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CANADA'S COMMUNITY FOR  
PASTEL ARTISTS

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

*What have you been up to...*



*"The Jungle Jewel"*

Profile of an Artist

*Danielle St-Georges Deschamps*



## *From the President's Easel - May 2026*

It's early April on Vancouver Island as I write this—the daffodils are blooming, the cherry blossoms are in full glory, and spring is most definitely on its way. And the weeds are spectacular!

I love every season, and with the arrival of spring—and a return to life outdoors, along with the inevitable yard work and endless weeding—I've found a happy balance between my studio and farm life: weed a little, paint a little, repeat.

I'm deeply immersed in a demanding new body of work (the show opens in early July—see more in this newsletter). The pieces are complex, detailed, and require sustained focus, so I've been dividing my time between the easel and the garden. The physical work and time spent outside have proven to be the perfect counterbalance to intense studio hours. It refreshes me and makes my studio time more productive. Sometimes the best thing you can do is step outside for some fresh air to reinvigorate your creative spirit.

If you find yourself in a creative slump or experiencing a bit of burnout, try getting outside. Go for a walk—or better yet, take some sketching materials with you. It's certainly working for me.

On another note, our 36th Purely Pastel Open Juried Exhibition at the Federation Gallery in Vancouver is coming up soon. As always, it is both a pleasure and a unique honour to present our show at the Federation Gallery—I believe we are the only non-FCA group with this privilege. I hope to see many of our B.C.-based artists at the opening on Saturday, May 30.

*Happy Spring,  
Joan*

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## Profile of an Artist

# Danielle St-Georges Deschamps

I have been drawn to art since I was very young. I was born in a Quebec suburban town, then raised in Northern Ontario by my Irish grandmother. There, I learned to knit in order to pass the long winter evenings.

When I moved to British-Columbia, I was introduced to the world of watercolor. After some years I wanted to learn new media, a friend encouraged me to take a soft Pastel workshop with an amazing Pastelist Catherine Sheppard. The more workshops I take the more my love for it grows! You can paint animals, flowers or cars, they look so realistic you think it is the real photo.

In 2023 I won the UFV Alumni Wine Label contest and two of my paintings are on The Chaberton winery label bottle.

My love for pastel is becoming a passion and since British-Columbia's nature is so breathtaking, it compels me to share it in my paintings. My goal is to continue to grow with my new passion for pastel accomplishing new challenges.

I am a member of the South Surrey White Rock Art Society, PAC (Pastelis of the Pastel Society of Canada) and the Federation of Canadian Artist.

Email: [adanielle\\_ca@hotmail.com](mailto:adanielle_ca@hotmail.com)



"Cooking with Elegance" - 11 x 14



"Driving in Style" - 14 x 11



"Shadow of the wild" - 11 x 14



We have had people ask us how to advance within the Pastel Artists of Canada - PAC

Go to our website <https://www.pastelartists.ca/>  
Under the Membership tab go to "Become a Member."

Here is what it says:

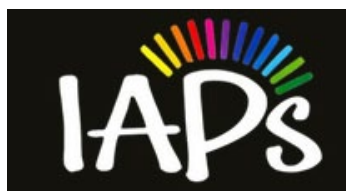
Members, in good standing, earn points towards Signature, Master, and Eminent Pastelist level status through participation in our exhibitions and by award recognition for outstanding work.

PAC signature status is awarded to active members who have been accepted into three (3) PAC exhibitions.

To earn MPAC status, members must have been accepted into five (5) PAC exhibitions and have received at least one (1) award.

Our highest designation, MPAC-EP is conferred on members who have been accepted into fifteen (15) PAC juried exhibitions and have received at least three (3) awards."

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## **IAPS CONVENTION MEET UP**

### **Going to IAPS? Meet up with other members!**

The IAPS 2026 Convention will be taking place from June 16 - 21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If you are planning to attend and would like to connect with other PAC members while you are there, please let Joan Larson know at [joan@joanlarson.com](mailto:joan@joanlarson.com).

