

Artists' Workshop

Artists' Workshop - Loon Lake, Maple Ridge, BC

Catherine Sheppard



MPAC, SFCA

I've always been drawn to color, design and detail along with chiaroscuro (the treatment of light and shade in painting). Artistic expression took many forms over the years from graphic designing and photography to landscape gardening. In 1993, I began exploring watercolor, egg tempera and oil painting through a handful of workshops while working full time as a graphic artist.

My paintings are known for their realism with attention to detail. A camera is a constant companion on my travels to wildlife parks, zoos and raptor centers. I am inspired by their beauty. Capturing animals and birds is like finding true gems out there in our busy world. In 2013, I happened onto pastel which I found to be a game changer. I no longer had to struggle with the use of water or mixing mediums into oil paints. I found pastels were so much quicker and brilliant of colour. I love putting pastel onto sanded paper to show the audience of what creature I have found exciting enough to paint.

I challenged myself through the Federation of Canadian Artists to achieve my AFCA status in 2015 and my SFCA status two years later. Through entering my art at shows, people started asking me to teach them the pastel methods. As of 2018 I now share my love of pastel and animals in both virtual and live workshops at my home studio in Surrey, BC.

I consider myself to be an ambassador for wildlife – finding these amazing animals and birds with all their intricate fur and feather patterns in hopes of capturing them in a life-like method for all to view. I hope you feel uplifted in the company of my work.

You can follow my work on FaceBook and you can view some of my work on the web: <https://www.pastelartists.ca/user/catherine-sheppard/>



Military Macaw - 20 x 16 - Pastel on Sennelier - Photo taken at the Cougar Mountain Zoo in Issaquah, Washington, USA



Symphony of Feathers - 18 x 22 - Pastel on Pastelmat - photo taken at the Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Tsawwassen, BC



Creator of Legends - 11 x 15 - Pastel on Pastelmat - Photo taken at the Duncan Raptor Centre in Duncan, BC