

COLBORNE ART GALLERY
Autumn '08
NEWSLETTER

CLOSE TO THE FIRE

James Hollis said, "artists are close to the fire all the time", by which he meant that they are living their passion. I was really struck by this. He understands that all people have to make a living, but at the same time need to arrange life so you can live your passions at least some of the time, otherwise become a shadow of your potential.

It's great to work with and be near artists, so come on in and warm up! Come around on the last Sunday closing of each show at 2:00 for a walk about with our artists, as they show and share some of what they were feeling/thinking/doing when they made the work. Come in for a cup of hot cider and enjoy our offerings for the "All Things Bright and Beautiful" show that opens our Christmas season. Continue to come around during the chilliest months to be warmed by the work of San Murata and our own featured artists. Warm up with us by visiting often this winter.

A FEW OF THE THINGS WE DO

I was inspired to review part of our recent Trillium Grant application..... the part about the volunteer spirit of Colborne Art Gallery Members. For **over ten years** the artists sit the gallery 20hr/week in the summer and 10hr/week in winter. The curator and assistants hang 7 shows a year which usually takes two full afternoons. The books and finances; setting up and printing invitations and posters, sending them and delivering printed posters; holding general meetings before each show(about 2hrs.): planting and trimming garden; supplying refreshments for the openings; cleaning and vacuuming regularly..... these are all done with volunteered hours!

COLBORNE ART GALLERY
Schedule for 2009

JAN 24--MAR 8 ----- SAN MURATA
MAR 14--APR 26----- JIRINA MARTIN
MAY 2--JUNE 14----- BARBARA BUNTIN
JUNE 20 ---AUG 2 ----- ANNIE MCDONALD
AUG 8----SEPT 20----- CLAUS HEINECKE
SEPT 26---NOV 8----- ANNE WILSON



ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL opening & Party is on Nov. 15th Saturday from noon-4pm. We will serve hot cider and have live music featuring San Murata the popular violinist from 1pm. Of course, the show includes all the usual goodies and lots of artful gift ideas for Christmas giving. It runs till Dec. 21st 2008. Again we will feature hand decorated tree balls for sale as a fundraiser for the Gallery. Come out for the best opening of the year!!



THE COLBORNE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY generously approved the donation of funds for 6 new flowering miniature Spirea shrubs (which are the flower of the year for the Society this year), to be planted to the Victory St. side of our building. Our sincere thanks are extended to the C.D.H.S.

COLBORNE ART GALLERY REACHES NEW GOALS

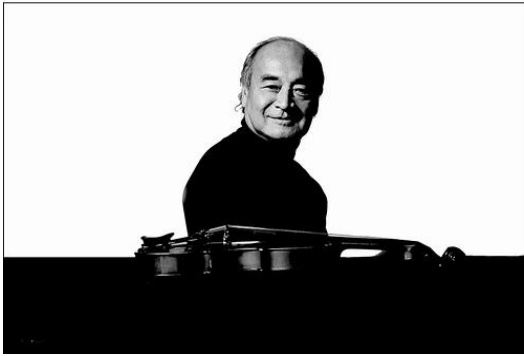
by Alf Blything

What a year of progress and achievement we have had so far in 2008. The Trillium grant money allowed the old building to have a face lift which included replacing worn out bricks, a new roof and repointing all the areas that required it. We celebrated our 10 year anniversary with our past and current artists; it was a wonderful get together with many of our supporters in attendance.

We were able to improve our lighting system, we obtained a new picture hanging system, our interior decor was updated and a new carpet was laid. We are fortunate to have such a gallery to display our works and the Colborne community is fortunate to have such a creative use for a heritage building.

You may also have noticed our much improved landscaping around the gallery site. This has been coordinated and much work personally carried out by our own **Irene Osborne**. We are very proud of Irene for her dedication to the gallery and her ongoing liaison with Cramahe Township staff. All of the gallery artists and staff have the development of Colborne and the art Gallery at heart. We would all like to see the Colborne Art Gallery become a reason for visiting the area. We would also like to see more local citizens visiting us on a regular basis.

