



A U G U S T 2 0 2 5

## CANADA'S COMMUNITY FOR PASTEL ARTISTS

[www.pastelartists.ca](http://www.pastelartists.ca)

*What have you been up to...*



*"Azzurro" 24"x 16"*

Profile of an Artist

*Wilma Mehl*



P A S T E L A R T I S T S . C A  
CANADA'S COMMUNITY FOR PASTEL ARTISTS

## *From the President's Easel - August, 2025*

ICAN 2025 and the 35th Purely Pastel Open Juried Exhibition were both a huge success!

Under the capable direction of ICAN Coordinator Ruth Rodgers, ICAN had a very successful turn out with a wonderful variety of workshops and new instructors. Our 35th Purely Pastel Exhibition showcased an exquisite array of pastel artworks and demonstrated the vast scope of possibilities for our medium.

Once again Neilson Park Creative Centre proved to be a wonderful venue for both of our events. Director Cory Therrien and her staff were welcoming, experienced and helpful.

We will be back in 2027!

I wish to thank all the volunteers whose efforts made this possible, the ICAN instructors, the NPCC staff and those that attended ICAN & Purely Pastel for making it such a successful event. There is magic that happens when creative people come together with the larger purpose of learning and sharing.

I'm also pleased to announce that PAC member Donna Roberts (who creates the PAC & ICAN merchandise) has offered to become our new Eastern Exhibitions Coordinator taking over from Denise Nonomura. We will miss Denise and wish to thank her for all of her help over the years. We welcome Donna aboard as she joins the PAC Team.

Kathy Hildebrandt has also generously stepped in to fill the Treasurer's position which was vacated earlier this year. Kathy is in the process of streamlining our books and helping us to create a PAC Budget. A huge "Thank You" to Kathy for once again being invaluable to PAC.

Also in the works, more info to come soon, is the PAC Plein Air Event on Sept. 13 & 14th to be held in the Parksville/Qualicum Beach area of Vancouver Island. Our own Gail Sibley and Dan Gray will be demo'ing, one each day at locations to be announced later.

For those of you not familiar with Dan's work, please take a look at his website. Dan works almost exclusively on location and is great fun to watch. <https://www.facebook.com/dan.gray.771>

Next on the PAC calendar is the 14th Members Online Juried Exhibition. Watch for more information in the fall.

In the meantime, all the best wishes for a wonderful and productive summer.

*Happy Pasteling,*  
*Joan*

Joan Larson, MPAC-EP  
Creekside Studio  
250-752-0395 [joan@joanlarson.com](mailto:joan@joanlarson.com)



## Profile of an Artist

# Wilma Mehl PAC



*"The Man in the Moon"*

Wilma, a 44-year-old artist born and raised in Frankfurt, Germany, comes from a family with a deep appreciation for art. While surrounded by creativity from a young age, she only recently embarked on pursuing her artistic talent professionally.

In 2011 she moved with her husband and son to Lambton County (Ontario). Although she explored various artistic paths over the years, it was in 2020 that she fully committed to her art journey, challenging herself to master pastel painting. The vibrant colours and unique textures of pastels drew her in, leading her to focus on representative pieces that celebrate local landscapes and seascapes.

Wilma has participated in several exhibitions, showcasing her original works and in local galleries and businesses, with waves being a recurring theme inspired by Lake Huron.

In 2023 her career dramatically changed when she won the Panel's Choice Award at the Art Comp in London, Ontario.

The emerging artist became a member of the Pastel Artists of Canada (PAC) society in 2024.

This year marks a significant achievement for Wilma:

The self-taught artist will host her first solo exhibition at the Lawrence House in Sarnia.



*"Waves, Sand & Pebbles"*  
18"x18"



*"What lies ahead of us"*  
14"x18"



# Purely Pastel



## Upcoming Pastel Artists of Canada Shows



Hello fellow PAC'ers. While we have just completed the 35th Purely Pastel Open Juried Exhibition at the Neilson Centre in June, we are already working on our 2025 fall online show and spring 2026 in person show. As many of you know, each year we deliver two shows, one online and the Purely Pastel show, which is in person. This show alternates between Ontario and Vancouver to create an east and west experience for our members. We wanted to make sure you have the dates in your planners to set aside the time in your studio to prepare your submissions. While the Online shows are easier, as they don't require the complexities of shipping, they are nonetheless important to your artistic journey and very rewarding.

