

A "Grand Tour" of Stouffville Studios

Local artists host 14th annual event

By Hannelore Volpe

In days gone by, people would do the "Grand Tour" by visiting the famous sights of Europe.

Well, we have an even better version here: The Stouffville Studio Tour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 18 and 19. The free tour is an opportunity to visit local artists in their natural habitat.

And as participating artist Diana Bullock says, "There is no pressure to buy. We welcome browsing!"

What will you see? Works in every medium you can think of including pottery, woodturning, totems, paintings, jewellery, photography and wood block prints. Plus you'll have a chance to talk to the artists and see the paints, woodturning equipment, pottery wheels, Japanese sumi-e brushes, clay, stones and metals and other accoutrements that each artist uses to create his or her particular works of art.

During the tour, around 30 artists are opening their studio doors at about 20 locations. In downtown Stouffville, one easy walk will take you to several studios. In rural areas of Whitchurch-Stouffville, you'll be driving through our wonderful fall landscape to reach a number of others, some with several artists in close proximity. There is a free draw for a \$200 voucher towards a work of art by one of the tour artists.

Then there's the added bonus of being able to stop at the local restaurant, coffee shop or winery of your choice before deciding where to continue your studio visits. This tour is a great way to find out what is in your community!

The Stouffville Studio Tour has grown

phenomenally since beginning modestly 14 years ago.

If you are fascinated by totems and masks, you'll see them at Carin Bacher's studio. This artist sees the world as her mentor and her totems were originally influenced by West Coast carving. Her fascination with hot molten glass has led her to explore the medium of glass flameworking.

A three-generation family of artists will greet you at another studio: watercolourist Grace MacPherson, her daughter Diana Bullock who works in sumi-e (Japanese ink painting) as well as watercolours and mixed media, and Diane's daughter, Allison Bullock, a multi-media artist. Her vibrantly-coloured work is influenced by her love of the performing arts, particularly ballet and music.

At Jane McLellan's glass painting studio, you'll find once-ordinary household glassware transformed into whimsical, unique pieces. Inspiration for Susan Cotter's acrylic and mixed media works come from living in rural settings as well as extensive travels to the Caribbean and Europe. You can find out more fascinating details on all the artists at www.stouffvillestudiotour.com

You may have gotten a sneak peek already at some of the artists' works which have been on display at For the Love of Jo, a downtown Main Street coffee shop.

If you don't yet have your tour brochure, you can check it out on the tour website, email info@stouffvillestudiotour.com or call 905-642-1721 or 905-640-2279.

Follow the Stouffville Studio Tour on Facebook, Blogger and/or Twitter for updates. All links are on the Stouffville Studio Tour website.

This is a work you might see at the studio of artist Colin Whitebread, who is on the right. His work, exhibited at the Kathleen Gormley McKay Gallery in Unionville earlier this year, brought forth some enthusiastic discussion with Stouffville resident Doug Ales. Hannelore Volpe photo



Stouffville Studio Tour artists display some of their work at For the Love of Jo on Main St. The tour takes place Oct. 18 and 19.

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UNITED SOILS

Giving back to our community through Tiny Seedlings.

