the rippling and the splash of water and the more solid brownish wood is Silkwood," said Pirollo.

The artists find inspiration everywhere and Irena Sherstyuk, who painted 'Four in the City' found the idea for her painting from the movie Sex and The City. It shows four women who look ready to make a splash on the town even though the rain is spraying down on them in a dark gloomy tone.

"I wanted to make something with water and movement. I like cityscapes and there is a little wind and their skirts are moving and the water is moving," said Sherstyuk.

STUNNING WATERFALL

The walls of the centre are turned into a stunning waterfall, boats sailing the high seas, splashes of colours and more to dive into. With the hot weather it is a perfect time to enjoy a splash of engaging artwork produced from high quality local artists.

The show runs until Sept. 11 at the Goulbourn Recreation Centre and visitors are encouraged to vote for the people's choice winner.

Alex Mackie won the last people's choice vote for his work titled 'Jump for Joy' during the Little Gems show.

For more information on the show or the Ottawa West Arts Association visit www.owaa.ca.

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