

Indart changes style, wins art award

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The quiet shores of Christie's Lake swayed Yvonne Indart to alter her artistic talents this past summer.

And it has made for another bright fall for Acton High's art teacher.

Indart recently captured the People's Choice Award at the Arts Etobicoke annual show held at the Etobicoke City Hall art gallery.

Having won last year's competition with a figure painting entry, Indart worked with landscape surroundings for her latest victory, bunking at a cottage in eastern Ontario.

Her winning piece, The Islands, is an acrylic painting and one in a 12-part series of landscape paintings. A colleague of Indart's, Acton High music teacher Peter Wilcox, offered his cottage to her for a week's work.

"I've never done landscape. I prefer figure painting, but it's tough to get exhibited or sold unless it's a portrait," says Indart, whose painting shows old chairs on a dock with islands in the background. She adopted the feeling that people were in the chairs, but in reality they weren't.

"I was rather satisfied, since I changed my mode of expression and I won. I was just happy to get in the show."

Indart produced 12 paintings and 24 watercolours during her stay near Perth, Ont.

"It was kind of scary being at the cottage alone, but it's good for an artist to get away. It's gratifying and it proved to me I could do landscape. I think I landed on a style I like," Indart says.

She used the same techniques as figure painting, but The Islands has often been mistaken for an oil painting rather than acrylic.

"I used an oil technique with modern water-based acrylic paints. Normally, you have to wait a week for the layers of the oil paint to dry, but I usually know what I want when I paint, so I want it dry right

away," explains Indart, a fine arts and faculty education grad from the University of Toronto. She also received a diploma from the Academy of Arts during a year's stay in Rome, Italy.

"Water-base is a quick drying paint and I added a gloss additive that gave the painting an acrylic look."

Indart is following in the footsteps of her father, who was an artist. However, his father was opposed, saying no son of his was going to work at such an "unstable" vocation.

"My father's frustration turned into support for me," says Indart.

"Art doesn't always have to be bland, decorative and peaceful. Life is up and down and art reflects life."

The 45-year-old Mississauga resident plans to blend figure and landscape painting next year, but in the meantime, will enter a show at the Burlington Cultural Centre in the coming weeks and the Arts Mississauga show in December.



AWARD WINNER: Acton High's award-winning art teacher Yvonne Indart poses with two of her recent landscape works. (Doug Harrison photo)

CMHA holiday cards for sale

It's true, the holiday season is just around the corner! The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Halton Region Branch has a great idea to help you get at least one task off of your Christmas "to do" list. Once again, CMHA is selling holiday greeting cards as a fund-raiser.

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