We have a new project in mind that will probably require additional cash for us to carry out. This project is with respect to increased signage for the gallery. We are presently talking about this in an active way. We think we require more signs of a professional nature. We also believe that some art objects of a sculptural nature, placed strategically, would be of great benefit to our goal of increased gallery visitation.



Thanks to all of our visitors for your ongoing patronage.

SAN MURATA is our guest artist in the New Year! San lives in our area now; his inimitable colour sense and style convey a truly magical spirit of place. His gouache paintings are lively, colourful, and whimsical yet display a mastery of

what can be a very challenging medium. Recently he has been painting the beautiful Northumberland countryside and the St. Lawrence townships of rural Quebec. San works from rough sketches and frequently paints from memory focussing on the mood or feeling of each scene. His paintings often have the feel of visual melodies which is not surprising because in addition to being a painter, San is also an accomplished musician, playing the jazz violin. He has played with many of Canada's foremost jazz and pop performers and has been nominated by the National Jazz Awards as Violinist of the Year four times. Come out to our "All Things Bright and Beautiful" show on November 15 to hear him play at the C.A.G.!

San's interpretation of everyday life is there in his painting. 'I've learned that life needs balance. No rapid swings from high to low. No turning things upside down. No racing around without stopping to enjoy what is at hand. Relax. Breathe. Feel. Live. Love.' All are warmly invited to the opening reception on January 24 at 2pm. The show continues through March 8.

GALLERY MEMBERS AT LARGE

Needless to say, our members have been busy extending their talents far afield this year. Alice VanderVennen shows work at the Toronto Outdoor Exhibition each July, and is represented by the Oeno gallery in Prince Edward County. Many members participated at the artisans tents at the Shelter Valley Folk festival this year, along with Open Doors Cramahe, and the Northumberland Studio tour. Congratulations to member Pat Stanley, who won

"Best Painting" at the 28th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts at the Visual Arts Centre of Clarington, in Bowmanville, Ontario, for "Chromatic Triangulation"! Pat and Alice will both be at the Toronto Art Expo in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre again next March 19-22, 2009. Coming soon is the show Three Perspectives: Avril Bull, Judith



Kreps Hawkins and Pat Stanley. It is on display from Nov 10 to Jan 31 at the District Loft Dental Clinic Gallery at 388 Richmond St. W. #3, Toronto (N/E corner of Richmond & Spadina). This exhibit is open during regular office hours.

OUR VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY AT THE COLBORNE ART GALLERY ...
by Barbara Buntin

One of the positive things to come out of controversy is conversation. As a result of recent controversy about the perceived elite nature of the Canadian Arts Community, I have found myself involved in conversations with a variety of people about this issue. I am not an authority on the subject, but the conversations certainly have allowed me to reflect on the space, membership and spirit of the Colborne Art Gallery.

I find myself marvelling at the balance of tradition and innovation, openness and vigilance, stillness and exuberance that are all encompassed by the gallery organization.

We are quite aware that we are fortunate to have the beautiful and historic registry building to hold our gallery and certainly grateful for the recent upgrades to keep it looking solid and dignified. What a delicious contrast to enter in to this space and see bold and innovative work by artists of many ages, experimenting with new materials and techniques. The solid old walls seem to welcome the art work.

When we meet as a group, conversations reflect our member's desire to protect the integrity of what we represent, searching for consistent quality without closing ourselves off to new possibilities. Deciding on shows and choosing new artists is a huge challenge and the lively conversation forces us all to evaluate our own standards and stretch to appreciate one another's views.

Perhaps the most appealing of all contrasts is the atmosphere in the gallery from one day to the next. During a new show opening the space is filled with people, conversation, laughter, tasty food and drink and a hum created by members and visitors sharing thoughts about the new work. Balance this with a quiet afternoon sitting the gallery, as a single visitor strolls through and looks at the art. The same wonderful work is there to be seen, but the space feels very different. It is as if the gallery offers up a meditative atmosphere. There's no rush, it's quiet and welcoming, and you can feel yourself sink in to a careful consideration of each piece.

It seems to me that all of these aspects are integral to making this a thriving arts community. It's an honour to be a part of a group with a ten year history and still feel supported in attempting new challenges. I look forward to the next quiet contemplative afternoon as well as the next lively opening. See you there!