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Visit to China inspired work selected for juried exhibit

BY ALI RAZA
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Latcham or Louvre? With its Annual Juried Exhibition set to launch on Saturday, it'll soon be hard to tell the difference.

The Latcham Gallery is featuring works from artists across Ontario with the exhibition running from March 12 to April 30 with an opening reception slated for Saturday 1-3 p.m. Most artists will be in attendance, as the jury will grant awards to selected artists.

Everyone is welcome to attend the opening reception and the exhibition continues until April 30. Three Stouffville artists made the cut: Ray McNeice, Greg Van Sickle and Marco Francisco. Claremont artist Heather Rigby was also selected.

"It's probably the most popular exhibition we have at the gallery," said McNeice, who's also an associate with Latcham. "It's an eclectic mix, with 33 different viewpoints."

After a submission of 230 works from 125 artists, the jury selected 34 works from 33 artists.

The jury consists of Sonya Jones, associate curator for Oshawa's Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery; Colette Laliberté, professional artist and associate professor at OCADU in Toronto; and Chad Wolfond, owner and director of Lonsdale Gallery in Toronto.

McNeice's own submission, entitled Military Presence, portrays a contrast he noticed when visiting China.

"I was struck by what I thought was a dichotomy between the China they wanted you to see and the China that really exists when you have time to discover," he said.

After seeing the famous Terracotta Army in city of Xi'an, McNeice travelled to Beijing where he saw several soldiers marching in formation in Tiananmen Square, the site of mass protests against Communist rule in 1989.

"I've paired the two together, to stress the dichotomy I saw in the country, between their military history and their current rule," McNeice explained.

McNeice's work offers a taste of the diverse collection of works at the exhibition, which include paintings, drawings, sculptures and printmaking. The gallery has presented the exhibition for 36 years, drawing artists and visitors from all over the province.

"It's an honour to be in it," McNeice added.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LEMONTVILLE ARTISTS FEATURED

The Lemonville Group of Artists is showcasing their work at an exhibition in the Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal offices.

The exhibition, which is in the building's lobby gallery, runs until March 31.

The group's annual show and sale takes place April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Lemonville Community Centre.



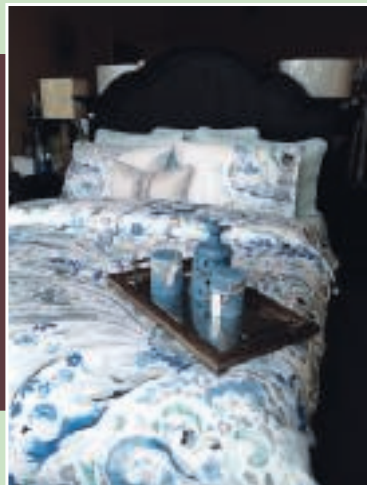
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