

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 5



CANADA'S COMMUNITY FOR PASTEL ARTISTS

www.pastelartists.ca

What have you been up to...



"The Last Spike" 8"x 10"

Profile of an Artist

Min Xu

From the President's Easel - November, 2025

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with lots of plein air painting . . . I know, I'm being optimistic here. Usually a bit of plein air is all I can do in the summer months as there is too much else to do on our small farm. It may be a small farm but there is also a very large garden and that tends to rule our lives for several months.

As fall approaches I find myself looking forward to the rain and the turning indoors of my life and that means a return to the studio. I relish this time and all the possibilities that it brings.

However for the past few months I did spend a significant amount of time organizing the PAC Plein Air Event which is now being called the 1st Annual PAC Plein Air Event. This event happened on Vancouver Island on Sept. 13 & 14th and it was a wonderful success. The concept for this event sprang from a desire to gather local pastel artists in a non-competitive environment of learning, sharing and camaraderie. I am so very pleased to say that this was accomplished due in large part to the artists attending. I had several offers of people asking if we could do this again next year and offers of help (which I will take advantage of!).

Next on our PAC horizon is the 14th Annual Members Online Show. Entries are well under way and we are looking forward to seeing the finished show. Planning is also underway for the next "Purely Pastel" show which will be held again at the Federation Gallery on Granville Island in Vancouver next year.

There will also be a change on our Board of Directors at the upcoming AGM. I would like to welcome Susan White as our new Treasurer and Director. A tremendous Thank you is also due to Kathy Hildebrandt for stepping in to temporarily take over this position. Susan will have expert guidance as she steps in to this new role within PAC.

I am also pleased to announce that the position for Eastern Exhibitions Coordinator has been filled and we welcome PAC member Donna Roberts as she takes over this position. Donna is also responsible for the PAC & ICAN branded items that we now offer. I am also happy to say that my favourite T-Shirt is my PAC logo shirt. I love it!

However we are still in need a few positions to be filled within PAC. We are looking for both Eastern and Western Workshop Coordinators as well as someone that would be interested in Eastern Promotions Coordinator. Please feel free to contact me for more information on any of these positions.

*In the Meantime, Happy Pasteling,
Joan*

Joan Larson, MPAC-EP
Creekside Studio
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Profile of an Artist

Min Xu PAC, SCA

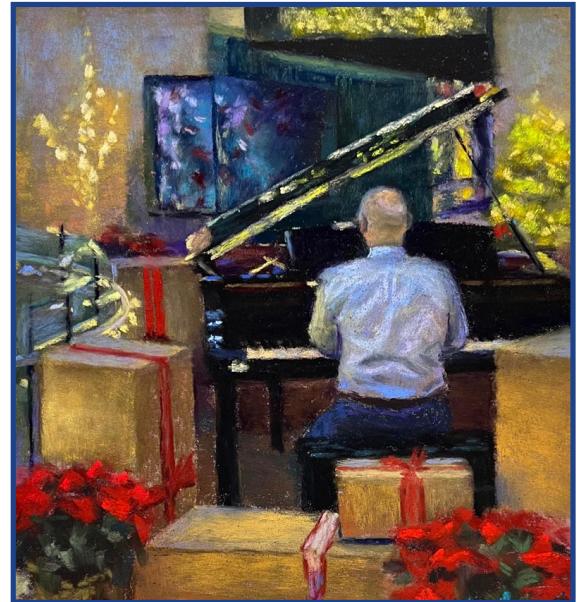
Originally from China, Min left hometown in 2010 to pursue education in the USA. Two years later, he graduated with a Master Degree of Education and then worked in the San Francisco Bay Area. He immigrated to Canada in 2018 and has been living in Vancouver.

Min loves teaching and also enjoys painting in his free time. He attended the first pastel workshop by Roberta Combs in 2021 and got so inspired! Pastel has become the main medium immediately. He loves to paint landscapes. His goal of painting is to create a feel of peace and show appreciation to our mother nature.

His pastel works have been accepted into many juried exhibitions in Canada and the USA. **Three of his pastel paintings received Honorable Mention Award at the Federation of Canadian Artists in the past 3 years.**

Min received the Signature Status from both Pastel Artists Canada (2023) and the Society of Canadian Artists (2024).

Website: jeremyminxu.com



"Aquarium Live Performer" 10"x8"



"Hatley Park" 12"x16"



"Zurich Summer" 9"x12"



Pastel Artists of Canada Plein Air Event



What have you been up to?

