

Mystery. Music. Food. Drinks. Excitement. ART!

Our 8th Annual Little Black Frame Mystery Art Night returns to its art party roots



It was back - in black! The 8th edition of our Little Black Frame Mystery Art Night returned to its in-person art party format with over 240 happy ticket holders, artists and guests (plus our trusty volunteers) ready to celebrate the creative talents of our 2022 Little Black Frame artists. Nothing beats seeing 168 vibrant black framed artworks all hung, stretching end-to-end in our loft studio and ready to be taken home to be enjoyed. Hosted by CHCH's Annette Hamm, the November night was filled with good nibbles and drinks, conversation, camaraderie, anticipation,

excitement, music and ART!

An important fundraiser, Little Black Frame provides DVSA with funds to support our ground-breaking hands-on art programs for participants of all ages and backgrounds, enabling us to continue enriching the lives of those in greater Hamilton through the visual arts.

A big thank you to our contributing artists, to our enthusiastic attendees and to all who had a hand in bringing this event back to its in-person format. Let's do it again next year!

Much appreciation goes out to our generous

event sponsors: Spring Mill Distillery, LM Enterprises, Sleeman Brewery, Muse Marketing Group, EB Media Solutions, Fortinos, Amica Dundas, Print Factory Ink, Cumbrae's, Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd. & Steve Roblin, StoneRidge Insurance, Pottery Supply House, and Tuckers Pottery Supplies.

"I love the whole mystery artist element of Little Black Frame. It's very freeing and encourages me to experiment with my pieces."

- Laurie Wonfor Nolan, participating artist



Artist Talks Educate and Inform

Learning from other artists is one of the seminal elements in an artist's training. This past Fall, DVSA hosted two prominent artists for our ongoing series of hour-long Artist Talks designed to share more about an artist's process and personal experiences.

One of Canada's leading sculptors, James Carl visited DVSA in October. James's small and large-scale sculpture are made from a wide variety of materials, ranging from cardboard and marble to even venetian blinds. His compelling presentation chronicled his personal and creative journey as he discussed projects he's installed around the world and revealed how his work moves from concept to completion.

In November, it was multi-disciplinary artist Mo Thunder's turn, this time with an online Artist Talk. Of Onyota'a:ka descent and with family ties to Oneida Nation of the Thames/Aamjiwnaang First Nation and French Canadian, Mo engaged attendees with the stories and thoughts that inspire their artwork - ranging from beaded attire to full-scale building murals. Their visual stories about lived experiences in connection to their personal healing had a lasting effect on all.

The Fundamentals of Art

With an emphasis placed on studio work and practice, DVSA's Fundamentals Certificate Program is a structured course of study, providing a wide-ranging education in studio art. Offered in collaboration with Ontario College of Art and Design (OCADU) Continuing Education, the certificate program is an alternative to a college/university program and offers a solid introduction to key art concepts and techniques. Students are able to engage in hands-on visual arts-based learning and explore areas where they would like to take their learning further.

DVSA student, Mary Flatt recently completed the DVSA Art Fundamentals Program. We caught up with her and asked her to share more about her experience.

Q: What personal goals prompted you to enrol in the Art Fundamentals Certificate Program at DVSA?

MF: Developing my artistic skills has been a life-long dream of mine. Years ago, I took a few drawing and painting classes, but never pursued it seriously. Life got in the way as it does with demands of work and family. Upon retirement, I took a few art classes and thought this would be the time to explore this creative side but was unsure of how to proceed. Upon taking a Colour Workshop at DVSA I learned about the Fundamentals Program and decided this was the direction for me.

Q: Why did you choose the Art Fundamentals Certificate Program at DVSA over programs at other institutions?