That being said its time to begin thinking about what to enter into the 2025 Online show, which officially opens for submissions on September 1st to October 4th, 2025. We anticipate the Show going live on December 1, 2025 on our PAC website and as always awards will be announced, some financial rewards given, and opportunities too for members to attain signature status.

For the 36th Purely Pastel in-person show is being planned for May 25th to June 7th, with the show opening details still to come.

Aside from the shipping requirements, the other difference is the online show is open only to PAC members and the Purely Pastel Show is open to members and non members. As always the fees are modest at \$10 per entry for members and \$15 dollars for non members. We

will continue to employ EntryThingy for facilitating the entries and jurying, even though we know its not perfect, it's the best tool out there for an organization like ours that encompasses members across this large country and beyond. Yes we have members across the world now. Thanks to great feedback from jurors of past shows, we plan to have the award jurying done collaboratively between the jurors for the online show and have an EP Master Pastelist jury the awards for our Purely Pastel show, in person.

These shows work best when our members participate, so we look forward to facilitating this opportunity with you. On behalf of your PAC show team, we look forward to helping you move your artistic journey forward, one painting and one show at a time. See you in September!!!



# Purely Pastel



## Showcasing Excellence. Pastel artists.CA Annual Exhibitions

One of Pastel Artists.CA's key mandates is to promote our members' work through exhibition participation. As part of this mission, PAC strives to host an open juried exhibition, "Purely Pastel," every year. These prestigious gallery exhibitions are a significant platform for showcasing the incredible talent within the pastel art community. The exhibitions alternate between Western and Eastern Canada on an annual basis, allowing artists from across the country the opportunity to present their work in different regions.

To maintain a high level of artistic quality, the exhibitions are juried by well-known national and international pastel artists. Their expertise ensures that the selected entries meet the highest standards, providing a platform for exceptional pastel works. This rigorous selection process not only highlights the best of pastel art but also elevates the visibility

of Canadian pastel artists within the broader art community.

In addition to the gallery exhibitions, PAC also holds an annual member juried online exhibition. This online exhibition is open to all PAC members and offers an invaluable opportunity to participate in a prestigious exhibition without the expense and logistics of shipping artworks across the country. This exhibition has been gaining popularity year after year, providing more and more artists with the chance to showcase their pastel creations to a wider audience. The online exhibition has become an essential part of PAC's efforts to promote pastel art in a more accessible and inclusive way. As it continues to grow, the online exhibition further strengthens PAC's role in supporting and celebrating the vibrant community of pastel artists across Canada.



*6th Annual Online  
Juried Exhibition - First  
Place - Anu Vedagiri*





# ICAN 2025



## ANOTHER ICAN SUCCESS

ICAN 2025 was another success, with over 70 attendees and a full five days of laughter, learning, and pastel lore. Registrants have commented very favourably on the sessions and instructors, as well as the free sessions such as exhibition walkabouts, framing demo (though we need to find a quieter place for that in future!) and, of course, the always fun paint-around event. The Neilson Park Creative Centre provided a wonderful, spacious, light-filled space for our activities and our beautiful Purely Pastel Exhibition again, and we're already in negotiations with them for our ICAN2027 dates. Here are some candid photos I took, but for more images, check out the full roll taken by official photographer Jim Roberts on our website (soon, if not already available). Also watch for a report to appear in the Fall edition of Pastel Journal!

If you didn't make it to ICAN, watch your PAC Updates for news of upcoming online educational activities, including a critique with Maria Iva in November, plus a demo with EP Kathy Dolan on Nov 1st and an exciting demo with New Zealand realist artists Julie and Michael Freeman (see their incredible work here: [www.juliefreeman.co.nz](http://www.juliefreeman.co.nz) and here [www.michaelfreemanartist.com](http://www.michaelfreemanartist.com)) on October 5th. More details to come soon!