Pat Porter, PAC

Whenever we submit to a show, it is because we are proud of what we created and want to show it. I'd like to share a story with everyone and anyone who has felt the sting of having a painting declined from a juried show. Take heart, for this may not be the intended fate of your endeavors.

Once upon a PAC show, a painting, who thought it was very good, was rejected!

The painting was so depressed and dejected, it decided if it couldn't make the jury love it, it would donate itself to a good cause. The painting thought and thought. Where could I go where someone would want me to help out?? I know, it thought, I can offer myself to the volunteer fire department, they always need help. So the painting donated itself to the volunteer fire department and they were very very pleased and thought the painting was very generous. This made the painting very happy and excited. The volunteers worked really hard on different jobs, such as helping their community and fundraising to improve it and keep it safe.

So they made posters with the painting on it and happily started selling tickets.

On the final day of the raffle, Community Day at the Firehall, the painting could hardly contain itself, it was so excited. It wondered if people would like it, but many people were buying tickets, so it looked good. Then the painting heard a lady say "those are my grandchildren in that painting!! I dressed them that morning!". So that lady bought tickets. Then a man said "those are my grandkids and he wept tears of joy. Then the man bought tickets. Then a young woman came with 2 little boys, and said "those are my children". "I must buy tickets!". Now the painting was very pleased. So many people were gathered around admiring the painting and buying tickets to try and win it.

At last, at the time of the drawing, there was a crowd of people all waiting expectantly for the winning ticket to be called. It was very quiet! The lady put her whole arm into the large bucket and drew out two tickets stuck together. She shook her hand and one ticket fell back in to the bucket. Everyone was very quiet. Then the lady called out the winning name. Quiet.....and then a loud and happy scream.... and laughing. What had happened, thought the painting,



why are they yelling? Then the painting saw who won and knew its destiny had been fulfilled. The painting was going to be with the very people who loved it the most! And those people were the grandparents of the children in the painting.

And they all lived happily ever after.

The end.

"Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get."
- W.P. Kinsella

What have you been up to?

Candice Woodard, PAC

I'm a member of Arts on Main Gallery, Picton, Ontario, a cooperative gallery with 23 members and our shows changeover every 3 months. This means I have to have 4-6 paintings ready for each show. The most recent show opened August 23rd. In addition, I have participated in the PEC Studio Tour for the last 4 years and our most recent tour ran from September 19th-21st. Needless to say, I've been busy in my studio.

Three paintings have sold so far at AOMG and I've received my first commission. It will be a challenge working from someone's photograph and capturing the feeling they had when they took the picture. During this year's studio tour, we had 175 visitors over 3 days. It was a lot of work, but met some wonderful people and received many compliments.

Not a lot of time for workshops, but did recently sign up for a demo by Jeanne Rosier Smith, "Painting a Meadow", through Epiphany Fine Art. Jeanne has a very relaxed and interactive style of teaching. The "one off" lessons work better for me than a monthly subscription approach.



Lastly, I recently received confirmation that my 2 paintings mentioned in last fall's newsletter, have been re-framed and are now hanging in the guest bedroom at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, the official residence of the Governor General. Maybe one day I can tour Rideau Hall and see them.

David Shkolny, PAC

At the Rosebud paint out this past weekend, I received best "rural scene" for this piece "Twp 227", 9" x 40", painted in plein air. Pastel on Wallis paper. Also, I received first place at Canada Paints Plein Air.

As mentioned in an earlier PAC News Update - I'm returning to the glorious Hotel Leone in Montelparo, Italy the last week of May in 2026. This has definitely been a highlight of my life, sharing my joy of painting with an intimate group for a week of adventure, fantastic accommodations and delicious meals! Contact me for more details on this dream artist retreat.

Here is the link:

<https://hotelleonemarche.com/en/cobblestone-to-countryside-with-david-shkolny/>

Cobblestones to Countryside in Gorgeous Italy



This is the painting I received 1st place in the Canada Paints Plein Air.

What have you been up to?

Rae Smith, PAC

Grand Manan Island

All my life I've wanted to go to Grand Manan Island, well this Labour Day weekend my son Sean (he's on vacation from Vancouver) took me there, it was all I wished for and more. It's a 1 1/2 hour ferry ride from Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick. I only had time to do one pastel on the Swallow Tail Lighthouse, but I did eight pen and ink sketches, so more pastels to come. Lots of old fishing sheds on stilts. Ps a photo of sunset here in Chester, Nova Scotia.



