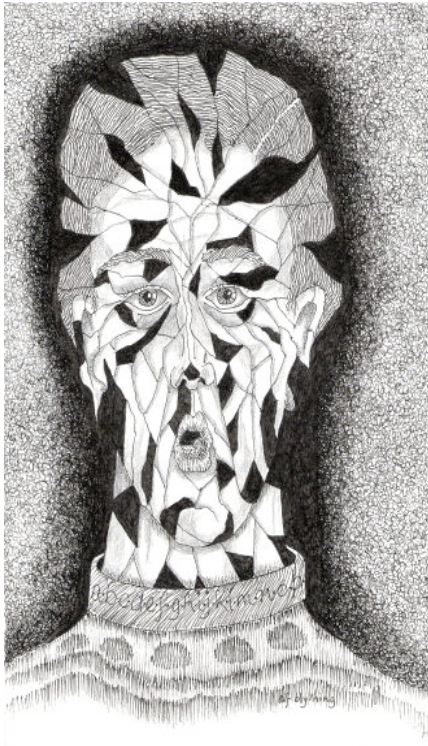


COLBORNE ART GALLERY Newsletter Fall/Winter '09

We have had some bittersweet changes in our gallery membership these past few months. Three longstanding and stalwart members are leaving us to pursue other projects: **Alice Vander Vennon, Alison Seale and Liz Willoughby**. We wish all three the very best in future endeavours, and thank them for the friendship and service they have shared with our gallery collective!

Sadly, our membership and patrons have grieved the passing of **Alf Blything** and **Tom Bjarnason**.

Alf Blything's work would comfortably sit in the New Yorker magazine. I have one piece entitled "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"; it is a carefully rendered, simplified, rolling hilled and treed landscape, all in black pen on white with a wedge of colour cutting through it. The effect of this contrasting brightness reminds me of the moment when Dorothy enters Oz. I purchased the piece several years ago and it has never failed to lift me... which has been true of every interaction I've ever had with the man behind the painting. And he could really run a meeting! Alf was a gem of a man who produced witty, wonderful art.



Alf Blything "Fractured Man," Archival ink, 2008

This tribute to Alf was written by our chair, Barbara Buntin this summer:

On July 20, 2009, The Colborne Society of Artists lost a dear friend and colleague, Alf Blything.

Alf joined The Colborne Gallery in March 2000 taking on the role of Chair in January 2003.

Alf has been at the very centre of our gallery activities ever since. The spirit in which he gathered us around was the true essence of leadership and his tireless work on behalf of the Gallery has been an inspiration for us all.

Alf could always be counted on for a hearty greeting, a warm handshake or hug and an enthusiastic response to whatever was going on at the gallery. No one could light up a room like Alf. Alf was an inspired and prolific artist, constantly amazing us with his intricate and detailed work and his wry sense of humour. Alf's art was heartfelt, whether he was conveying a deep and thoughtful belief or showing us his quirky view of the world. Alf's work has been popular in our gallery shows and his pieces are now favourites in many private collections.

Alf, we miss you.

Tom Bjarnason had a long, prolific career as an artist, working in both commercial and fine art. His extensive achievements in design include: several Canadian stamps, well over a hundred covers of Harlequin Romance novels, and many ads. He served as a war artist with a special interest in aircraft. He constructed large assemblage sculptures during his tenure with the C.A.G. I had the pleasure of meeting him in his magnificent Port Hope loft studio several years ago. He was then an octogenarian who built sculpture with the following unforgettable method: He took pieces and parts from numerous piles of interesting scrap materials and bolted them together...

walked up the stairs to the second floor... took a long look over the loft railing onto the vast floor below, at the sculpture... then he would walk back down the flight of stairs to make corrections and additions to the piece based on the observations from above. He repeated this procedure many, many times until the piece was completed to his satisfaction! We have missed Tom for several years as he became unwell and needed to leave us along with his active studio life. He passed away this summer.

Heather Roy and Jillian Roos-Markowitz, are new to our collective. We hope you'll visit us soon (perhaps at our Christmas Show and Sale!) to see their work.

Jillian Roos-Markowitz came to us from Etobicoke, and has been living in Cobourg for the past two years. She recently won an award for having the best mixed media piece at the Clarington Arts Centre. She says of her art practice, "all of my work has evolved from a series of intuitive drawings I made a while ago. Since then I have responded to several of my friends saying, 'you should try this or try that' so I have. I've tried them in clay, in printmaking and in fabrics with mixed media. And now I'm working in my home in a bedroom studio. Instead of saying, 'Oh dear... I have such a small studio now... I just can't do it', I've tried to think, 'what *can* I do?' This way of thinking pushes me to try new ways of working, and I enjoy the challenge."

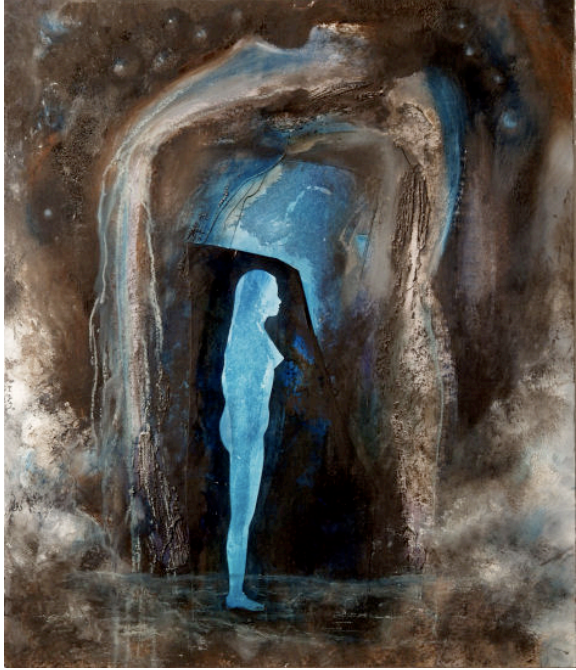
About Heather

In my early 40's, painting burst back into my life after I had put it aside for teaching, family and community work. It became a compelling need to explore the language of nonverbal experience, and develop my own voice.

I started making art again at Ad Hoc Studio with a wonderful artist named Fiona Crangle. Her mentoring and wisdom are invaluable. I studied at the Toronto School of Art. At Haliburton School of the Arts, I took 3 courses of painting with Harold Klunder, who helped me to move past an interest in content to a fascination with depth in surface.

My own intentions are always contingent upon the life of the paint itself as it evolves on the painting surface. I research a subject, anything from turbulence to Greek myth, before I begin working on a series, to bring a complex of ideas and sensations to the work. Then I forget it all and engage in the business of letting the paint guide me.

I live in Port Hope, Ontario and exhibit in a variety of local galleries and on studio tours. Recently I joined the Colborne Art Gallery, an artist collective where regular six week shows force me to paint more and think less.



Heather Roy "Kore and the Guardians" 2008

Colborne Art Gallery members invite you to continue to celebrate our community in the production and sharing of artworks. We hope you will join us for a warm gathering at our Christmas show and sale, **ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**, on the afternoon of November 14 from

12-4p.m..

Annie McDonald (editor)