ICAN conference and online education coordinator,  
Ruth Rodgers



*Catherine Marshall gets excited by painting from her gut*



*Portraits with Masoud Habibyan*



*A plein air workshop*



# ICAN 2025



*Andrew McDermott at the paint around*



*Donna Roberts shows off her true colors*



*Painting Large with Pat Lindley*



*Joan Larson teaches animal painting*

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*"Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth"*  
- Pablo Picasso





# ICAN DAY 1











## ICAN - DAY 3







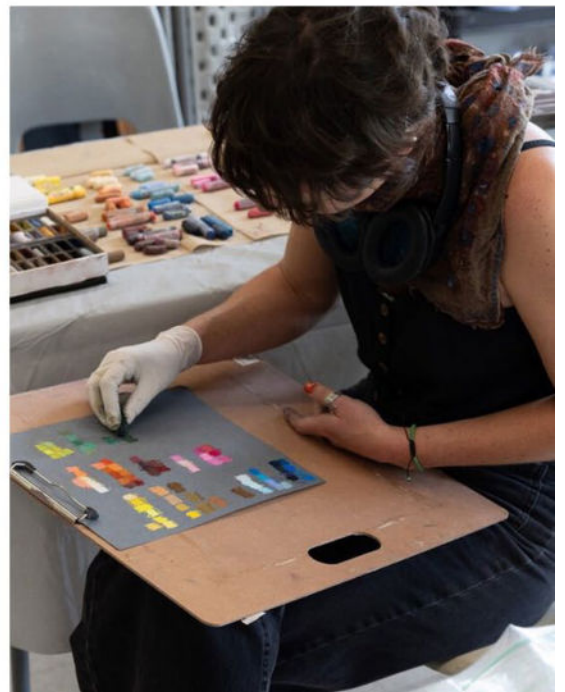
ICAN  
DAY  
4







# ICAN DAY 5







**PAINT  
AROUND**





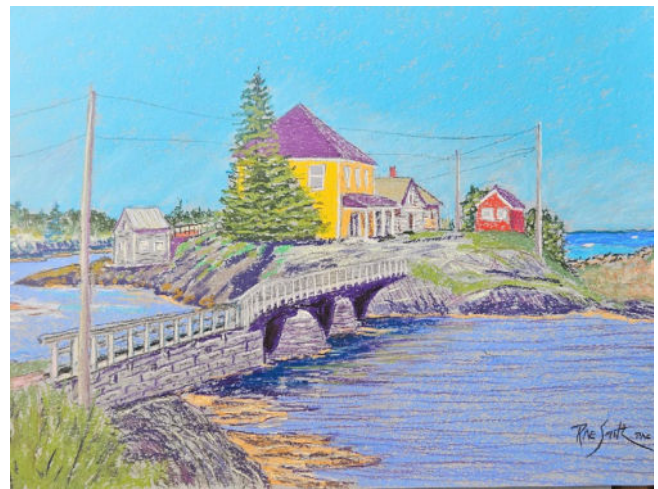
# What have you been up to?

## Rae Smith, PAC

Last Friday I joined 30 other artist to paint Plein Air in Chester, Nova Scotia, sale was in aid of Chester Art Society. I also belong to the Contemporary Art Society in Halifax, about 50 members, this is our 50th year, we have an annual juried Art show of about 100 paintings, I had three pastels accepted, that's the max, one won a ribbon, it sold and is now in Toronto, painting of a gate House.

I recently painted a pastel of "Stonehurst, Nova Scotia" 12"x18", the house was used in a movie, starring Tom Sellick as Jessie Stone. It's sold and being shipped to Edmonton, Alberta.

*Congratulations!*



*"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable."*

*- John Wooden*



# Candice Woodard, PAC

The year so far has been busy with live and online workshops.

I bought Marla Bagetta's "Next Level Animals" course and so far am having fun and selling my rooster paintings. Who knew you can paint with pastels on watercolour paper, with just an acrylic and Indian ink underpainting? I was doubtful since not a sanded surface, but it works.



