

*Pemberton Studios consists of a couple of second floor rooms in an unassuming mixed-use building just off Marine Drive. Inside, it's another story. Paintings, pottery, and sculpture in various stages of development compete for attention. The creative energy and warmth of the women who share the space is palpable.*

## Pemberton Studios: Artists With Rooms Of Their Own

by SG Lee

Artists Lanett Barker, Daphne McLean, Gail MacKenzie, Sharon Perkins and Ursula Salemink-Roos met four years ago in a North Shore painting class. All were veterans of other artists' groups, including the North Shore Artists' Guild and the Second Story Artists' Group. When Perkins chanced upon an ad for rental space that could serve both as a working studio and for shows, McLean, Barker and Salemink-Roos leapt at the chance. Mackenzie soon joined. Today each artist has her own working area, and they host an annual open house in February to show and sell their work.

Veterans of marriage and motherhood, these five women are keenly appreciative of having "rooms of their own." As Salemink-Roos says, "It's been the best thing for me. You can expand, you can paint bigger, you can really let your imagination go more than you can do at home, and you can be away from the telephone

and all the everyday business of being a housewife, as it were, and do your job as an artist." Shown around the world and through Canadian Art Prints, Salemink-Roos' vibrant abstract landscapes reflect her background as a tapestry weaver and her intuitive use of colour.

A desire to deepen her abstract work led senior artist Daphne McLean to study in 2003 at New York's Art

Students' League, where she got "a real foundation of how to work towards my perception of abstract art." This movement towards the abstract is shared by her studio mates. "We're all working towards self-expression, all of us are abstract, all in that vein but all different. We all have our own way of expressing it which is really, really cool." McLean's

work was recently at the Ferry Building Gallery as part of "Earth Messages."

Continuing study and experimentation in various media are a common thread for these amazing artists. Sharon Perkins has a background in textile art and her lively sculptures using found objects, along with Gail Mackenzie's delightful mixed media pottery, share space in the studio with their canvases. Mackenzie recently returned from studying the old masters at the Imperial College in London, England. Lanett Barker, whose energetic nature paintings grace the studio, has a story that resonates with the whole group. "I think everybody who does art at this point in their life says, 'I've always wanted to, I've always drawn, I've always wanted to express myself artistically.' I always kept doing art courses. I would do pottery and weaving or drawing or whatever looked interesting."

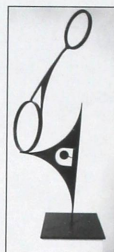
Joining together has provided these women far more than shared space. As Barker says, "When you become involved in a group it pushes you in a way that you don't just by yourself. You do put in more effort and achieve more." Sharing the rewards of this achievement, the Pemberton Studio artists contribute ten percent of the proceeds of their annual show to Global Peace Hut, an organization for peace in Africa.

Hearing these women laugh together and watching as they praise the work that member Mackenzie has prepared for her September show at the Ron Andrews Space, it is easy to see why they are so proud of their association. "There's no negativity, no competition," says Salemink-Roos. "You come in here and you feel those good vibes and you can work. It's beautiful."

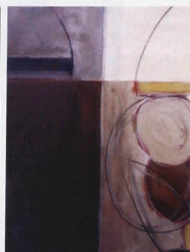
**WHAT:** Pemberton Studios

**WHERE:** 6-1583 Pemberton Ave North Vancouver BC V7P 2S4

**MORE INFO:** 604.454.1475



Sharon Perkins



Gail MacKenzie



Gail MacKenzie



Lanett Barker



Ursula Salemink-Roos



Daphne McLean