

ALGONQUIN ART CENTRE

PRESENTS

THE
CANADIAN
SHIELD



an artist's perspective



GALLERY PROGRAM 2013

Algonquin Provincial Park

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Welcome to Shield Country!



It's hard to believe that this year's show, "The Canadian Shield," marks our ninth consecutive exhibition at the Algonquin Art Centre. In our time here, we've explored a number of different themes -- from Wolves to the Algonquin Headwaters -- through the eyes of Canada's leading artists. Looking back, it's become clear that all of these exhibits were connected in a very fundamental way: they all address a central question, What is it that makes Algonquin Park such a special place for artists?

Of course, Tom Thomson made Algonquin famous for painting it prolifically in his final years, producing some of Canada's most famous paintings, such as "The Jack Pine" or "The West Wind." But Algonquin was not Tom Thomson's muse alone: since his death, the Park has inspired hundreds, if not thousands, of artists from all over the world.

Our question is why?

This year's show, "The Canadian Shield", provides one possible answer, as all the beautiful rocks and land formations that give Algonquin its unique shape speak to its ancient heritage -- a heritage going back to the beginnings of earth's history. This vast sense of time instills in us a sublime feeling, a feeling that we're in the presence of something much larger than ourselves. To describe what this presence is may be impossible in words, but we believe here at the Centre that it is our artists who give this presence voice.

We hope you enjoy our 2013 show, "The Canadian Shield" and that you join us in striving to Discover the Nature of Art.

Doug and Orla Irwin

Owners and Operators of the Algonquin Art Centre

**A Message from the Directors,
Joel Irwin and Matt Coles**

The Canadian Shield and Algonquin Park

When you look out at all the rocky shorelines and pine clad cliffs that adorn the Algonquin landscape, you're really looking back in time, far back in time. In fact, the rocks that make up the foundation of Algonquin Park are among the oldest in the world and are part of the ancient geological core of the continent – The Canadian Shield.

The Canadian Shield is a vast expanse of ancient rock, stretching from the Arctic Islands in the North to Minnesota in the South, and from the Coast of Labrador in the East all the way to Great Slave Lake in the West. It was formed over 4 billion years ago, when drifting landmasses collided on a sea of molten lava, forming vast, volcanic mountain ranges. These volcanoes are some of the oldest on the planet, and although they are now extinct, remnants of their activity remain in the Shield rock.

Thanks to millions of years of erosion, the secrets of this ancient rock did not remain buried in the earth, but rose to the surface, where the sun could illuminate its beautiful patterns and colours. As miners began traveling to the Shield to extract its hidden treasures – such as nickel, gold, silver, and copper – artists began traveling here to capture its unique beauty through their art.

Our 2013 show, "The Canadian Shield," celebrates this artistic tradition, as we've asked some of the country's leading landscape and wildlife artists to explore the beauty, the power, and the wonder of Shield country. We hope you enjoy this year's exhibition, and that you leave us with an enriched connection to the ancient rocks beneath our feet.

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Media Director & Copy Writer, **Joel Irwin**
Design & Layout, **Jennifer Pimentel**

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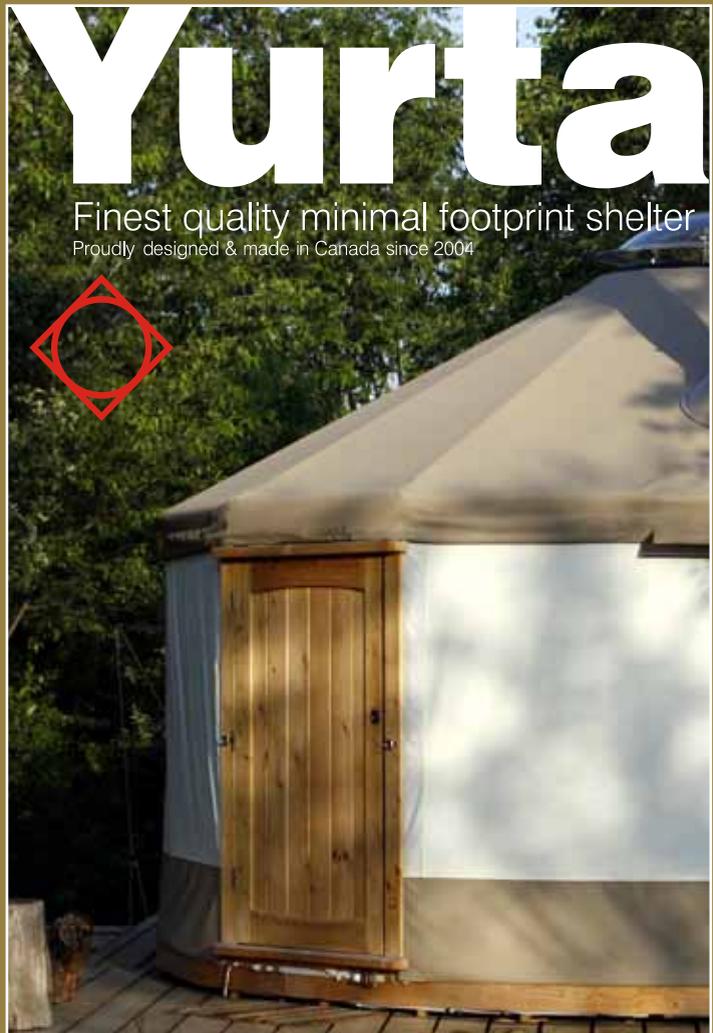