It was a busy few days at ICAN, Susan Typert's fun and challenging "Paint from your Gut" session (included a timer) and Clarence Porter's "Colour Crazy" all day workshop (managed to forget my pastel box but everyone was so kind and offered loaners). Not having my usual colours with me, it was rewarding to try a limited palette and actually framed 2 pieces when I got home.

I did an online workshop through Penn Studio School of Art, Susan Woolgar's "Acrylic Underpainting with Pastels" in which we also learned how to make our own pastel paper. Susan has a fun teaching style and we learned more than just underpainting techniques.

Also, did an online session with Richard Stuckley through the Winslow Art Center. "Fast, Loose and Uninhibited with Soft Pastels and Mixed Media Techniques". Richard has experimental approaches that combines soft pastels with water-based media—crushed, sprinkled, splashed, and dragged—to unlock textural and visual possibilities.

I entered and had 2 pieces accepted into the Picton, Ontario, Art in the County juried art show. See below. In addition to all this, I belong to Picton's Arts on Main Street Gallery, a cooperative gallery with 23 members. Our shows change over every 3 months. My focus this year has been atmospheric skies, although my sales in June included 2 roosters and a neighbour's barn.



## Diane Salter Menzo, PAC

June was a fun month participating in the Purely Pastel Art Show organized by Catherine Sheppard at the Landmark Gallery in White Rock. In between chatting with people who dropped by I had a chance to work on this pastel painting, inspired by a photograph that's always intrigued me.

The photo was taken on a side street of a small town in Bolivia by my husband, Bill



*The Way Home, 14 x 11*

## Joan Larson, MPAC-EP

We are in the planning stages for the PAC Plein-Air Event to be held in the Parksville/Qualicum Beach area of Vancouver Island on September 13 & 14th.

Our own Gail Sibley and local artist Dan Gray will be demo'ing and we are planning an evening BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 13th.

There will be nominal fee to attend, this will cover the BBQ and other incidentals, however I need to know approx. how many artists will be attending.

Could anyone interested in attending please send me an email:  
[joan@joanlarson.com](mailto:joan@joanlarson.com)

Thank you and hope to see you in September!

Cheers,  
Joan



*Gail Sibley*



*"Success is peace of mind,  
which is a direct result of self-  
satisfaction in knowing you made  
the effort to become the best of  
which you are capable."  
- John Wooden*



# Gary Smith, PAC

Gary Smith out here in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Figure Drawing Club, Group of 77, has been selected as the Official Reportage Artists for the 2025 Canada Games for most of August!

I am thrilled about the entire idea. I love crowds and this will take me back to when I drew portraits in Pastels 10 hours a day every day for Expo'67 and Terres des Homme in 1968. That total immersion is where and when I developed my chops. I love that activity and still do it for Fund Raisers, weddings, etc. for the pure joy of it.

I feel total freedom in such events to pastel in any way the model inspires me to.

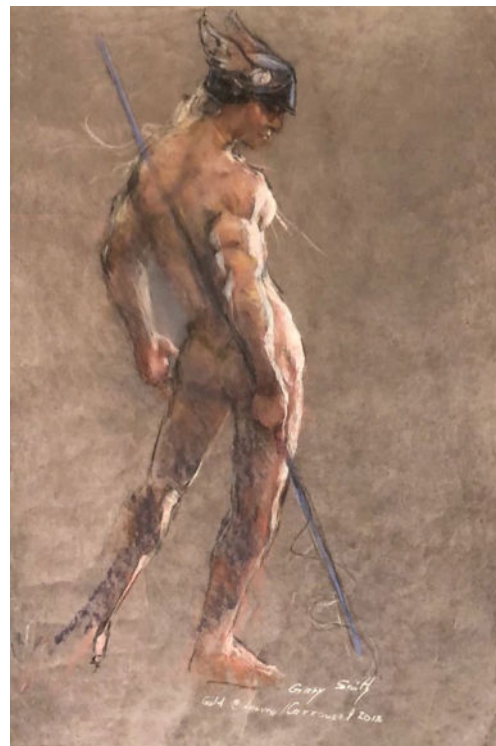
Even in China as their guest I was drawing pastel portraits of the Provincial Premiers and their cabinets.

