



Canadian Organization for Tropical Education & Rainforest Conservation (COTERC)

Providing leadership in education, research, conservation,
and the educated use of natural resources in the tropics.

FLORA AND FAUNA- ART SHOW AND SALE

FEATURED ARTISTS

Debra Lynn Ireland (*view sample*)

Debra was born in Scarborough and spent much of her childhood exploring the Scarborough Bluffs, the Rouge Valley and the local ravines. She also volunteered at the Toronto Humane Society's wildlife rehabilitation department and fostered young raccoons and squirrels at home.

In conjunction with her care giving, Debra discovered an interest in drawing as well. She went on to study graphic design at George Brown College in Toronto. While freelancing in this field for a number of years, she found herself painting wildlife in her free time.

Debra's wildlife art has since been recognized by organizations such as the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Endangered Species Fund of Canada and the Canadian Conservation Stamp Guide. This year she has had the privilege of being selected once again by Ducks Unlimited Canada to be part of the 2008 National Art Print Portfolio with her polar bear painting "Sweet Dreams".

Debra finds her inspiration from her own real life experiences with wildlife from around her new home in Northern Ontario and during her many adventures to Australia, Africa, Costa Rica and throughout the United States. Photographing, sketching and understanding her subject is an essential part of her work before she can create the final painting. Debra works in watercolour with gouache, acrylic and has just begun working with pastel sticks. Mainly a self-taught artist, she has enjoyed developing her own style. "I've always concentrated on the fine details of the animals, especially the eyes in an attempt to capture the emotion of the moment." Even now with two young children, Debra continues to pursue her art career, but most of all enjoys watching her boys' first experiences with the wildness that surrounds us all.

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Sharon E. Steinhaus (*view sample*)

Sharon originally hails from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Having spent most of her adult life in Ontario, she was thrilled to have an opportunity to return to Cape Breton from 1994 to 1997. During these three years she was an active member of the Cape Breton Artists Association.

On her return to Ontario, Sharon joined a number of local art groups and has been painting in her studio in her home in Ajax. Sharon's work leans mostly towards realism but she also has an abstract side that likes to come out occasionally. She works in all media including oil, acrylic, pen and ink, watercolours, pastel and pencil.

steinhausstudio@rogers.com

Barry Kent MacKay (*view sample*)

My background includes both museum-style preparatory work and wildlife rehab, and so I seek to show birds in lifelike posture, but I also am fascinated with seldom illustrated species, races and plumages, provided sufficient reference material is provided. I dislike the dichotomy separating "paintings" from "illustrations" and seek to not limit myself to one or the other, but in balance I'm happy being considered an illustrator.



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Lori Dunn ([view sample](#))

Wildlife artist Lori Dunn is thrilled to be combining her two interests – animals and art.

As a zookeeper for 15 years, Lori has worked with a vast array of animals ranging from the tiniest invertebrates to elephants and gorillas. These years of experience have given her a unique instinct and perspective for art in the animal world and a deep appreciation for the need to protect habitat and endangered species. She particularly loves to draw the "underdogs" of the animal world - the bugs, snakes, spiders and other creatures that need extra help making a case for their survival in our ecosystems.

Valerie Kent ([view sample](#))

Valerie Kent was born in Hungary but was educated in Canada and the United States. She holds a B.Ed., B.F.A., M.F.A. and has completed many workshops with renowned artists in both countries. She teaches watercolour and oil painting at the Mill Pond Gallery in Richmond Hill, ON., and travels to many art associations and societies throughout Ontario to offer workshops, and also facilitates workshops at the Haliburton School of the Arts, Southampton Art School, Loyalist College, Kingston School of the Arts, Port Credit School of the Arts, Wellington Art Gallery and Magnificent Hill Haliburton, plus others.