"Sunflowers", oil on linen by Mark Reeder

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The Algonquin Art Centre is quickly becoming one of the leading landscape and wildlife galleries in all of Canada. The Centre has three wings where it showcases the newest works from Canada's foremost artists, offering visitors an exhibition of the arts in the very region that inspired them – Algonquin Park.

Algonquin Park has been a major cornerstone in the history of Canadian landscape and wildlife art. Over the last century, it has attracted artists of all kinds and has inspired some of our nation's most famous paintings, such as Tom Thomson's "Jack Pine" or A.Y. Jackson's "Red Maple". The Algonquin Art Centre has become an important part of this artistic tradition, providing a gallery and workshop space to encourage new and bold developments in landscape and wildlife art in the very heart of Algonquin Provincial Park.

2013 EXHIBITING
ARTISTS



Shelly Beach	Joseph Pearce
Tony Bianco	Patricia Pepin
Al Brown	Jennifer Pimentel
Neil Clifford	Siggy Puchta
Hilary Clark-Cole	George Raab
Claudio D'Angelo	Mark Reeder
Sheila Davis	Vladimir Ribatchok
Kelly Dodge	Peter Allan Rice
Michael Dumas	Bev Rodin
Lori Dunn	Andrea Ross
Maya Eventov	Robert Ross
Michael Foers	Peter Rotter
Pierre Girard	Alan Sakhavarz
David Grieve	Peter Schulz
Eduard Gurevich	Sanjeev Sivarulasa
Kevin Hockley	Richard Stanley
Fred Hummel	Eric Tardif
Terry Isaac	Cory Trepanier
Klint Jammer	Dan Werstuk
Brian Markham	Jan Wheeler
Sylvia Naylor	Derek Wicks
Tim Packer	Patrice Wolput

2013 ARTIST SPECIAL EVENTS



Every year, the Algonquin Art Centre organizes a number of special events to bring visitors closer to the artists and their work. This year, we've organized a number of featured artist exhibits that showcase artists of extraordinary talent. We've also hosting a number of artist demos, where artists share the secrets of their work with Park visitors.

"The Art of Free Motion Embroidery" **Sylvia Naylor** **July 16 - 31**



Sylvia Naylor's embroideries have gained her international renown. By combining her free motion technique with her own dyed and painted fabrics, she creates textured landscapes of extraordinary beauty. Come and experience them for yourself at her solo exhibit. Free Admission.

Artist Demonstration: **Sylvia Naylor July 20**

Meet Sylvia Naylor at the Algonquin Art Centre as she demonstrates her free motion embroidery. 11 am – 4 pm. Free Admission.

Artist Demonstration: Peter Rice **July 28**

See how artist Peter Rice creates his three dimensional glass sculptures at the Algonquin Art Centre. 11 am – 4 pm. Free Admission.



Celebrating the Arts

"Messengers of Peace" **The Sculptures of Eric Tardif** **August 1 - 15**

Eric Tardif's wood sculptures capture the elegant and graceful movements of birds through abstract expressions. Join us in experiencing the beauty of his work at his solo exhibition. Free Admission.



"Walk with Me" The Art of Sheila Davis **August 16 - 31**



Sheila Davis's impressionistic landscapes combine elements of value, line, and colour harmony into powerful compositions. Experience her newest works at her solo exhibit, "Walk with Me." Free Admission.

"A Natural Impulse" Michael Dumas **September 15 - October 19**

Michael Dumas' art is characterized by masterful drawing and an unusual sensitivity to the subtleties of detail, form, colour, and composition. His featured show, "A Natural Impulse", showcases Michael's incredible eye for the nuances of light.



Meet the Artist: Michael Dumas. October 12

Meet Master artist Michael Dumas as he discusses his featured show, "A Natural Impulse." 11 am - 4 pm. Free admission.