In this case we are not necessarily doing portraits but instead reporting anything of the games. Each artist chose a minimum of 3 sports. I chose more than that.

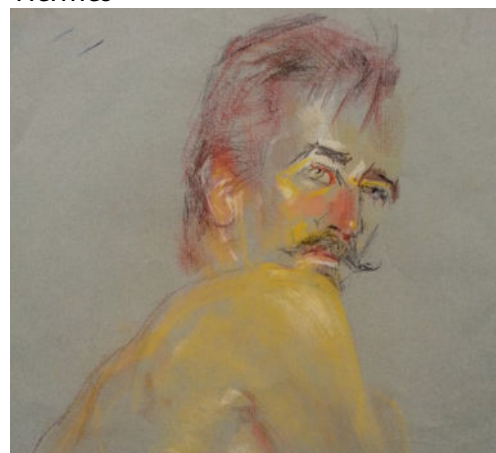
Speed will be a major requirement so at will I will use pencils, pens, markers, AND soft pastels. This is a voluntary activity so supplies, especially pastel paper costs, will certainly be a challenge for me. I think I must buy some of the pastels and markers for the competitors' shorts, bibs, etc.

My confirmed sports are Kayak, Golf, Beach Volleyball, Mountain Bike, Rugby Sevens, Athletics and Wrestling and I am already dreaming of creative angles, colours, gestures, the surroundings and various situations in the crowds.

PLEASE give me your suggestions on how best to share my artwork, stories and excitement during the 2025 Canada Games? I think I should set up a blog or a daily art online exhibit. IF ANYONE IN PAC HAS SUGGESTIONS for my sharing the images and stories, please let me know. I would so welcome your sending any creative image ideas of various sports.



*Hermes*



*Ed Yellow*



*Dog in Pan Pastel*



*Christian's Lab*

Gary Smith  
416-910-55535  
artist.gary.smith  
www.GentleArtMentor.com

# Danielle St.-Georges Deschamps, PAC

My love for painting in Watercolor brought me to a new passion ...Pastel!

I have always been attracted to some form of art. When I was about 8 years old, I lived in North of Ontario for the school year with my Irish Grandmother who was an amazing knitter. I learned to knit and crochet, this was great to occupy the long winter evenings.

Later, I learned to sew with my mother. I always had a project to work on. Later when I moved to BC in 1995, I was amazed by the beautiful abundant nature! I learned watercolor with a friend and took many workshops and loved it.

About a year ago another friend introduced me to Catherine Sheppard, a very talented pastelist. At the first workshop I wanted to paint my 2 cats when they were kittens. They are still one of my projects to complete.

I was very slow to absorb the technic. A month after I went to another pastel workshop with other artists and I was so happy to accomplish my first pastel painting! A beautiful Macaw parrot. That was it! I fell in love with Pastel; this was my new passion.

I love to see the painting taking life after putting the base with the pan pastel, using tools to make it smooth and going back with the pastel pencils for details.

I learn with every painting. I started with feathers for the parrot. The fur for a wolf applying the base with pan pastel and returning with the pencil to follow the movement of the fur.

I painted a beautiful Chevrolet Belair 1957 with California coast scenery. Every little detail is important so, like Catherine suggested, starting

at one corner and making my way down was a big help, otherwise I was getting lost. I love the results; my car is beautiful!

The challenge I had was to paint copper pans. I was amazed by the results with different colors to create the shine. I also learned to create reflections in the water with a beautiful swan.

Every painting brings joy and I'm excited about the next challenge. I will learn to paint a portrait of myself with a beautiful veil on my head. I will learn to paint skins and fabrics.

After a year of learning I had the reward of being invited by Catherine to be part of a Pure Pastel show at the gallery! What a great experience looking at my painting on the wall was like winning an award!

Painting for me is having a special time for myself, it's my happy place.