A list of all attending members will be compiled to help members connect and make arrangements to enjoy the festivities together!

To register for IAPS [iapspastel.org/conventions/](https://iapspastel.org/conventions/)

# What have you been up to?



Please feel free to send in your pastel painting pictures or articles of interest to Catherine Sheppard - newsletter editor at anytime.

I am always looking for interesting articles, trips you have taken, pastel paintings you have done, winnings, shows you have participated in, joined a painting group, etc.

This helps make our newsletters interesting to read for all our members.

Send anytime to [crystalart@shaw.ca](mailto:crystalart@shaw.ca) I will put it into the next available newsletter.

Send articles and pictures to: [news@pastelartists.ca](mailto:news@pastelartists.ca)

Our newsletters go out 4 times per year. February, May, August and November.

I am also looking for Artists Profile like on page 1 and 3 of our newsletters. I would need your head shot, an article about you and some photos of your art.

Feel free to share your achievements, joining of art organizations, awards you have received, trips you have taken of art interest. Anything that you feel note worthy to our members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Catherine*

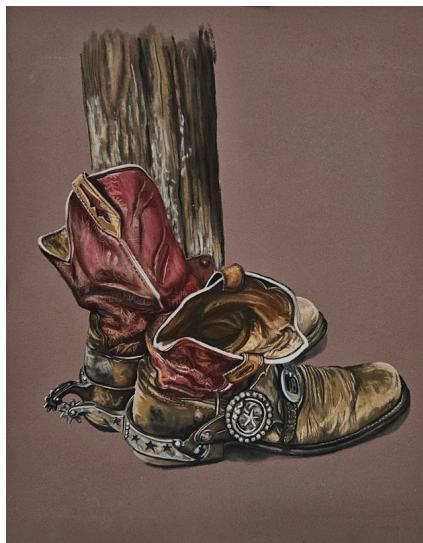
## Marni Koelln

3 of my 5 accepted works for the Federation of Canadian Artists, Calgary Chapter are of my pastels.

They were featured in the show "Emergence".

*Congratulations!*

*"The Blues Brothers"  
was awarded 2nd  
place in the show!*



Joan Larson, MPAC, EP, SFCA

## Viva Canada

This series of paintings is inspired by a train journey from Vancouver to Toronto (and back again), begun in 2014 with my mother shortly before her death. The emotional weight—and the scale of the project—meant it took years to fully take shape. I completed the final leg, from Toronto to Halifax, in 2025.

The concept arrived suddenly on the return trip. While sitting in the dome car leaving Toronto that night and watching the city lights reflected in the glass, I realized: it's all about the reflections. What I had once found intrusive became central to the work.

That same day, a retrospective exhibition of Canadian artist Alex Colville's work profoundly influenced me. His ability to juxtapose unexpected elements—inviting the viewer to complete the story—helped clarify my own direction.

In 2017, I completed the first image "Diner With A View" and in 2018, it won an Honourable Mention at the IAPS show in Tacoma, WA. That piece has since sold but not before a friend saw it while visiting my studio. She suggested pairing a series of these evocative images with live, audience-driven storytelling and impromptu actors. My friend, Cindy Block, is an actor and international educator for voice and acting. Now, with Cindy and the Qualicum Playback Theatre, that idea is becoming reality.



VIVA CANADA opens at the McMillan Arts Centre in early July through early September, featuring at least eight live performances and 12 artworks with imagery across Canada. The McMillan Arts Centre is in Parksville, BC.

Talk about something different!



"Diner With A View" - Sold

# Catherine Sheppard, MPAC, SFCA

I just returned from an amazing trip to Australia and New Zealand with my husband. February 16th to March 9th, 2026.

It was in Auckland, New Zealand that I happened upon a group of White Rhinos in their zoo. I am now working on a piece.



