

NEWS

Kingston artist opens at Colborne Gallery

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Kingston painter Sharon Thompson opened a seven week show at the Colborne Art Gallery last Saturday.

It is clear in the 10 paintings that the artist loves colour. In fact, it is the reason why she is a painter and not a sculptor.

Her works show a deep interest in forms and in life; that things have sparkle and individuality and also go together. It has been easy for the artist to make things go together; she has been learning how to make them sparkle as well.

Ms. Thompson believes it is the challenge of all living things and people on the planet together. They can't avoid the need to get along, but also must have individual life forces.

The artist statement on her website states, "My personal roots as a painter draw on two quite different traditions — the simple shapes and warm colour of Giotto and the radiance of Turner who gave to us a world in which everything was so saturated with light that it becomes a large radiant space.

"I do not use images. I want to bypass the thinking analytical mind. Instead I use abstract shapes inspired by the simple naive sense that Giotto has of shape. These abstract shapes create 'echoes' in the mind of the viewer. I combine this with radiant space as given to us by Turner and more recently by Rothko. This radiance 'gives the implication of infinity' to the simple shapes'."

Ms. Thompson's works are oil on canvas. She uses concrete in some for texture and luminosity.



PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Kingston artist Sharon Thompson stands beside one of her works at the Colborne Art Gallery last Saturday.

She says the concrete allows her to "keep the history of her paintings". The archaeology of her paintings is important too. She wants to keep the feeling and thought that were part of her art.

Ms. Thompson has a long history as a landscape and still-life painter. She knows these are easier to paint and to sell. She thinks her abstracts are her best work. They take forever to create and take a lot out of her, but she realizes that they're who she is.

"It's not important whether people buy or like her work," she says. "It's a

wonderful place to be as an artist".

She says when you're younger you have to explore it all. As you get older you let some things slip away; it's a kind of purification.

Ms. Thompson has been in solo and group exhibitions across North America. Her works are found in offices across Canada. She has received numerous Ontario Arts Council grants.

Her studio is at 307 Frontenac St. in Kingston. Her website is www.sharonthompson.ca.

The show ends on November 6.