

Entertainment

Artisans' Attic co-operative showcases 12 local talents

Twelve local artists and artisans have collaborated on a unique business venture called Artisans Attic.

The shop, newly relocated to 73 Main St. S. in Georgetown, is a co-operative of the group's original and one-of-a-kind work. It also showcases the work of guest artists and crafts.

Participating in the co-operative are: Jane Altobelli, Sharon Chalmers, Laura Kingsbury, Susan Little, Mary Meredith, Susan Pippy, Margaret Searle, Sandra Spagnuolo, June Snyder, Janice Sukhiani, Guenter Weber and Kathryn Wurster.

Altobelli, who creates her own hand-spun yarn and felt, produces clothing as well as hats, felted pockets and hand-painted scarves. She is a member of Heritage Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild and Halton Hands in Motion Knitting Guild.

Chalmers is a calligrapher who enjoys working with poetry, quotations and inspirational psalms. In addition she creates floral arrangements from dried flowers, vines, mosses, reeds, grasses, and fruit while using unusual vases, baskets and containers. Chalmers is a member of the Credit Valley Artisans' Palette and Pencil Guild and the Calligraphy Guild of Toronto.

Kingsbury, a self-taught artist, works mostly in watercolors, but dabbles in acrylics and soft pastels too. A former biologist/naturalist, she focuses on native wildlife, especially birds. The products of two of her hobbies, pottery and basket weaving, are also available at Artisans' Attic.

Little, the president of the Credit Valley Artisans and a member of the Palette and Pencil Guild, is currently focusing on painting watercolors of large and miniature landscapes and still lifes. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, she has had various careers in the magazine art direction, graphic design and children's book illustration.

Meredith works with various types of beads, stones and pearls, setting them in silver, gold, pewter and silk to create classic and contemporary necklaces, bracelets and

earrings. She is a graduate of Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Pippy works in two different media: clay and papier maché. She uses her talent for sculpture and design, honed at University of Waterloo Fine Arts program, to create various work such as functional teapots or life-like papier maché sculptures of birds and animals.

Searle's whose main interest is in weaving and color, is a member of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners and the Georgetown Heritage Handweavers and Spinner Guild. A graduate of the Georgian College Weaving Program, she weaves a variety of items both practical and beautiful.

Spagnuolo produces fine quality cards, journals, photo albums, boxes and more out of her own handmade papers and stocks. Spagnuolo, who is interested in everything from machine knitting to sculpture, is especially interested on all aspects of paper making.

Snyder presents various work at Artisans Attic using her talents for sculpture, artifacts and ornaments in stained glass. Examples include window hangings and candle holders.

Sukhiani discovered pottery making in 1996 and has continued to improve on her talent through courses at Sheridan College as well as being a member of the Credit Valley Artisans.

The only man in the group, Weber, is a self-taught stained glass artist and craftsman. He specializes in stained glass lamps and has exhibited at many venues including Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto.

The final member of the group, Wurster, provides handcrafted smocked items. Smocking applies to fabric and the ornamental stitchery used to secure the gathering. She is constantly improving her talent with additional items and patterns including some of her design.

Artisans' Attic store hours are Monday, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 877-7065.



Artisan Jane Altobelli spins wool before producing various items such as clothing and hats. Altobelli is one of 12 artisans who share the co-operative Artisans Attic at 73 Main St., Georgetown.

Photo by Brian K. Haybittle

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