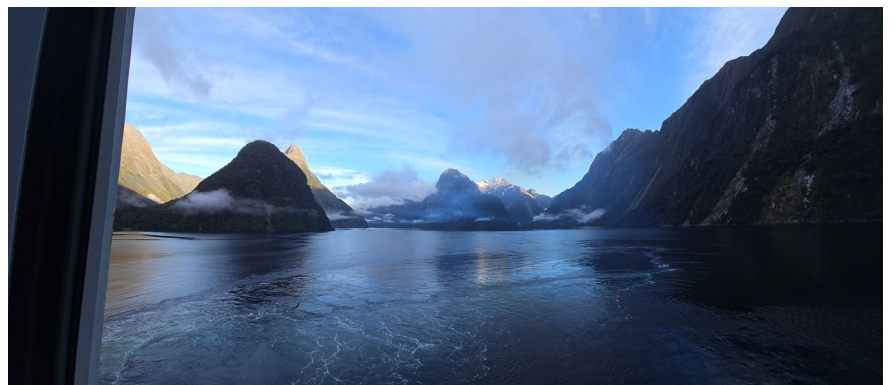
*Resting White Rhino - 18 x 10.5 on pastemat.*

Sydney held many good photo opportunities in their very old buildings with many carved lions and people.

I also had the opportunity to photograph an Aboriginal Australian man near the Opera House.



I would love to try to do up these photos into pastel paintings as soon as possible.



Crusing from Sydney to Milford Sound we came into Dunedin. A city founded by the Scottish in 1843. It is a port city named after the Gaelic word for Edinburgh. Known for its rich Scottish heritage and Victorian architecture, the city boomed during the 1861 Otago Gold Rush, briefly becoming New Zealand's largest city and economic center.

The area was initially settled by the Maori people.

## Elsa K Black



Saffron Breeze - 24"x30" soft pastel on archival sanded paper

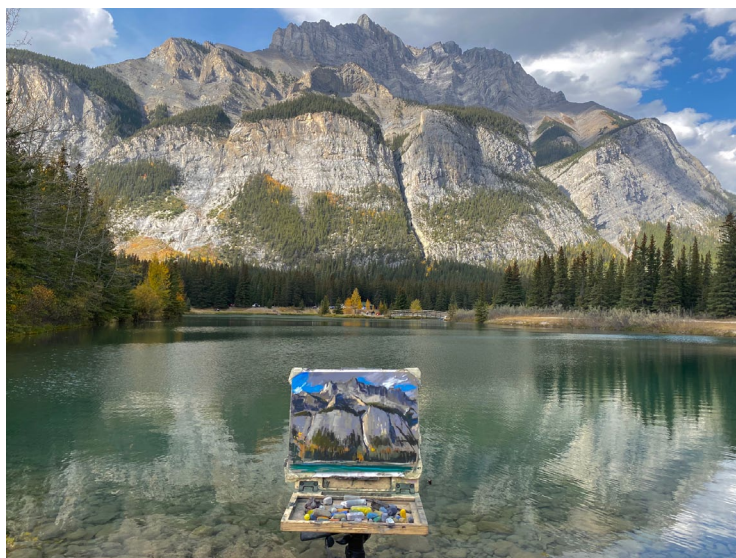
*"The month  
of May  
is the  
gateway to  
summer."  
- Jean Hersey*

## David Shkolny

In September 2025, my pastel (9" x 40") "The Long View" won best rural painting at the annual Rosebud paintout.

In October I was invited to teach at an art retreat with FCA, in Banff, where I taught both pastel and acrylic plein air.

*Congratulations!*



# Anne Fraser

Last year, I bought some new iridescent inks (silver, copper, gold) that were on sale and I wondered how I might use them with pastels.

The copper reminded me of leadlines used in stained glass. So I made some paintings with stained glass in mind. I used the ink to make the outlines with straight lines and then filled in the shapes with pastel. I used black Canson velvet paper.