I wish to everyone to fall in love with soft pastel! Henry Ford said "Whether you think you can or think you can't you're right" I believed I could and I'm happy I did.

Danielle St-G. Deschamps



"Chevrolet Belvadere 1957" 14 x 11



"Knowledge of Love" 11 x 14



# Catherine Sheppard, MPAC, SFCA



To date, one of the hardest pieces I have ever attempted. The majestic male Silverback gorilla. He is distinguished by the silver-gray hair on its back and shoulders, which develops as they mature, typically around 14 years old. There are dominant males in a gorilla group that play a crucial role in leadership, protection, and social dynamics.

I chose the dark grey pastelpmat base and used black gouache for all black areas using a 0 size brush. Gouache does not work on Sennelier or some other pastel base material, but works wonders on pastelpmat.

This black gouache will stay put so you must get it down correctly as you can not erase it.

This process helps when your art has many lines and wrinkles in it like this one does.

Pan pastel for the base, then build up using pastel pencils for all the detail.

The gouache is by Danielle Smith or Windsor & Newton as you can reconstitute them after they have dried out.





# Catherine Sheppard, MPAC, SFCA

The month of June we had a 10 person Pastel Art Show in the city of White Rock, BC.

Myself with 9 of my pastel students that have been with me for over a year were in attendance. They have done me proud over the time I have been teaching them pastel. The show was well attended.



June 7th Opening Ceremony - Kim Forrest, Sandra Tomchuck, Christie Borrie, Elayne Preston, Danielle St-Georges Deschamps, Catherine Sheppard, Tracy Latendra, Joshua Lyu. Missing Diane Salter & Deborah Leonard.



Surprise attendance at our opening by Dianna Ponting from Abbotsford. Catherine Sheppard's pastel art instructor and mentor.



Joshua Lyu, 13 year old pastel artist started when he was 12 years old.



Woman's Art Appreciation Group (CFUW) in attendance for a 2 hour art demo on the 1st day of the opening.



Daily art demos done by many of the 10 pastel artists. Diane Salter working on her pastel of a lady from Boliia.



Diane Salter's Daughter and granddaughter Ruby.

An average of 33 people came in daily to see the pastel works of art on the walls. Very successful art show.



## Pictures sold by Catherine Sheppard



Picture sold by Danielle St-Georges Deschamps

Picture sold by Elayne Preston





# Andrea Brenda Thompson, PAC

## The Illusion of Novelty in Art: A Reflection on Toulouse-Lautrec

*By Andrea's Perspective*

"In our time there are many artists who do something because it is new; they see their value and their justification in this newness. They are deceiving themselves; novelty is seldom the essential. This has to do with one thing only: making a subject better from its intrinsic nature."

— Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec



These words challenge a common belief in the art world today: that an artwork must be original to be valuable. Artists often chase novelty—avoiding subjects that seem too familiar or already done. I know this well. I've often dismissed what's in front of me because it didn't feel new enough. But in doing so, I've overlooked the deeper richness of the subject itself.

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, born in 1864, lived only 37 years, yet his legacy is extraordinary. A French painter and illustrator, he began exhibiting at 21 and, in less than two decades, produced over 700 paintings, 275 watercolors, 363 prints, and more than 5,000 drawings. He even painted a pastel portrait of Vincent van Gogh in 1887, now in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. Beyond his prolific output, it's his clear and consistent artistic voice that endures.

Lautrec wasn't drawn to novelty for its own sake. He believed the value of art lies not in its originality, but in its ability to reveal something essential about its subject. The artist's job is not to invent, but to see—with clarity and care.

Andy Warhol also embraced this idea. By turning the ordinary—like a soup can—into iconic art, he blurred the line between fine art and popular culture. His bold style gave everyday objects new life, not because they were new, but because he brought something new to them.

This perspective runs counter to our culture's obsession with innovation. Yet both Warhol and Lautrec show us that art doesn't need to shock to matter. Often, the deepest beauty lies in the familiar—the light on a table, a glance between people, a quiet landscape.

