

# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

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# Local Guild member named Canada's Rug Hooking Artist of the Year

A member of the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild has been named as Rug Hooking Artist of the Year for Canada.

The Hooked Rug Museum of North America (HRMNA) made the announcements for the "Rug Hooking Artist of the Year" for Canada and the United States last month. Representative samples of the artists' work will be displayed as a special featured exhibit at the Museum for the 2014 season.

The winners are chosen because of their special attributes and their contribution to the contemporary advancement of the art of rug hooking and its gradual transformation over three centuries of development in North America, according to Chairperson of the Board, Suzanne Conrod.

"This assessment of rug hooking in comparison to an early stage of hooking, offers an opportunity to learn more about the amazing talents that exist in the art," says Conrod.

Conrod announced Trish Johnson of Toronto as the Canadian Rug Hooking Artist while Sibyl Osicka of Ohio is her American counterpart.

"Being chosen as Rug Hooking Artist of the year is a dream come true. I've wanted a show of my work for a long time," said Johnson. "Finally, my work will be shown as part of a larger body of work. Every rug has something to say but together they say more. Hopefully the viewer will be able to see the themes I have been exploring. Most of these rugs are about "Home" and what is dear to my heart."

Johnson has been hooking since 1988. She was self-taught for the first four rugs then joining the Georgetown rug hooking group in 1999.

"I used to live in Fergus and drive to Georgetown to hook. Now I live in Toronto and still go to Georgetown. It is such an active group. I joined a beginner class of Shirley Lyons after I had been hooking on my own for a few years," she said.

She has taken many hooking workshops and belongs to the teacher's branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild, the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild and the Upper Toronto Hooking Guild.

"I like the feel of wool," Johnson said. "I like the soft warm fuzziness of hooking a rug, especially on a cold winter night. I feel content, hooking at home, alone but I also like hooking with others. We hook together, share the stories of our lives and have become friends."

Johnson hooks rugs about places that are important to her family history, trying to answer questions about what "home" means to her.

Home is where the heart is and all of her rugs are about things and events that are dear to her heart. She designs her own patterns, mostly from her own photographs; dyes most of her own wool (especially the skies) and likes to use some recycled wool from Goodwill. Johnson has been featured in Rug Hooking magazine's "A Celebration of Hand Hooked Rugs."

The Hooked Rug Museum of North America is operated by a non profit society dedicated to the preservation and celebration of the art and traditions of hooked rugs and is located at 9849 Highway #3 (St. Margaret's Bay Rd.), in Hubbards, Nova Scotia, telephone (902) 858-3060, www.hookedrugmuseumof-northamerica.org. It is open from May to October.



TRISH JOHNSON

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