ARTIST
FEATURE



ERIC
TARDIF



Poetry in Motion

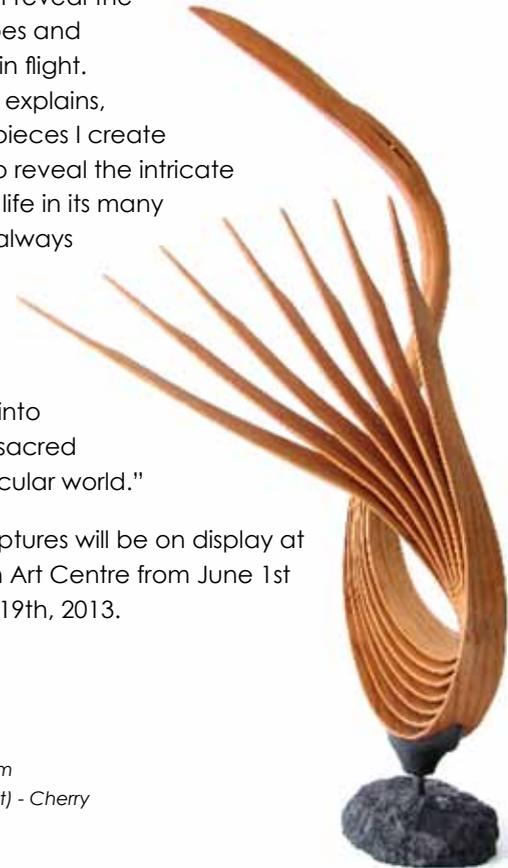
The grace and beauty of birds in flight has inspired a great variety of artistic interpretations, but perhaps none are as unique as Quebec artist Eric Tardif's. His wood sculptures capture the elegant and graceful movements of birds through abstract expressions. But unlike most abstract art, Tardif's designs draw from a lifetime of close observation: "When I was a naturalist at Cap Tourmente National Park," explains Eric, "I spent countless hours observing and photographing many species of birds, with intimate exposure to their migration patterns, flights, and lives." Eric's close encounters with birds inspired a creative desire to convey their beauty through art, and to achieve

this, Eric adapted an ancient technique to realize his visions – steam bending.

Steam bending is a process in which heat vapor is used to make wood slats pliable for builders. It was originally used to build boats and bows, as it allowed the wood to be shaped into curvaceous structures. Eric saw in this technique the perfect medium for his artistic ambitions, and he began experimenting with different kinds of woods, such as walnut, maple, ash, and cherry.

The results of his labours are the exquisite bird sculptures that reveal the gracious shapes and forms of birds in flight. As Eric himself explains, "Each of the pieces I create is produced to reveal the intricate poetry of bird life in its many forms. I have always aimed, in my interpretation and production of art, to render into sculpture the sacred space of a secular world."

Tardif's sculptures will be on display at the Algonquin Art Centre from June 1st until October 19th, 2013.



The Nest (top) - Elm

Paradise Bird (right) - Cherry

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**SHEILA
DAVIS**



Journey On



A Little Sun Always Makes Me Rosy



Slow Dance

Sheila Davis is a landscape artist working out of Beaverton, Ontario. Primarily self taught, she uses her art to challenge the eye to look deeper into landscapes by using dynamic brushstrokes and saturated colour. This is the first year she's participated in an Algonquin Art Centre exhibit.

i) How would you describe your painting style?

Fairly impressionistic with painterly brushstrokes... I find I am leaning more towards the abstract.

ii) Who have been principal influences over your style?

My style is ever evolving...I have worked in a few series. Luc Leestemaker was a big influence in my Atmospheres series, Ernestine Tahedl and Kathleen Earthrowl on my Interludes series.... My current work Interpretations is a complex journey with no one influence...I feel I am finally on the right road to myself.

iii) What do you look for in a subject or scene?

The play of light and texture and an abstract quality. It is just as I describe.. on the periphery of my vision. Often when we are out driving something will catch my eye. We back up a lot....my husband is a patient man.

iv) Your works seem to explore the aesthetic potential of peripheral vision. Why is the periphery so central to your artwork?

Each artist is drawn to something that triggers the need to be creative. I find that for me it is visual textures.. and their play against each other. The sharp light hitting a tangle of branches against the soft backlit colour of a spring forest. It draws the eye away from the obvious landscape vistas and turns it inwards to the overlooked.

v) Why, in your view, is landscape painting important in today's world?

Landscape painting will always be important. Our landscape is the one constant in a changing world. Trees (or most of them) will always be green, the ground will always be beneath and the sky above...In this scary world of fast technology all we have to do is look at a beautiful Landscape to relax and breath.