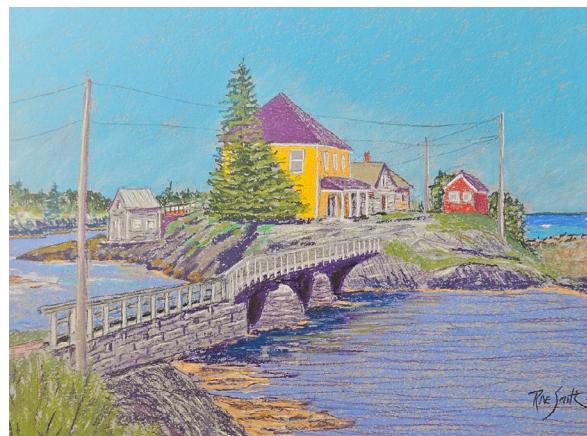
Original Photography



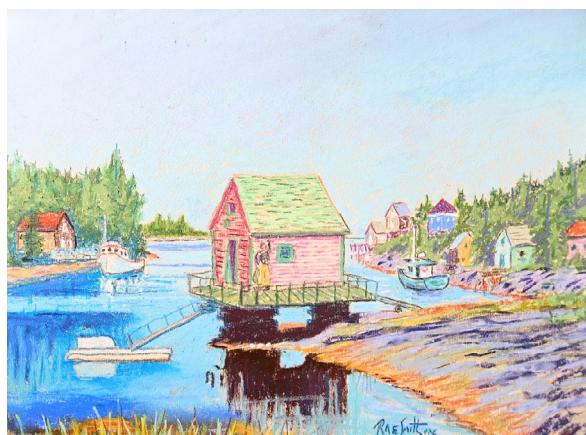
Grand Manan Ferry



Sunset in Chester, Nova Scotia



Stonehurst,
Nova Scotia



Stonehurst,
Nova Scotia



Swallow Tail
Lighthouse,
Plein Air 12x18
on Pastelmat.

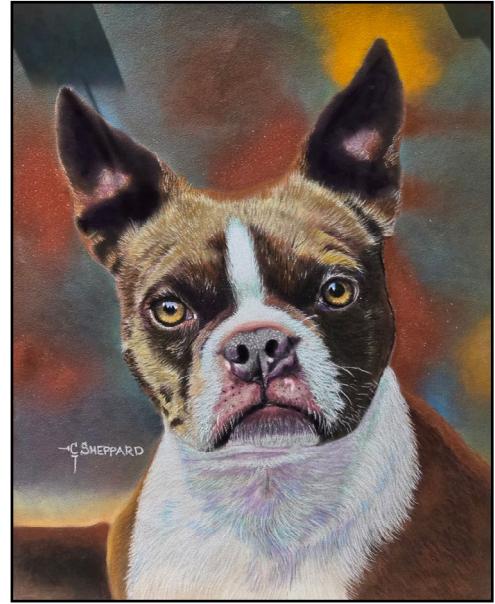
Grand Manan
fish shacks on
stilts.



What have you been up to?

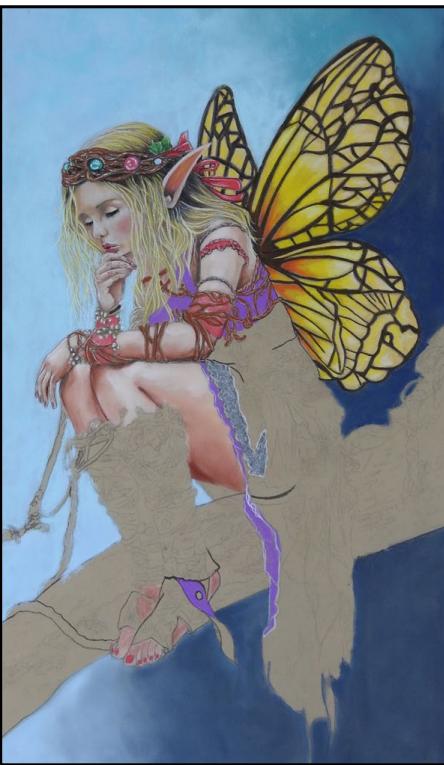
Catherine Sheppard, PAC, MPAC

Busy Summer with art shows and doing my pastel art for shows.



