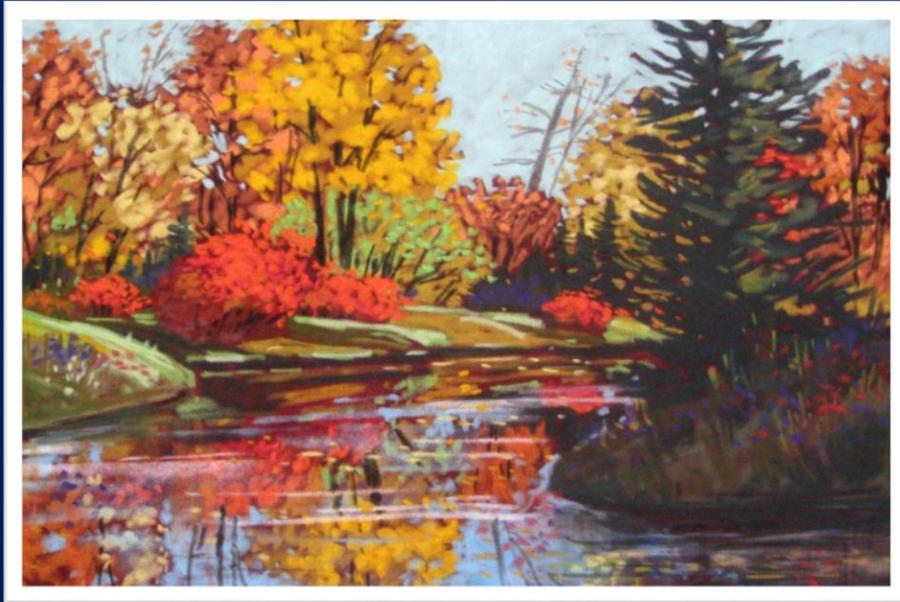


Karin Richter Fine Art

Newsletter

Fall 2017



“Fall in Bowness Park, Pastel, 12”x16”

Summer was fantastic in this part of the world this year and when fall came, it was hard to switch gears. Meanwhile, however, it seems everyone has adjusted and we are well into the season that sees the return of creativity in classes and workshops, art shows almost every week somewhere and what I call “baking weather”, essentially hibernation that brings out the home buddies in us. As we all get together to share our talents in art and baking, we also reminisce about the summer that was, where we travelled to and what inspired us to create art this season.



“Summer Hike”, Pastel, 16”x16”

The Watercolour Symposium here in Calgary, organized and put on by the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, was such an opportunity for inspiration. Being surrounded for 5 days by other creative people did get many of us into the mood. As part of the organizing and volunteer committee, I enjoyed seeing familiar faces and new ones, reconnect with other teachers and observe and drop in on eager participants in classes. Everyone seemed to have such a great time solidifying their knowledge and trying new things. A group joined Marianne Hunt and I for 2 plein air trips, one to the Leighton Centre, the other to the mountains where we even caught the solar eclipse while painting the local scenery!



"Leighton Centre Vista", plein air W/C by Marianne Hunt

After such visual impressions and intense learning, participants have to digest it all and start working on incorporating what they have learned into their future work. That process may take a while. An important thing to remember is that it should evolve naturally and it will. I came across a funny article in the Pastel Journal a while ago about a phenomenon called PPS, Precious Painting Syndrome. I do come across this “artistic disorder” occasionally in my classes. Symptoms vary:

- timid and wimpy painting, being “fiddly”, insecure
- worried about wasting good paper/canvas and paint
- worried about what others may think

My comments are usually the same: “It is only a piece of paper/canvas”! PPS can happen to anyone. What is the cure? Well, our dearly missed friend Robert Genn used to say: “**Have your studio stocked with lots of supplies so if you waste some in the excitement of artmaking, you won’t notice. The minute you have only one canvas or piece of paper left, you get hit by PPS**”. You can also minimize this disorder by following my major advice: “Have a Plan, then Paint with Abandon”! Take a few minutes and explore if the subject you are so enamoured with has enough going on to be worthy of your effort and supplies. A quick thumbnail sketch will tell you. Once you are underway, follow your plan, and critique your work continuously.



“Built on Moss, Pastel 11”x14”

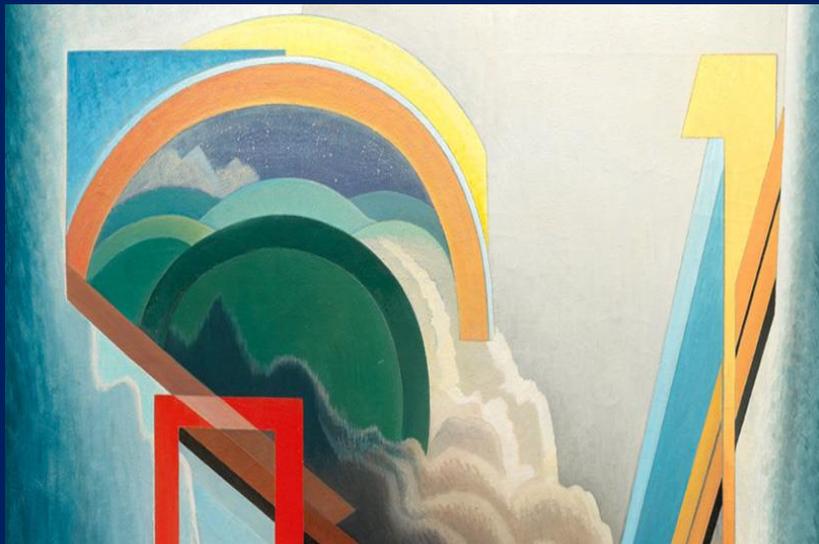


“The Old Gate”, Pastel, 11”x14”

