

THE ARTS

- Colborne Art Gallery member profile -

Ruth Coleman Harding

Ruth Coleman Harding decided at the age of ten to be an artist, and she has been painting ever since. She began painting portraits and selling them at the age of sixteen, and painting people has been her major pre-occupation. She also paints other subjects - landscapes and cityscapes and inscapes (more abstract).

All the work emphasizes her interest in light and colour, time and space, all free from traditional realism.

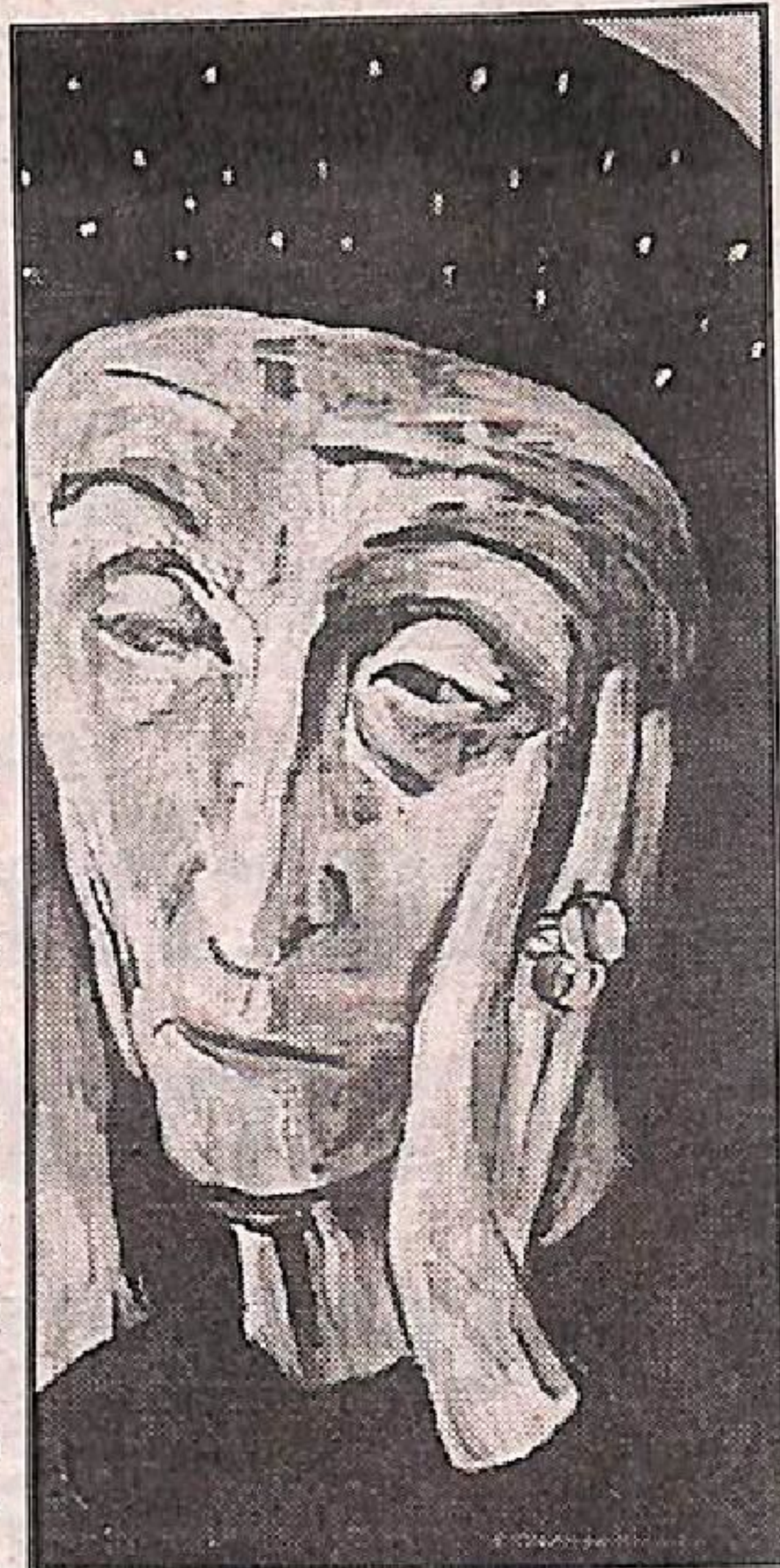
She was born in Africa, and during her early adult years, she raised three sons while living in a number of countries. She received a B.F.A., and continued her studies in Art History at Concordia University in Montreal. Her interest in psychology led to a fifteen-year association with the C.G. Jung Foundation in Toronto, and studies in psychology and religion at the University of Toronto. Her work has evolved partly from these interests.

Ruth says, "My earliest portraits were in water colour, a medium I seldom use now. I began working in oil when I was thirteen, and it has remained my favourite medium, allowing me the flexibility I want and offering the most vibrant colour.

"My early art training at McGill with John Lyman was traditional. The whole first year was spent drawing from the model on large sheets of paper in charcoal. The next year we were able to use earth colours - ochres, umbers, black, white. It was amazing, with the limited palette, how we were able to produce both warm and cool contrasts. As we added colour to the palette later we explored how colours changed in relationship to one another.

"I arrived here in the Northumberland Hills ten years ago. About five years ago I built my own wonderful studio. I love interpreting the beautiful landscape where I live (on top of a hill looking in four directions).

"I am also putting together a large collection of portraits of creative people. Some of these paintings are very large, particularly when they interpret the lives of the subjects as well as their psychology."



Above, portrait of Edith Sitwell
Below, portrait of Georgia O'Keefe

