

Art gets up close, personal in FASM Studio Tour

By Julie Slack
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A performance artist as well as a stained glass artist who's passionate about his livelihood are among the dozens of exhibitors who will share their creative spirit with the public this weekend in the annual Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM) Studio Tour.

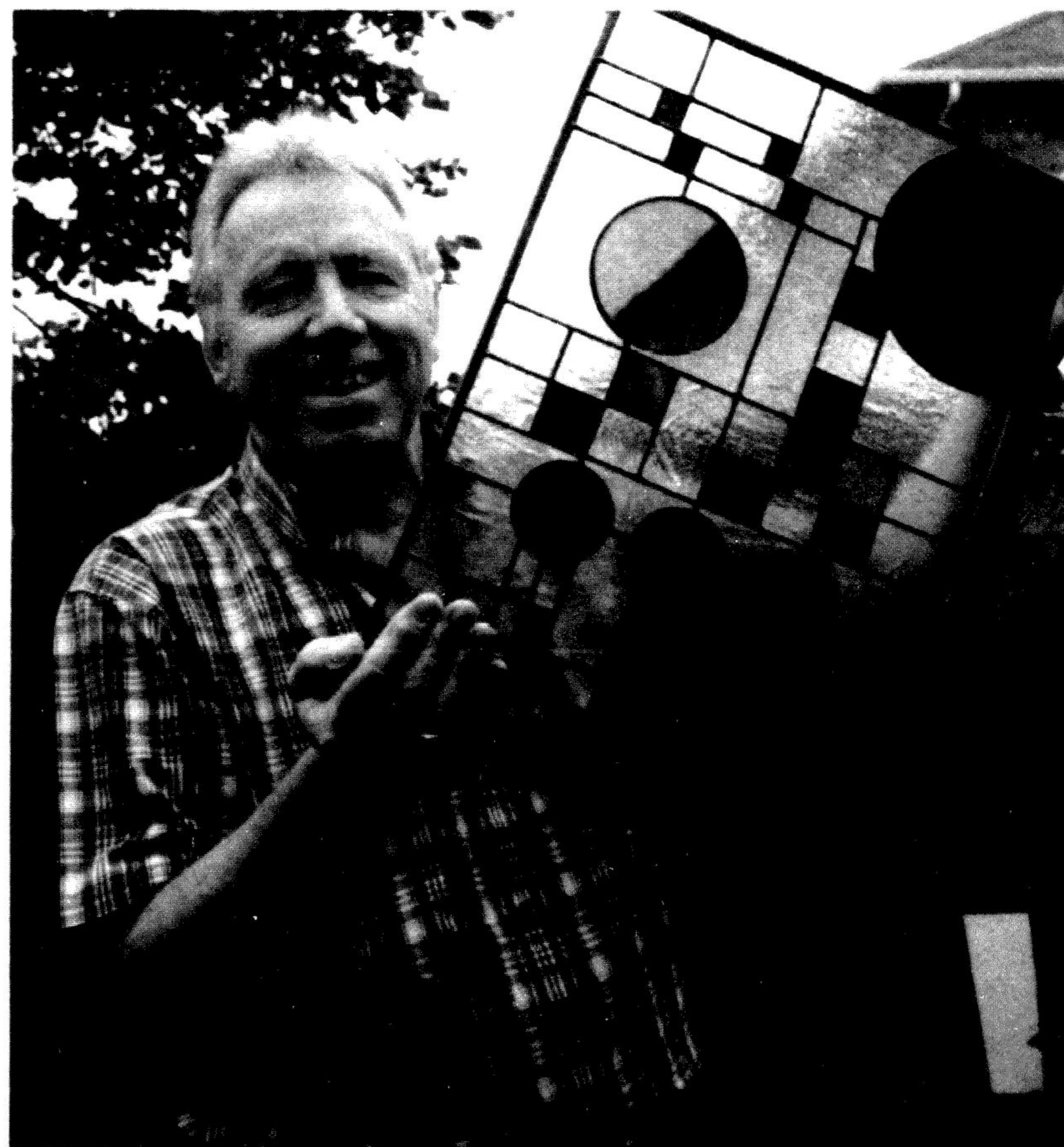
FASM spokesperson Nancy Cuttle said the popular event draws crowds every year people anxious for a chance to see the studios that artists use as creative space.

Visitors are invited to ask questions, watch art in progress, see demonstrations and purchase pieces.

The studio tour also provides an opportunity for people to take in rural roads and country sides — as many of the artists are spread out across Milton and beyond.

The free, self-guided tour of artists' studios will take place this Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 24 locations. Featured are 36 artists — painters, potters, an enamellist, photographers, jewelers and blown glass artists.

One of those in the tour is Bev Hewitt, a stained glass artist who's called Milton home for the last two years. He works out of his urban residence creating everything from



Stained glass artist Bev Hewitt is one of 36 artists featured in this weekend's Fine Arts Society of Milton Studio Tour. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)*

geometric designs following Islamic art to abstract pieces with a wealth of texture and colour.

Colourful butterflies, flowers, birds and landscapes spring from the glass he so carefully pieces together.

Hewitt, 64, says he fell into his art career by accident.

"My wife (Katherine) kicked me out of the house," he chuckled. "She told me to find a

hobby — what about stained glass?"

He said the rest is history. He began taking a two-week course at Fanshawe College in London. Within days, his instructor asked him if he'd like to work for him. Hewitt was floored and thrilled to find work after mailing out 45 resumes in 1990 with no success.

"He said I had natural aptitude," Hewitt recalled. "I've still got that piece — 16 pieces of glass — my first project."

Now, 23 years later his hobby has become a full-time career and he's commissioned to produce pieces for customers far and wide. He says his work is unique, and encourages people to come out to see it firsthand, since his online website simply doesn't do glass justice.

His work, along with that of some painters, will be on display at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop.

Meanwhile, an artist who's making a name for herself across Canada, having been accepted into more than 70 juried exhibitions, will display her work at her Second Line studio in Campbellville.

Tina Newlove has received many awards for her work, including an Award of Merit from the Society of Canadian Artists.

Her abstract oil painting titled *Organizing My Mind* is in the City of Toronto's permanent collection.

Newlove, who's one of the core artists in Tribe of One, will also share her passion for performance art. Tribe of One fuses together old world culture with modern artistic expression. They create innovative, cross-cultural performances that blend sound, dance, performance painting and storytelling.

Cuttle, a sculptor whose own studio is one of the stops on the tour, said Milton residents are lucky to have this calibre of artists living here.

"It's wonderful the talent is so varied," she said. "I think it's one of the reasons the annual studio tour is so successful."

Part of the success may also be attributed to the allure of the behind-the-scenes look witnessing artistry in motion.

Being able to see art up close and hands-on gets others excited and interested in art, Cuttle added.

"There's art going on all around you," she said.





To see a complete listing of the studio tour go to <http://miltonstudiotour.ca>.

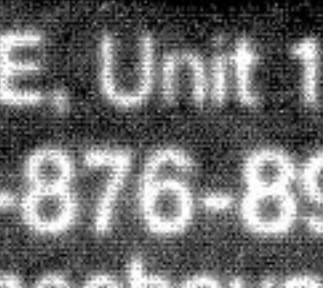

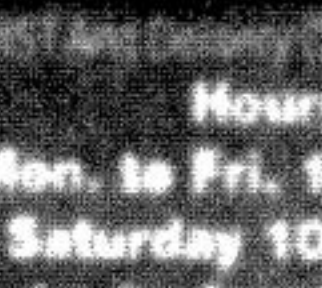
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