

ARTIST STATEMENT

“A change of scenery was in order for Winter 2021. I rented a cottage in Prince Edward County on the shore of Lake Ontario, where I routinely started my days rising before the light. Pulling on my winter gear, coffee in hand, I headed out to wait for the sun to rise over the Sand Banks Provincial Park. Without a doubt, some days were absolutely spectacular while others were only glorious. This ritual filled my heart with hope and gratitude.

Back at the cottage, a makeshift studio was created in the kitchen and eating areas, providing just enough space for small works. I travelled to PEC with supplies to try my hand at cold wax, deciding that this was the season to try something new. I have always painted with acrylics, drawn to the rapid drying time which allows for a multitude of layers to be built up in one session. Conversely, using oils requires more patience. Here and now was the location to try it.

The pieces produced during those three months were closer to the Canadian Landscape genre, not my normal approach. They are celebrating Lake Ontario, with white sand beaches and a touch of cloud appreciation. I worked from memory and imagination as I always have, never relying on photographs. The sculptural viscosity of the cold wax invited painting with palette knives more than brushes, an opportunity I embraced. The first layers were always done in acrylics with subconscious mark making. The next layers introduced the textural cold wax. The goal for winter 2021 was to work in a less dreamy and atmospheric aesthetic and more in the tradition of historic Canadian landscape painters.”

— Sharon Kelly

BIOGRAPHY

Sharon Kelly is a contemporary artist known for her tranquil paintings inspired by the oceans and waterways. “I grew up living on the St. Lawrence River observing its inherent beauty and power. I remain mesmerized and transfixed by the way water moves, reflects, glimmers and glows. Water and our connection to it features predominantly in my artistic practice.”

Kelly creates paintings from memory using the freedom of abstraction to explore and respond to her experiences. “My paintings evolve slowly over time, often beginning with vibrant gestural marks, finishing with softer calmer emotions. I repeat this process several times until the composition satisfies me. My process of trial and error, random and controlled, hidden and obvious, results in hazy layers of accumulated history.”

In 2016, I was struck by the imagery and words of Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, author of The Blue Mind Theory. Blue Mind theory, “Shows the science of how being near, in, on or even under water can make you happier, healthier and more connected...” The Blue Mind has influenced my life each time I am within water’s reach. She is my muse, in all her forms. My intention remains to give tangible expression to landscapes that exist for me in both memory and imagination.

Sharon Kelly was born in Montreal and studied Art History at Queens University. A self-taught artist, Kelly now maintains a full-time studio in Ottawa by the Rideau River. She has been featured in several solo and group exhibitions since 1999. Her works are in both private and corporate collections.

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WALL SPACE GALLERY

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CV

EDUCATION

1987 Bachelor of Arts, Art History, Queen's University, Kingston, ON

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Hello Happy, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 Linger & Lure, co-solo alongside Crystal Beshara, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 Esprits Bleu, Galerie Luz, Montreal, QC
- 2016 Blue Minds, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2015 Family Tradition II, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2014 Family Tradition, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2008 Sh*t! I Didn't Plant Any, Again, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2006 Lure of Fancy, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2004 Without Boundaries, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 #balanceforbetter, celebrating International Women's Day, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2018 KINDa bLue, Blue Door Gallery, New York, NY
- 2018 Chairs, Gallery 200 at the Ottawa School of Dance, Ottawa, ON
- 2017 Selected Gallery Artists, Galerie Luz, Montreal, QC
- 2017 Postcards From Canada, The Fort Gallery, Fort Langely, BC
- 2017 New Works, Galerie Luz, Montreal, QC
- 2017 The Bag, Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD
- 2017 Square Foot, Big Ideas, Paula White Diamond Gallery, Waterloo, ON
- 2016 Square Foot, Big Ideas, Paula White Diamond Gallery, Waterloo, ON
- 2016 Art & Parcel, Ottawa Art Gallery Rental & Sales, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 Collector's Choice, Maryland Federation of Art
- 2016 TWAC Annual at the Canadian National Exhibition
- 2016 Contemporary Abstraction, Ottawa Art Gallery Annex, Ottawa, ON
- 2016 Stormy Weather, Maryland Federation of Art
- 2016 Le pARTy juried show, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2015 Le pARTy juried show, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON

- 2014 Small Packages, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2014 Le pARTy juried show, The Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2014 X4, 30 year celebration at Ottawa School of Art, Ottawa, ON
- 2010 Small Packages, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2008 Harbinger, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2007 New Year, New Work, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2004 New Year, New Work, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON
- 2004 Premiere, Dale Smith Gallery, Ottawa, ON

COLLECTIONS

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Ottawa Art Gallery Permanent Collection
Royal Bank of Canada

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