As I continue my practice, I'm learning to release the pressure to be constantly original. Instead, I'm finding meaning in what already exists, trusting that close observation and honest expression are enough. My role isn't to impress, but to reveal the wonder that's already there.

Lautrec's insight is both a challenge and an invitation: to move past the illusion of novelty and engage deeply with what's real. In doing so, we may create not only better art—but become better observers: more present, more truthful, more human.



## Marni Koelin, PAC

I recently sold my pastel "The Strawberry Sisters" at the Calgary Stampede Western Gallery.

This image was from reference photos I took while at the Bar U Historical Ranch in Longview, Alberta at the Chore Horse Competition held annually.



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*"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when  
you take your eyes off your goal."*

*- Henry Ford*

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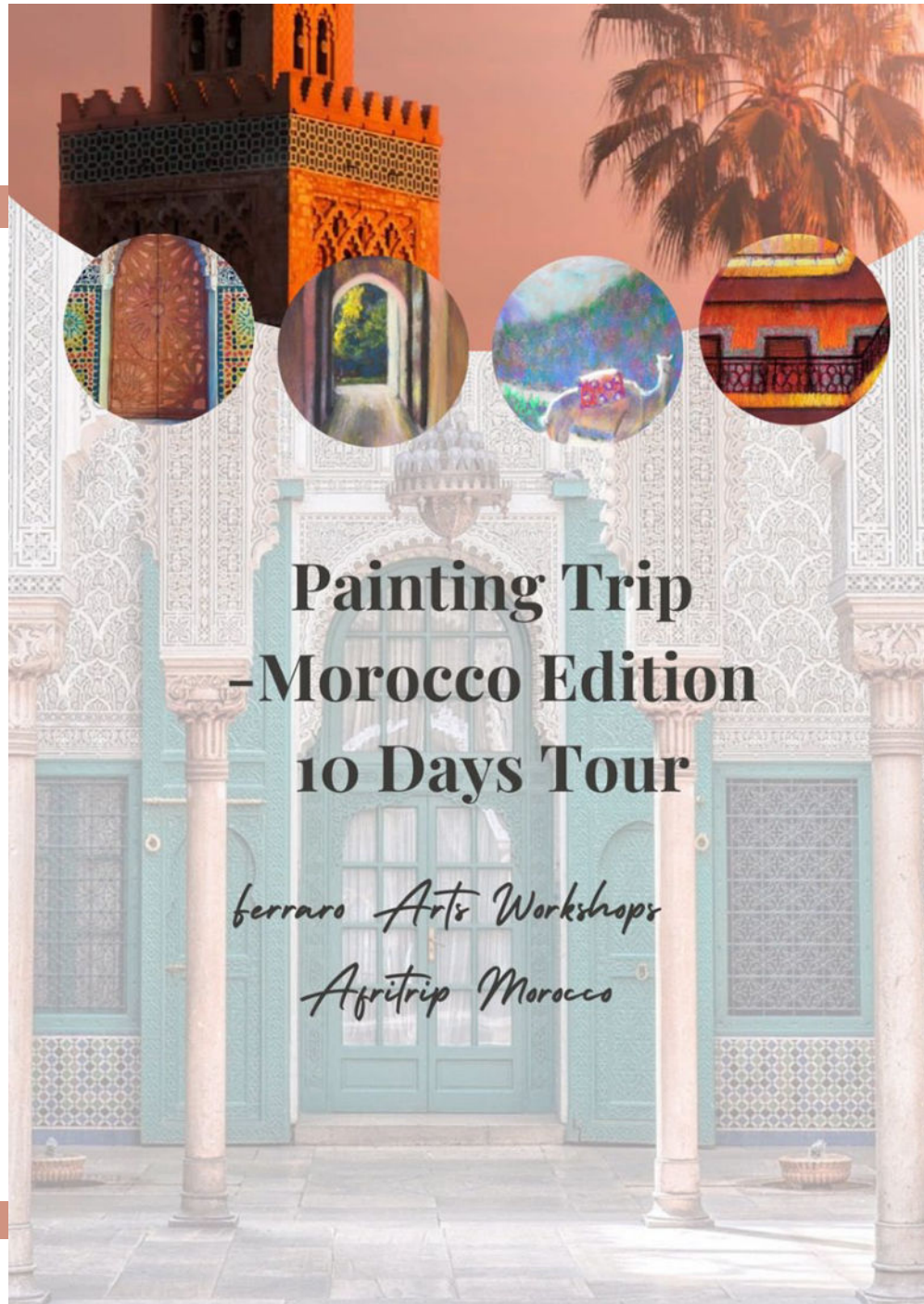
# Catherine Sheppard, MPAC, SFCA