Melinka in Portrait - 8"x10" Pastel on Pastelmat

MG Rebuilt from Scratch - 11"x14" Pastel on Pastelmat



Fairy Contemplation - 10"x18.5" Pastel on Sennelier

Catherine Sheppard, MPAC, SFCA

Successful 2 day Art Tour Show for 36 artists and artisans in 23 locations around South Surrey and the White Rock area in BC. Held Sept. 20 & 21st. The opening reception was held on September 18th.



What have you been up to?

Nanci Cook, PAC

I am pleased and honoured to announce the First-Place award for my soft pastel painting, "A Feast for the Senses" from the Arrowsmith Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists on September 19. (12x16" on Pastel Premier paper).

There were so many wonderful paintings in the Juried Fall Members' Exhibition in the Old Schoolhouse Gallery, Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, but not much in soft pastel.

The show is up until October 23.

nancicook.com

 Congratulations!



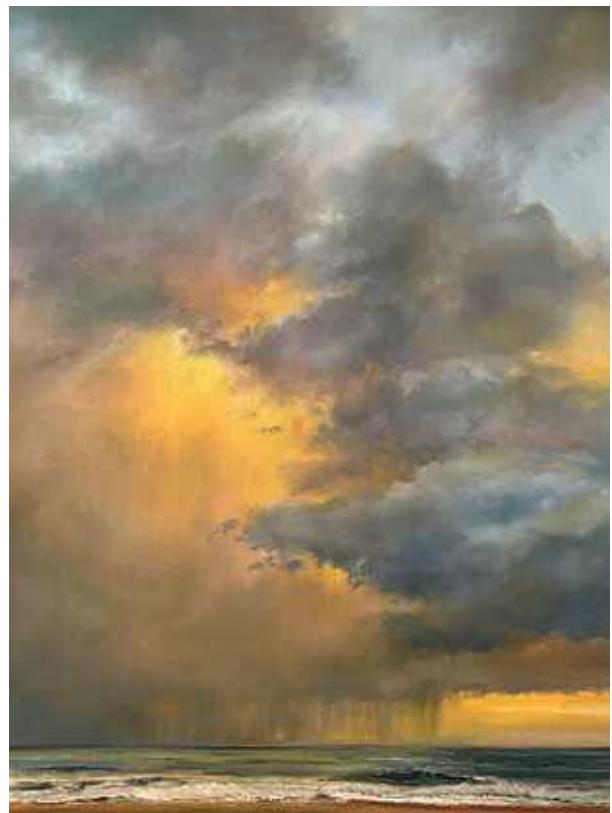
Richard McKinley

I just found out that my painting was accepted into the IAPS Juried Fall Webshow — what an honour!

I wouldn't have known about it if it weren't for your newsletter, so thank you for that.

Richard's painting has been accepted into the 2025 IAPS Juried Fall Webshow – 47th Open Division.

 Congratulations!



Golden Tempest - Pastel 17x12

What have you been up to?

Pat Lindley, PAC

Have you ever wanted to go big--I mean REALLY big? Pat Lindley of Nova Scotia did just that. Pat was inspired by the awesome vistas of the Arctic to create huge pastel paintings to capture its majesty.

Lindley says: During the 1970's, I had the opportunity to experience the high Arctic in person, working aboard two Canadian icebreakers. Travelling along the coast, I saw a virtually pristine landscape, where the impact of human activity was rarely visible. These trips left an indelible mark on me. By sharing my vision of a beautiful, powerful and yet fragile environment, I hoped to underscore the value of what we stand to lose with the advance of climate change. I invite viewers to reflect on what is at stake and to gain an emotional connection to what is surely one of the most majestic landscapes on earth."



"The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same."

~ Colin R. Davis

What have you been up to?

