

Fundraiser helps match art with décor

C2 Art from the Heart aids several charities

By Stephanie Thiessen CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

T ave you ever tried to match a piece of furniture with a __ piece of art — or vice versa - yielding results that were less than inspiring?

Or dreamed up a colour scheme that was actually more of a nightmare?

How about cringing with guilt after spending a substantial amount on a piece of art — money that could have gone to a charitable cause?

If you've answered yes to any of the above questions, you're the ideal candidate to own a painting from the new C2 Art from the Heart venture.

For the past two months, local artist Kelly MacIntyre and interior designer Sara Bergsma have joined forces to create art of a very different sort.

In a nutshell, Bergsma puts together specific interior colour palettes from the C2 paint line available at Bergsma's Home Decor.

MacIntyre then matches the colours with her acrylic paints and goes to town, creating a painting in her unique, fun style.

"She can customize anything for anyone, and I can help them pick out the colours," Bergsma explained.

The palate and painting can be chosen to fit in with an existing scheme, or can be designed from scratch for an adventurous homeowner looking for some change.

The result is a professionally coordinated room.

"When you paint your room any of the colours in the theme chosen, your painting will match exactly," MacIntyre said, adding, "People are so busy in their lives. This is one less thing they have to worry about."

Accessorizing a room becomes simple, MacIntyre said, since someone who has bought a painting can take the small, laminated paint chip colour

scheme to the store for reference when purchasing accent items.

MacIntyre's enthusiasm was nearly uncontainable as she strolled through Bergsma's Home Décor — where paintings are on display — and pointed out various pieces Tuesday morning.

In the front window is a display showcasing the chosen colour swatches and resulting paintings — beach scenes in cool, watery blue tones. Displays will be changed regularly, with seasonal colour schemes.

Half goes to charity

But the heart of the project — the part the two women really get excited about — is the donation of 50 per cent of the proceeds from each painting to a local charity of the customer's choice.

Among the charities customers can select are Halton Girls Inc., the Canadian Cancer Society, the Milton District Hospital Foundation and Rose Cherry's Home for Kids.

"It really started from a passion that her and I had first about giving back to the community and second about our love for colour," Bergsma said.

Several of the pair's projects are already hanging in establishments around town, including Lott's and Lots Bakery and Tea Room in Campbellville - half the proceeds went to the Weekend to End Breast Cancer - and Milton District Hospital.

Prices start from \$200, and there are three painting sizes from which to choose.

These paintings are meant to be touched, MacIntyre said, adding they're not behind glass for a reason. The texture is varied and the paintings incorporate real items. In the window display, a painting of a little girl features streaming hair ribbons, while a beach scene is affixed with seashells.

Customers can choose what they want painted, and even include mementos such as a piece of fabric

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interior designer Sara Bergsma (inset left).

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

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