Successful 2 day Art in the Garden featuring 13 artists and artisans held in the open outdoor garden setting in South Surrey, BC. on July 12 & 13th.





Ferraro Art Workshops is very excited to announce:  
**Marrakesh Express, a pastel, plein air painting trip to  
Morocco!! February 25<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>/2026**



Join Margaret in this varied and exciting trip to discover the jewels, the culture, the geography of Morocco, to paint in soft pastel with like minded artists. For an information package including itinerary, accommodations and price, please be in touch!

For more information, go to [margaretferraro.com](http://margaretferraro.com) and click on international trips, or e-mail me for an information package at [marg.ferraro@gmail.com](mailto:marg.ferraro@gmail.com)





## Warning signs of a scam

Scammers often contact you pretending to be from the PAC especially an executive member.

Know when to be suspicious.

The PAC will not:

\* Demand or pressure payment by:

Interac® e-transfer

Prepaid credit cards

Gift cards from any type of retailer

\* Ask for personal or financial information in an email

NEVER send money to help any of our members. Phone first to make sure it is legitimate.

They are targeting art organizations because we as members help each other out. It recently happened to the South Surrey White Rock Art Society. ( SSWRAS ). They used the executive to ask members for help.

## POSITIONS WE NEED TO FILL

A background image showing three people smiling. A woman with glasses and long brown hair is in the center, looking down. To her left is a woman with curly hair, and to her right is a man. They are all smiling and appear to be in a professional setting.

**WE'RE  
RECRUITING!**

JOIN OUR BOARD

- East Coast Exhibition Coordinator  
(organize a workshop on non-ICAN years)
- Show Promotion & Advertising  
(new position to help promote our shows)
- Eastern Workshop Coordinator
- Western Workshop Coordinator
- Show Catalogue Editor

# PastelArtists.Ca

was founded in 1989. First known as Pastel Artists of Ontario, Canada, the name was changed in May of 2003 to Pastel Artists Canada. In August 2007, it was incorporated under its present name, Pastel Artists.Ca., still expressed as Pastel Artists Canada.

Pastel Artists.Ca (PAC) is a mentoring organization and as such, we encourage artists at any level to participate in our activities.

## Learning and Fellowship Opportunities

If you are looking to improve your skills or knowledge of the pastel medium, PAC offers:

- Workshops with well-known instructors
- An extensive DVD library available at no cost to members
- Tips and tutorials on our website and in our newsletters
- Biannual ICAN convention
- Quarterly newsletter

## Public Appreciation

PAC currently sponsors two juried shows a year:

- Annual Juried Show
- Online Members' Juried Exhibition

Membership is based on the calendar year and renewal is due on January 1st. New members joining after October 1st will have the following calendar year included with the initial membership fee.

## Annual Membership:

- Basic \$50 CAD

Annual membership fees can now be paid using PayPal.

## Recognition

PAC offers three levels of accomplishment:

- Signature Status (PAC)
- Master Status (MPAC)
- Eminent Pastelist (MPAC-EP)

## Newsletter and Website

Our quarterly newsletter and our website offer:

### *Marketing Opportunities*

- Posting of your teaching workshops
- Advertising solo shows
- Noting acceptance into various exhibitions

### *Information Resources*

- Upcoming national and local events
- Tips on painting and framing
- Lending library of instructional DVDs
- New products or marketing information

### *Affiliations*

- Pastel Society of Eastern Canada (PSEC)
- International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS)





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**VACANT**

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