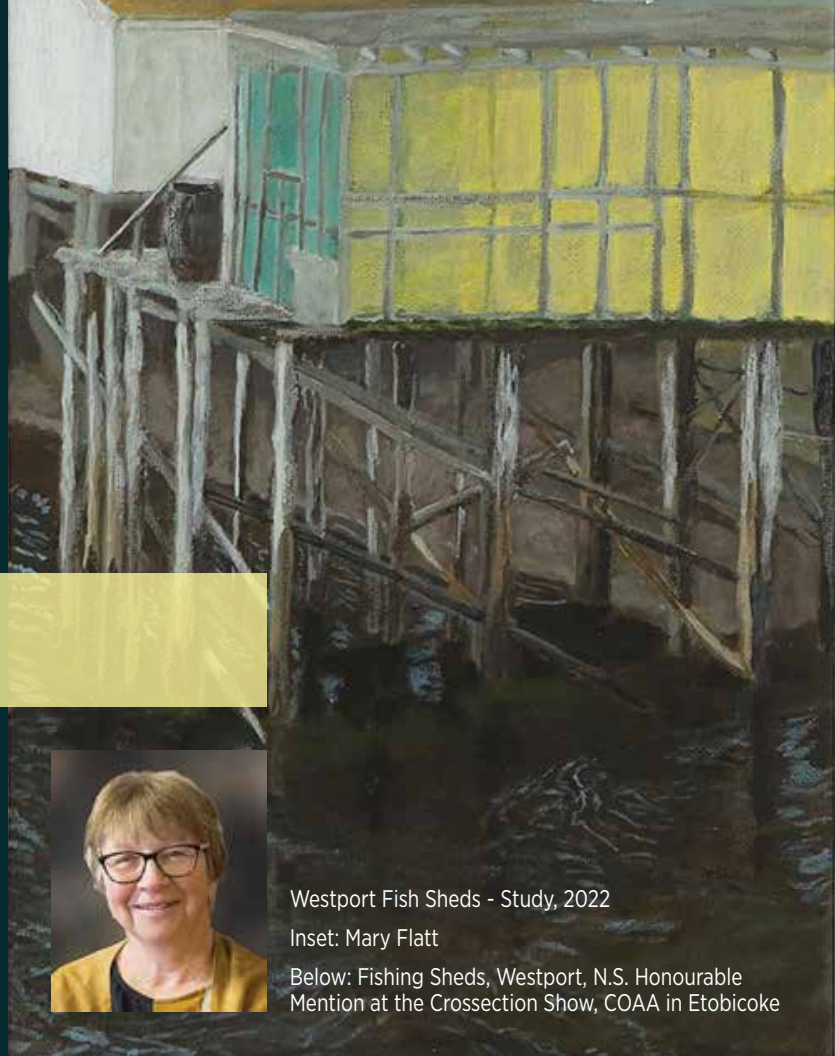
MF: I had taken a few art classes at various arts centres, but these were separate courses and not a complete program. I also looked at Art Degrees at local universities, but dismissed these as too onerous, expensive and not focused on my interests. I already have a degree in the Arts as well as a diploma in Interior Design, so I was not so interested in an academic approach as much as a very hands-on approach. For me the Art Fundamentals Program at DVSA offered a broad approach with exposure to the key elements of drawing, painting, design and composition, etc. in a variety of mediums. Within the structure of the program, there was both flexibility in the time frame as well as the selection beyond the required courses.

Q: What part of the Art Fundamentals Certificate Program at DVSA did you find most valuable?

MF: It would be the exposure to a variety of instructors with a wide range of approaches to both their own art and the methods they use in teaching. While some instructors may be a better "fit" with my approach and learning style, I have been able to learn from each and every member of the faculty. As well, fellow students play a significant role in the positive and encouraging environment.

Q: What are you most proud of achieving in the program?

MF: For me, it was pushing through the more challenging and new experiences and choosing to bravely explore. It requires some nerve to put yourself out there, to produce artwork and



Westport Fish Sheds - Study, 2022

Inset: Mary Flatt

Below: Fishing Sheds, Westport, N.S. Honourable Mention at the Crossection Show, COAA in Etobicoke



then lay it out for others to observe and inspect – it's not for the faint of heart! This has been a very conscious decision on my part to do so; however, I also credit the encouragement of the instructors and the supportive environment of the school which makes it easier to take these steps. I'm also proud of having three pieces of art accepted for juried shows in the last two years. That recognition is thrilling for me and real encouragement as an artist.

Q: What are your creative goals moving forward?

MF: Although I have completed the program, I will continue to take classes and attend workshops – just not at such an intensive rate. My creative goals will be to explore and push ahead and quite simply to further refine my skills and maybe focus on some specific targets. At this point, I still find I am drawn to a wide variety of subjects, but am mostly focused on drawing, soft pastels and acrylic.

Q: Would you recommend the Art Fundamentals Program at DVSA, and why?

MF: I would highly recommend it because it has been such a fun and thoroughly enjoyable experience for me.

Scan here or visit dvsa.ca/art-fundamentals-program, to find out more about our Art Fundamentals Certificate Program and how you can apply.





Minister Filomena Tassi, funding announcement at DVSA on January 9, 2023

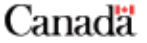


Our volunteer garden transformation crew.

Supported by:
Canada Community Revitalization Fund

Funded by:
Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

Financé par:
Agence fédérale de développement économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario



GROWING NEW SPACES

DVSA's front garden is a much-loved space utilized by staff and students for recreation, relaxation, classes and art camps. Quite often, it is also a space for parents, caregivers and families to spend time before, during and after classes.