Her work is shown in many private galleries: Ethel Curry Gallery and Railside Gallery in Haliburton, Art of the Matter in Aurora, Jordashe Gallery in Nobleton, Art Decor Gallery in Richmond Hill and she shows at many other locations, i.e. Heinzman House Invitational, Thornhill; The Richmond Hill Studio Tour and Art Sale; the Mill Pond Gallery in Richmond Hill. Valerie Kent leads workshops and art appreciation trips on riverboats in France through Paris, Normandy and Provence.

<http://www.valeriekent.com/>
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Fiona Reid ([view sample](#))

Fiona A. Reid spent many years capturing small mammals and drawing them from life for her new book: A Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America. An accomplished writer and artist, she has written and/or illustrated numerous guides, including A Field Guide to the Mammals of Central America and Southeast Mexico, The Golden Guide to Bats of the World, Bats of Papua New Guinea, and Mammals of the Neotropics (volumes 1–3).

Fiona is a Departmental Associate in Mammalogy at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology at the Royal Ontario Museum, in Toronto, Canada. She has led nature tours for the past two decades, showing ecotourists the mammals and other wildlife of diverse lands from Brazil to Indonesia, and Alaska to Venezuela. She lives on the Niagara Escarpment in southern Ontario with her husband and two children

Paul Harpley ([view sample](#))

Paul Harpley (MA '92), a dedicated conservationist, completed his master's degree at York University in 1992, specializing in Western perceptions of nature. He is currently manager of interpretation, culture & design at the Toronto Zoo. In the past, he has worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Algonquin Provincial Park, and has travelled widely in North America, England and Africa. He has published numerous scientific papers and book chapters in Canada and the US. Paul Harpley's artwork is highly sought after. In spite of diverse involvements, he is a prolific artist. His original artwork is in private collections across Canada and abroad.



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Bob Murphy ([view sample](#))

Dr. Murphy is Senior Curator for the Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Biology in the Department of Natural History at the Royal Ontario Museum, and Professor of Zoology at the University of Toronto. His interests concentrate on the development of molecular technologies for documenting genetic diversity, conservation genetics, and the genealogical relationships of species. He has collected amphibians and reptiles in diverse foreign places such as Australia, Mexico, Russia, The Republic of Georgia, Armenia, China, and Vietnam, building up the world's largest collection of tissue samples for genetic research. Dr. Bob initiated the ROM's involvement and commitment to working on the biodiversity crisis in Vietnam which has resulted in significant national and international exposure for the ROM, Ontario, and Canada alike including both printed and audio-visual media features.

Jim des Rivières ([view sample](#))

Some enchanted evening, you may meet a stranger...

The nocturnal habits of moths mean that they rarely cross the path of us humans. When we do meet, the encounter is usually fleeting and under bad light. Not surprisingly, most people would not recognize the moths from their region, and tend to think of moths as small, drab, and uninteresting. Nothing could be further from the truth. Moths outnumber their butterfly cousins 10 to 1, and come in an even wider range of shapes, colours, and sizes.

For the past 5 summers, Jim has been collecting and photographing moths in the Ottawa region. So far he's imaged over 250 of the 1000+ moth species found in these parts. Everyone is enchanted by these creatures once they get to see them through the photographs. Jim hopes the viewer will take away a palpable appreciation of biodiversity, grounded in the local environment.

Instead of using a camera, Jim captures his moth images digitally with a high-resolution flatbed scanner, with the dried moth specimen placed upside-down on the glass. 500MB scan files are typical, sufficient for making 36x24" prints. These prints allow the viewer to see the moth's fine structure and rich colours as if peering through a low-power microscope.

Visit Jim's website <http://www.moths.ca/> to see his Ottawa moth collection.

Joan Stephens

Joan Stephens has been painting watercolour for 10 years. She is an ardent admirer of the Edgar Whitney style of watercolour. She is an active member of the Cedar Ridge Fine Arts Gallery in Scarborough, Ontario.

Ken Ardill

Ken Ardill is a retired public relations manager with an oil firm. For the last ten years, as a volunteer, he has taken thousands of wonderful photographs of animals at the Toronto Zoo.

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