

COMING UP: 11th studio tour

# Material takes artist places

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If you hear Jimmy Buffett, Mary Chapin Carpenter or The Beatles coming from Carin Bacher's Cedar Valley home, you know she's creating wood carvings.

But if you happen to hear some Sugarland or Alan Jackson, then she's doing some glass flamework.

"It's more calm and folksy and with the glass it goes up a notch," Ms Bacher said of her musical choices.

Ms Bacher is one of 36 artists taking part in the 11th annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Studio Tour and Sale Oct. 15 and 16.

When the juried studio tour was first launched, it was more of an exhibit, with the opportunity to buy items. Now, people are able to actually visit each artist's studio and perhaps uncover some of their inspiration.

It does remain a good shopping event.

"Unless the artists have scheduled exhibits, their work wouldn't be available, so this is a really good time to buy," said Jan Dolby, spokesperson for the tour and an artist herself.

Ms Bacher started carving wood masks and totems about four years ago and only delved into the world of glass flamework about a year-and-a-half ago.

However, Ms Bacher, who is a real estate agent for Sutton Group by day, said she should not be discounted as a newbie because she has been around art her whole life.

*'I'm not more artistic than anybody else, I just let it out. People are afraid to take their imagination out of their heads.'*

"When you work in a variety of mediums ... you understand somehow how the form works," she said.

Her friends, she said, have called her artistic.

"It's not that I'm artistic. I'm not more artistic than anybody else, I just let it out," she said. "People are afraid to take their imagination out of their heads."

Ms Bacher, whose studio is on the north side of the dead end portion of McCowan Road, also noted a lot of her work comes by trial and error as well as her willingness to let the wood or glass dictate the outcome.

"The medium takes you someplace completely different ... you have to let the medium take you there," she said.

Ms Bacher has always been fascinated by glass blowing, however, it was cost prohibitive. But when she found out you can manipulate glass through flamework, which was more accessible to her than using a furnace, she dove in.

"I love boro (silicate glass) because it's a surprise," she said of the kaleidoscope of colours she can get from a single rod once it hits the flame.

During the studio tour, Ms Bacher will have jewelry and other glass pieces for sale and totems to view.

Ms Bacher only creates totems on a commission basis.

"The totem is a reflection of the person or tribe who owns it," she said. "It should represent them, not me."

The studio tour takes place in 23 different locations throughout Whitchurch-Stouffville Oct. 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

For more details, go to [www.stouffvillestudiotour.com](http://www.stouffvillestudiotour.com)



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Carin Bacher will have totem poles, jewelry and glass work on display at her home during the 11th annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Studio Tour and Sale Oct. 15 and 16. Learn more by watching a video at [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)

## Dance, film, art at Culture Days

Culture is defined as "the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively," by the Canadian Oxford Dictionary.

Once again, Whitchurch-Stouffville will participate in the Canadian-wide Culture Days, which take place Sept. 30 to Oct. 1.

"I'd like to see all our different cultures represented at different venues so everyone can learn about them for free," said Anna Rose, downtown co-ordinator for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

As part of the free three-day event, Latham Gallery will host a hands-on activity and artist demonstration Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stouffville's own dance theatre company, Motus O, will provide a behind-the-scenes tour of its latest production, What the Heck?, Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

And because it was so successful last year, a Macedonian film, Kaleidoscope, will be presented at Nineteen on the Park Saturday at 2 p.m.

### BEHIND-SCENES LOOK

The film's writer and director, Sandra Ristovska, is expected to be at the free screening, according to Ms Rose.

Prior to the movie, at 1 p.m., there will be a Bollywood and Mambo Italiano dance performance.

"We just wanted to expose some different cultures," Ms Rose said.

At the end of the movie, a Macedonian dance troupe from Mississauga will perform.

Also at the film screening will be representatives from the Stouffville Multicultural Association.

"They're baby steps as to where we want to be in breaking down barriers and teaching each other about other cultures," Ms Rose said.

The first annual Culture Days event took place last year in 700 cities and towns across Canada, including Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The cross-Canada celebration represents the largest-ever collective public participation, campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in this country, according to the Culture Days' press release.

The event was inspired by Quebec's annual Journées de la culture event, which attempts to democratize culture in that province, according to the Culture Days' release.

For more information, go to [www.culturedays.ca/en](http://www.culturedays.ca/en)

-Sandra Bolan

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