This past September our front garden received a mini makeover thanks to Government of Canada funding through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. The garden rehabilitation will bring a welcoming space to our community and neighbours while providing a source of inspiration for art students of all ages.

In partnership with Green Venture and with the assistance of Three Seasons Landscapes and a wonderful crew of volunteers from BMO Private Wealth, DVSA's front garden was beautifully transformed with a native pollinator garden containing over 250 plants. Designed by Candy Venning of Venni Gardens, the plants were carefully selected to be native to our area and to support local pollinators - bees, butterflies and insects - in assisting and encouraging biodiversity in the Dundas core. Our new front garden will also have a Community Seed Bank provided by Action 13 and handmade clay oyas crafted by DVSA potters.

Garden Design:



Project Management:



Consulting Partner:



Food Donation:



Food Donation:



Seed Bank:



The reimagined front garden offers a new "canvas" for DVSA as each season will show an ever-changing variety of flower and plants, bringing inspiration and enjoyment to our community, artists and students.

In The DVSA Gallery - Nothing Short of Inspiring

The walls and plinths in our DVSA Gallery were graced with 4 exceptional exhibitions over the past 8 months.

June to August were showcase months for DVSA's The Advanced Studio exhibition, Looking Back, Looking Forward. Featuring the work of current and past students of the Advanced Studio, the exhibition detailed the program's long history and its evolution over the years in addition to highlighting graduates have gone on to successful careers as professionals in the visual arts.

To commemorate their 50th Anniversary, September in the Gallery featured a special exhibition by the Hamilton Potters' Guild with a selection of pieces from their permanent collection along with work from their 2022 Mentorship Program.

Our 2022 Faculty Exhibition filled the main gallery, foyer and upstairs gallery throughout October and November. The annual Faculty Exhibition is an excellent opportunity for students and the community to view the immense talents of our

instructors and showcase their ongoing art practice outside of DVSA's art studios.

December through January showcased the solo exhibition "Shifting Edges: Between Resolve" by DVSA instructor, Margot Roi. Margot's abstract painting work is based on an intuitive gestural process and creating a themed collection allows her to explore notions that resonate one abstracted layer at a time.

Visit the DVSA Gallery during business hours to see what's on.



Margot Roi, Shifting Edges: Between Resolve



Hamilton Potters' Guild



Faculty Exhibition 2022



DVSA Advanced Studio: Looking Back, Looking Forward



The DVSA Gallery is generously supported by Incite Foundation for the Arts



Summer 2022 Record Breaking Enrollment

Now that was a DVSA summer to remember! With COVID restrictions fully lifted, children, teens and adults unleashed a wave of creative energy through our studios that resulted in some imaginative and courageous artmaking. The outcome was a new high for summer registrations – 2,846 to be exact – making it our most successful summer session to date. Our young artists took part in over 36 different weeklong art camps such as Nature’s Art Box, Pottery-Palooza, Puppets, Players and Masks, Young Architects, Stained Glass for Teens and more.

Adults were busy making art in one of our day, evening or online courses/workshops. For some it was a foray into the summer sunshine for a plein air class while others spent time expressing their ideas and experiences through digital photography, mosaics, painting, pottery, jewellery and more.

A huge thank you to our instructors and summer staff – your efforts made Summer 2022 one more for the record books!

Tip-Tapping Our Way to Donations



With funding from an Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Grant, DVSA has installed a new tap donation point technology system to support our fundraising efforts.

The tip tap system allows DVSA to accept contactless donations electronically. Donating is easy – simply tap your (tap enabled) debit or credit card at the donation level you choose – \$5, \$10 or \$20. Support the artist in all of us and use our tip-tap to make a donation when you’re in the school next.



21 Ogilvie Street,
Dundas, Ontario,
L9H 2S1
905-628-6357
info@dvsa.ca
dvsa.ca

Family Art Days Are Back! The 2022 Hallowbaloo Was A Howling Success!

Our first Family Art Day held in over two years, October’s free Hallowbaloo was a frightfully good time with over 270 parents, caregivers and children joining in on the fun. Costumes and wacky hairstyles filled the studios along with laughter and many creative hands for an afternoon of making art together. Halloween and autumn themed art projects were available in 5 different studios and hosted by our wonderful youth art instructors and their assistants.

A huge thank you to Crayola Canada and The H.G. Bertram Foundation for their generous support in helping to bring the Hallowbaloo event back – we’re looking forward to more free Family Art Days in 2023!



“Hallowbaloo was a great event! Our kids got to experience new and exciting activities while being guided along by the wonderful staff.”

– DVSA Parent

Family Art Hallowbaloo is made possible through the generous support of Crayola Canada and The H.G. Bertram Foundation.

