

Arts & Entertainment

Artists open their studios for public tour

FASM's annual tour set to run next weekend

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

Every day Miltonians drive past local studios and artists' homes, having no idea of the masterpieces being created inside.

But for two days each year, doors across Milton and the surrounding areas are thrown open and residents are invited to share in the artists' passions and learn about their pursuits.

It's a chance to get into the minds of creators and see what makes them tick. And it's free.

It's time once again for the Milton Area Studio Tour and Sale — the seventh annual — being put on by the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM). It'll take place October 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5

p.m.

Armed with a comprehensive brochure, residents will take the self-guided tour, stopping at any number of the 33 locations, visiting one artist or attempting all 46.

On display will be a vast array of original artwork including paintings in oil, acrylic, pastel and watercolour, sculpture in clay, stone, wood, cement and metals, pottery, art photography, jewelry, blown glass, fused glass and stained glass and turned wood.

The art is figurative and abstract, decorative and functional, of landscape and still life.

Many of the stops are in picturesque areas of rural Milton, with a few others in neighbouring Eden Mills, Rockwood, Acton and Limehouse. This year, said organizer Gwen Gent, there are also some stops in the newer areas of town, a reflection of the changing

face of Milton, with new residents settling in and getting involved in their community.

Most of the stops are less than a 10-minute drive apart.

Ms Gent said the tour often opens people's eyes as to what a vibrant arts community Milton has.

Each year, the tour attracts residents young and old, artsy and not, Ms Gent said. It proves to be a learning experience for residents who don't know much about art, and for those who do, it provides inspiration.

"It's across the board," Ms Gent said of the tour-goers. "There are parents taking their kids so they can see some art, seniors and families out for the day and people doing some early Christmas shopping," Ms Gent said, adding, "Some take it as their mission to go to every location — and they do!"

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Davoud Khosravi shows off one of his wooden sculptures — entitled 'Timelessness' — in preparation for he and his wife's part in next weekend's studio tour.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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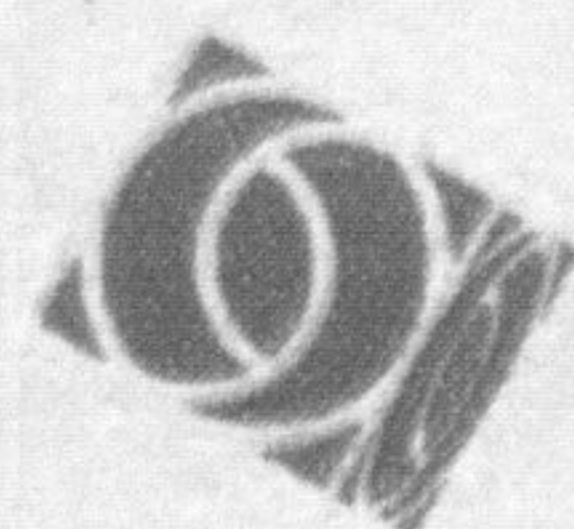
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