

COMING UP: Beyond Craft Show and Sale



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Glass artist Laureen Lucas of Stouffville is surrounded by her art in her home on Second Street. She's preparing for a Latcham Gallery sale at Nineteen on the Park next week.

Stained glass artisan turned hobby into second career

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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From soap to jewelry to food and glass items. No two of them will ever be alike, even if they are made by the same person.

That is just one of the reasons to visit the Beyond Craft Show and Sale Nov. 10 to 13 at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park.

The other reasons are because "it's a great fundraiser for the (Latcham) Gallery and great awareness because we're drawing people from outside the gallery. So, great exposure for the gallery and downtown Stouffville," said Jennie Creeggan, the show's co-ordinator and a ceramics artisan herself.

Money is raised through admission, which is by donation and all profits from the artisans are given to the gallery.

Last year, the event raised \$8,000 for the gallery and more than doubled its attendance from the previous years, according to Ms Creeggan.

A surprise hit with customers last year was the Kingston Soap Company, which returns this year.

New and according to Ms Creeggan, likely another hit with customers, will be Thorpe Toys, a Waterloo-based wooden toy manufacturer.

"It's just really good quality handmade toys," Ms Creeggan said.

Also new to the juried show this year is stained glass artisan Laureen Lucas.

"She's a great artist," Ms Creeggan said.

Ms Lucas has been a part of the Stouffville Studio Tour for a number of years and decided this year to also participate in the Beyond Craft Show and Sale.

Ms Lucas started working with stained

glass about 20 years ago, but only as a hobby.

When Ms Lucas left the corporate world 10 years ago, she decided to turn her hobby into a new career.

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"It's a business for me but it's more than that. It's something I love to do. It's a creative outlet. ... I just really enjoy it," Ms Lucas said.

When Ms Lucas moved to Stouffville five years ago, she also opened her studio — Second St. Studio. That is where people can buy pre-made items such as lamps, sun catchers and window panels. Ms Lucas also teaches beginner stained glass classes there.

"To me, it's like painting with glass," she said.

Ms Lucas also does commissioned work. "I like the variety and challenge of whatever somebody wants me to make," she said.

The Beyond Craft Show and Sale takes place Nov. 10 to 13 at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park. The hours are: Nov. 10 - 6 to 9 p.m.; Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Nov. 12 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Nov. 13 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, go to www.latchamgallery.ca and www.stouffvillestudiotour.com/Artist%20pages/Laureen_Lucas.html

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