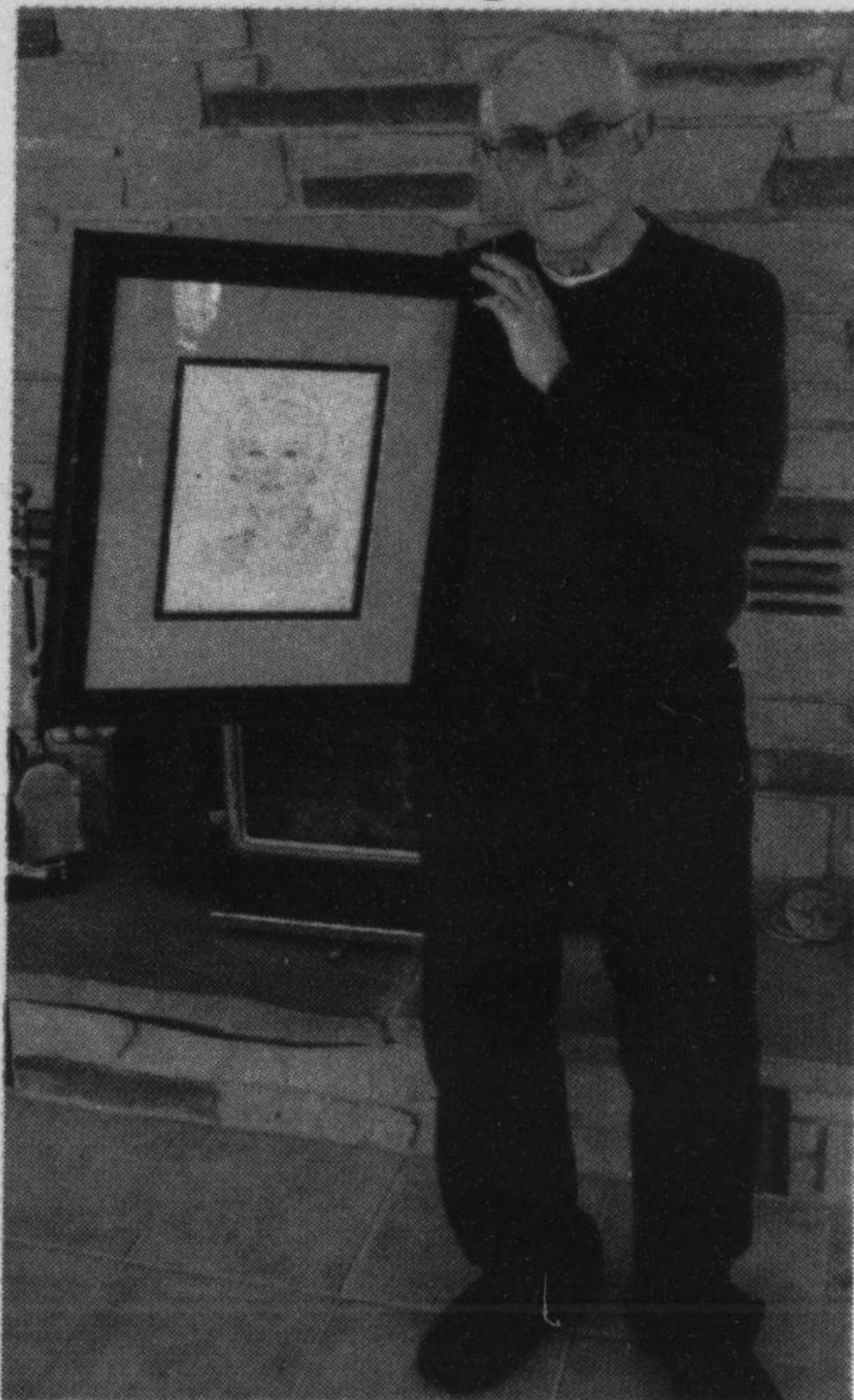


Artist says course from Casson took drawing to another level



David Franklin shows his pencil sketch titled *Judi Dench* — one of his favourite pieces — on display at the Holcim Gallery. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion*
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A&L Franklin credits Canadian wildlife artist and Milton Hall of Famer Albert Casson for helping him take his drawing to another level.

He took a drawing course from Casson, and Franklin said the artist would come around and sit at the participant's easel and offer criticism.

He learned that it's okay to add shadows to the work, even when it seems like it might be a mistake.

"Don't be afraid of the dark," he said, noting that became one of his favourite expressions. "It's quite impactful when you're drawing."

Gonsalves uses old papers, letters, sewing patterns

For FASM artist Amanda Gonsalves, the show provides a chance for her to make people think about art.

Painting exclusively for the last 13 years, Gonsalves said she uses old papers, letters and sewing patterns in her work, then layers of paint that might be sanded or washed off.

"The final painting has a mystery to it because only parts of the text or images will show through," she said. "I don't set out to paint a particular thing."

"As I work, certain themes or images and words start to emerge," she added. "At some

point the final theme is then clear to me and it usually means the painting is finished."

Her painting titled *What You Are Looking For* is part of a poem about finding what we're looking for in our hearts.

"We can look elsewhere and outside of ourselves, but the thing we are looking for is within us, within our heart," Gonsalves explained.

"I feel my art is a reflection of life and our lives are filled with so many rich stories. The old letters etc. add to this richness and the mys-

tery of it all, because not everything can be known to us just as all the layers in the paintings are not clearly visible."

That's, of course, what makes her work inviting for people to stop and think, look closely and perhaps interpret it another way.

From Heart to Hand, which runs until April 19, allows FASM artists to exhibit one piece of their work.

Julie Slack can be reached at jslack@miltoncanadianchampion.com or on Twitter @miltonmusing.

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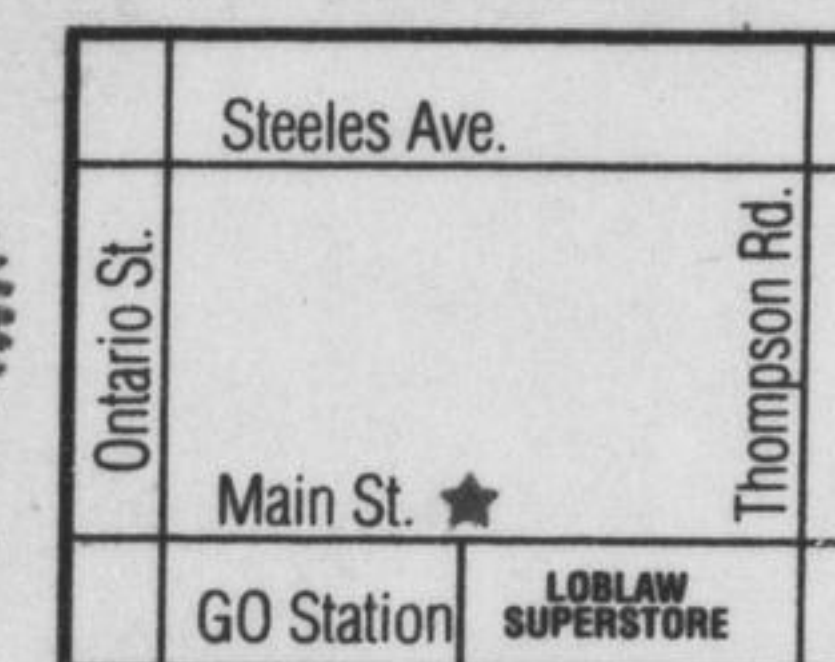
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