The effect was really fun to paint and forced me to think differently. I did the berry shortcakes first with copper ink, then the owl with silver ink, then the cat painting.



Jessica Masters helped me think through some ideas with this process and it was her idea to do a painting where I didn't use the ink at all but focused on the shapes (cat painting) using a similar technique.

*"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."  
- Fennel Hudson*

# WORKSHOP PORTUGAL



with  
**Sharon Cranston, MPAC and Kato Wake**

Join Sharon Fox Cranston (MPAC) and Kato Wake for an exciting workshop in Portugal next March, 2027.

Artists are encouraged to experiment with their chosen medium and style, including watercolour, acrylic, pastel or other media. It's a workshop to

explore, discover and experiment in a beautiful setting in the Algarve!

Learn more at:

[www.cranstongallery.com](http://www.cranstongallery.com)

[www.katowake.com](http://www.katowake.com)

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*"The world's favourite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."  
- Edwin Way Teale*

# Jane Romanishko

The IAPS convention is around the corner, and I am looking forward to it. I attended it in 2024 and it was a real eye-opener for me.

I will be presenting in the Dueling Demo on Thursday afternoon: painting a portrait from the same reference. My opponent will be Fang Sullivan from New York.



**I will be  
Presenting at  
the IAPS  
Convention**



**Jane Romanisho, MPAC,**

**To Register go to [www.IAPSpastel.org](http://www.IAPSpastel.org)  
Class Purchase will Open January 19**



**IAPS Biennial Convention  
June 16-21, 2026  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

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*"May is the month of promise and the  
sweet beginnings of summer."  
- unknown*

# Reine Goodrow

Last month, a perfect storm of good news came my way and it simply “blew me away”!

Each year at their AGM, the long-established and distinguished art association, Rose-Art, chooses an ‘artist emeritus’ and I was touched and surprised to be awarded that title! It is rather like being named artist of the year and the best part is that the decision is taken by the other members, therefore our peers. I feel extremely privileged!

The following week, the same association held a contest for two paintings to be chosen and then featured in a fundraiser. My work, “Orchidée et citrons” was chosen as one of the winners!

Finally, very soon after, at the closing ceremony of Blainville-Art’s group show, I learned that of the 200 students from elementary and high school who visited the show chose my painting, “Le secret du ruisseau” for the Students’ Choice Award. All that praise in such a short time-laps can go to your head!

Though my head is now back to its normal size, I remain very appreciative and simply had to share this good news with you.

Thank you for giving your members this opportunity to share our good news!

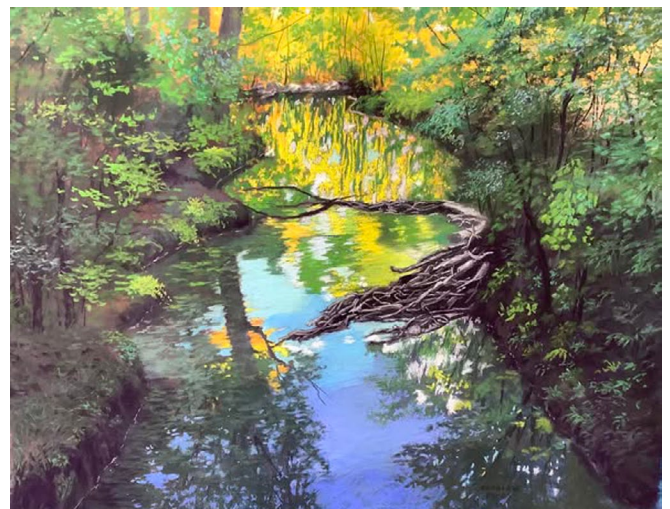
Reine Goodrow  
Laval, Quebec - 450-689-2247



*Congratulations!*



Rose-Art concours\_ tableau gagnant



Coup de coeur des jeunes 1b

# 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 [news@pastelartists.ca](mailto:news@pastelartists.ca)

DEADLINE is July 25th for August

*thank you*



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