

Les femmes fatales of FASM

The Fine arts society of Milton tours the region with its art

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANN KORNUA

The annual Fine Arts Society (FASM) of Milton's studio tour invites art lovers from the Halton area to get out and recognize the sparkling talents of its dedicated artists. Running October first and second, 44 artists this year will be showcased at 30 different locations around Halton. From Kilbride to Limehouse this free self guided tour should not be overlooked as just another art happening but seen as a strong statement for local artisans in the Halton area.

The FASM was formed in 1997 when local artists exhibited work for the Mayor's New Year's Levee at Milton Town Hall. Since then they have grown to be a powerful artistic influence in the community promoting the fine arts with elegance. With their collective they bring artists in the area with a common interest in the arts together.

The Compass met up with five of the featured female artists in this year's studio tour:

Gwen Gent: local potter and FASM organizer specializes in white earthen ware. She enjoys creating art that not only is beautiful but serves a practical use. A potter for 20 years, in Halton her work is inspired from nature in a playful and handcrafted manner.

Linda Shantz: featured oil/oil pastel artist was always horse crazy. She drew from a young age and just carried on with her dream of art. *Fascination* is a painting of her own border collie capturing in his mesmerized expression in oil. The equine painting features *Wondo*, who won the Triple Crown last year. It will sell at a live charitable auction where the money will go towards a fund for retired equines and donkeys.

Barb VanSickle: another local potter who features her Rakku work - pottery fired in an outside

kiln. This is a new exploration for Barb this year for those that are familiar with her functional work and her whimsical sculptures of wizards and dragons featured yearly at the Renaissance festival.

Nancy Cuttle: a local sculptor who specializes in clay and stone figurative pieces. Featured is her sculpture "Oh You Kid" a 1920s woman from her series of women in the 20th century. Along with her sculptures, Nancy will also feature her oil abstract paintings for delight.

Jenny Panda: local painter and illustrator. She used to be a teacher but now creatively plays in the world of acrylics. Her pieces are features from her new book and reflect her adoration for animals, flowers and fantasy. She has experimented with printmaking: monotypes using natural materials and water based and oil.

Don't miss the opportunity to further the growth in art appreciation by attending this year's FASM Studio tour.



FASM members from left to right: Barbra VanSickle potter, Nancy Cuttle sculptor, Linda Shantz painter, Gwen Gent potter and Jenny Panda painter. The five femmes fatales of FASM.



The rustic colours of Barb Vansickle's Rakka pottery



The love of nature inspires the earthen stone ware pottery of FASM Organizer Gwen Gent in art that is not only beautiful but practical.



Artist Nancy Cuttle shows her "Oh You Kid" sculpture featuring women in the 1920s when they hemmed their dresses and cut their tresses.



Linda Shantz, with her oil painting *Fascination* and *Wondo*. This fine art painter captures the simplicity of the moment with her shadows and technique.



The kind hearted teacher, Jenny Panda, now painter / illustrator with 2 of her recent acrylics. Featured are a warm sensual Lily and a featured portrait from her new book.

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