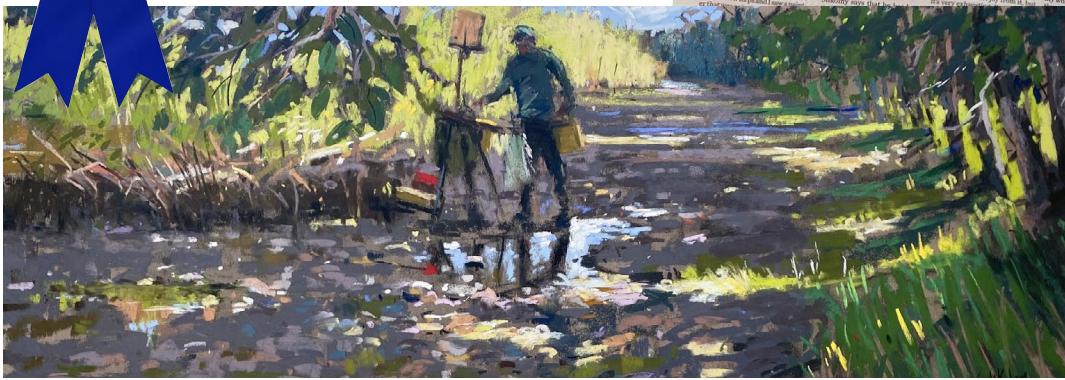
David Shkolny, PAC

I would like to share with PAC Members my recent first place in the inaugural Canada Paints Plein Air in Calgary this August.

I was the only one working in pastel.



Congratulations!



"Sometimes, things may not go your way, but the effort should be there every single night."

~ Michael Jordan

What have you been up to?

Sheila Mitchell, PAC

Pastels and Plein Air and Set up.

It is fall time, the trees are at the most colourful stage. Here in Halton Hills/Georgetown/Glen Williams, Ontario, we have wonderful parks. I meet with 5 other artists every Thursday, depending on the weather, between Spring and Fall we all work in different mediums and sometimes I work in Watercolours with Fountain pen inks.

My favourite time is the fall and I love to use pastels for fall colour paintings. I love the immediate effect of the colour with pastel sticks and blending with the pan pastels and their wands. Sometimes the nupastels are also great blenders as well.

However, the reason for this article is "WIND" I really rename this area the windy country!

Winds come from no-where, it can be so quite and calm and then a wind comes without warning.

The photographs I attach are from the Wolf Lake, Terra Cotta Conservation Park. As there were lots of trees I heard the wind coming and warned my painting friends. I have a string bag with homemade sand bags inside it which I hang from the easel to steady it. But it was not enough, so I decided to use an extra bungee cord to my wheeler to the left leg of my easel and this worked!

I have not found a good pastel plein air box, I have one Sennelier but the easel connector at the bottom back side edge of the box so this makes it very vulnerable to wind, so it stays at home in my studio. My easel is an old one and I made a shelf to hold supplies. I have a small wooden box that holds my different Pastels from good quality soft to medium to hard ranges, for different effects. But you guessed it, I used an extra bungee cord to secure the box to my wheeler. The wheeler is from Canadian Tire and is a great size to hold wooden boxes of pastels and pastelbords. I find I like rectangular sized wheelers which is much more practical than the canvas wheelers. I use a board on top of the wheeler that gives me a shelf for supplies! Plus I have a large black garbage bag to cover the painting just incase it rains!



My set up from the front



Terra Cotta's lovely scene

I would love to hear your pastel plein air stories too, plus how you handle the weather !

You can see more of my setups at my instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/artinhalton/?hl=en> or you can message me.



My set up from the back, showing my sand bags and bungees

What have you been up to?

Catherine Marshall, PAC

I'm thrilled to say that I have been invited to show 18 pieces at the TWIST Gallery, downtown at 1100 Queen St. W., November 5 - December 16 in their "Material Memory" show!

Because TWIST is also a beautiful event venue, they host a varied audience. Most of these pieces are acrylic, but hey, if you're in the area, this gallery is worth introducing yourself to! I also extend an invite to anyone interested in attending the opening reception on November 13, 6 pm - 9 pm.

Please RSVP at twistgallery.ca/upcomingevents by clicking the RSVP button under the "Material Memory" picture.

Congratulations to the many PAC members who are showing various places this holiday season! [@catherinemarshall.art](http://catherinemarshall.art)



"Bonnie's view, Muskoka" - 9"x12" soft pastel painting that will be in the TWIST Gallery.

POSITIONS WE NEED TO FILL



WE'RE
RECRUITING!

JOIN OUR BOARD

- Eastern Workshop Team Coordinator
- Western Workshop Team Coordinator
- Show Catalogue Editor

SCAM ALERT!

The PAC **WILL NOT**:

- * Demand, ask 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.

Warning signs of a scam

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

Know when to be suspicious.

Phone first to make sure it is legitimate or just disregard that email.

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) and to the Federation of Canadian Artists (FCA). They used the executive members in both cases to ask others members for money, gift cards or e-transfers.



"When you change your thoughts, remember to also change your world."

- Norman Vincent Peale

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)



NEWSLETTER
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:
Please e-mail Catherine Sheppard at
crystalart@shaw.ca
DEADLINE is Nov. 25th for February

thank you

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