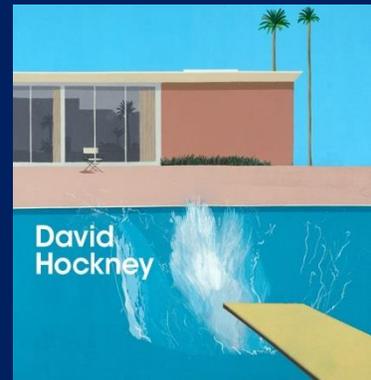
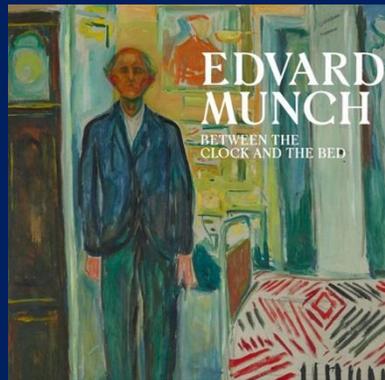
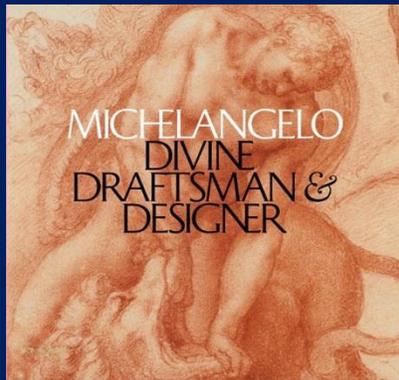
If you appreciate other artists' input, you may want to join groups in the art community that get together to give comments on each other's work or hire a critic. You may be aware, that I, too, give private critiques via my website.

During the fall season, one can find lots of art activities. Check out the art shows in your neighbourhood. Some art stores offer demonstrations in assorted media. As a pastel and watercolour painter, I am particularly thrilled that Kensington Art Supplies have brought in my favourite brand **Schmincke**. You won't be surprised to find out that it is from Germany. I have used Schmincke since I was a youngster back home and still do. I will be at KAS on **Saturday, December 2** for most of the day, first introducing Schmincke watercolours in the morning starting at 11am to 1pm, followed by Schmincke extra soft pastels at 1:30pm into the afternoon. Watch me do demos in both mediums. I will also be available to sign my book "Make Your Mark in Pastels" on that occasion.

I reported in my summer newsletter about a trip to Kleinburg, ON I made to visit the McMichael Collection. Well, **Lawren Harris** is now right here at the Glenbow in Calgary, with a show featuring mostly his abstract work along with the work of some of his contemporaries. I also recently heard some other news about an exciting show: **Michelangelo** is at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York from November to February. **Edvard Munch** (the Scream) and **David Hockney** are also on show; maybe an excuse to visit the Big Apple?



Lawren Harris at the Glenbow



Michelangelo, Munch and Hockney at the Met



As I am wrapping up this newsletter, I am getting ready to head out to Toronto for the weekend. I have been to the Toronto International Art Fair in the past and always love it. Seeing all the great art that is out there for two solid days makes me excited. I will no doubt talk about it in my Season's Greetings newsletter in December!

And, as soon as I return, Halloween will be upon us. Children of all ages around? Here is a super recipe for a Pumpkin Chocolate Cake before you carve the pumpkin:

- 2 cups fresh pumpkin flesh (no substitute)
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 cups unbleached flour
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- 4 tablespoons cinnamon (you read that correctly)
- 4 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pkg. of semi-sweet chocolate chips



Scoop the “guts” out of a pumpkin (discard or use the seeds), then scrape the flesh with an ice cream scoop, put into a food processor and process until fairly smooth. Watch that there are no seeds in this mixture. Measure out 2 cups. Combine the flour, baking powder and cinnamon and set aside. Cream the 4 eggs by hand or mixer, add the brown sugar and oil, then add the pumpkin flesh and the vanilla. Mix at low speed, only until well-combined, add the chocolate chips, a few more rotations and pour the batter into a greased pan (9”x12” or make 2 loaves, any shape you like). Bake at 350 degrees F for approx. 30-45 minutes. Test with a toothpick until it comes out clean. Let cool a little until you can cut into it and serve with vanilla ice cream! Enjoy and happy Halloween!

I wish you a pleasant fall, enjoy the remaining colours outdoors, take pictures. If you are soon starting to think of the holidays, keep in mind I have some great gifts, some products but also painting holidays. Every art-minded person should be able to enjoy one of my trips. I always choose great locations. The memories and inspiration last a lifetime! Check my website or contact me directly.



Sketching in La Foce courtyard/Italy

Keep in touch!
All the best in life and in art!

Karin

karinrichter@shaw.ca

(403)272-1471

www.karinrichter.com

www.karinrichterfineart.blogspot.com

www.workshopinabag.com

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