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ARTIST FEATURE

Celebrating the Arts



LORI
DUNN

*Image in
Depth*



Lori Dunn's interest in art began with her interest in science. While studying Zoology at university, she completed a number of drawings that revealed the subtle complexities of various wildlife, from shape to colour to texture. Although her creative talents were at first in the service of science, many years later she would discover a medium that would elevate her work from illustration to art. This medium was scratchboard.

Scratchboard is one of the most difficult mediums to master. It is a type of engraving on a specially prepared board. This board has three layers: the hardboard base, a layer of white kaolin clay, and a top layer of black ink. Images are etched onto the surface by cutting or "scratching" into the ink surface with an extremely fine tool, such as a scalpel or exacto blade.

Lori was not deterred by the difficulties of the medium, but began experimenting with various engraving depths, which led to her discovery of the wonderful possibilities of scratchboard. "The black ink and white clay on the boards already provides the extremes in value," says Lori, "My job is to provide all of the tonal variations in between, and that requires hours of fine etching in layers in order to get the luminous quality the clay can provide."

This luminous quality has become one of the defining features of Lori's work, as viewers not only see the incredible detail, texture, and value of the

organisms she depicts, but experience a wonderful light shining forth, illuminating the image from the depths. As a result, one feels the presence of life, and doesn't just see it. Capturing such a presence is the desire of every wildlife artist, but only few can actually achieve it. Lori Dunn is one of the few.

*Artwork (left to right)
Cycles of Change
Weightless
The Secret Within*



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The Boutique is the Art Centre's popular gift shop, which boasts a wide variety of gift ideas and souvenirs that reflect the Algonquin Park experience for visitors of every age. Choose from among children's toys and stuffed pets, framed prints, clothes, jewellery, pottery, art supplies, or browse some of the many books in our art bookstore. The Boutique celebrates the exceptional diversity of Canadian craftspeople and fine artists. It also prioritizes environmentally friendly product, which include notebooks and journals made from recycled paper, clean burning soy candles, wooden creations carved from discarded branches and driftwood and 100% handpicked organic tea. It features a wide selection of high quality art reproductions of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven and fine artists including an attractive array of wearable art. The list is growing and we are working to improve this selection each and every season.

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Fostering creativity is a significant part of the Algonquin Art Centre, and we achieve this by organizing a number of art classes, art demos, and family art activities to encourage our visitors to discover the artist within. Our gazebo program has become an important part of this process, as it offers individuals and families daily art activities, including painting wooden paddles, birch bark canoes, sliced rock, and canvas, as well as instructed art classes during the week.

The Gazebo is located beside the gallery and in the middle of our Art Garden. The beautiful surroundings provide much inspiration and subject matter for visitors to try their own hand at art. The Gazebo also includes a café, where visitors can enjoy a coffee, cold drink, or snack while they participate in one of the many art activities.

For more details about the Art Gazebo programs, please visit our website at algonquinartcentre.com.





ART CLASSES

Fostering Creativity

Discover your creative side in Algonquin Park! Artists share their talents and techniques with a variety of artistic abilities. Art Classes available through July & August.

Animal Tracking Stick Workshop with Caitlin Charbonneau

Discover and create a useful tool for tracking animal prints throughout Algonquin Park. Tracking sticks are especially useful for beginners since they help us focus our attention in the right direction and area. Helpful tracking hints, examples and stencils will be provided. After you create your very own tracking stick, test it out and see what animal you can find!

Charcoal Drawing with Christa Boothby

Have you ever considered using a campfire remnant as a material for making art? Discover the immediate satisfaction of creating contrast. Play in the nuance offered by simplicity. Explore the potential of shade & shadow. There are no mistakes in the dark when your eraser inscribes light at your fingertips. Mark-make a black & white vision of your Algonquin Park experience and take it home.

Creative Writing with Caitlin Charbonneau

Express your thoughts, feelings and emotions in this creative writing workshop for beginners. Explore the way colours, textures and sounds affect your imagination and discover how impressions of art are transformed into your own stories. Create a short story inspired by an artwork based on Algonquin Park that you can transform to reflect your inventive narrative.

Drawing & Painting with Janine Marson

Explore a variety of techniques with graphite pencils, charcoal, pastels and acrylics in Janine's four workshops. You will be truly inspired by the details in nature beneath your feet, on the water and in the trees. Workshops:

Drawing Flora & Fauna, Painting Water, Painting the Colours of Summer, Painting Trees, Trees Glorious Trees. Visit our website for a complete description of each workshop.

Learn Plants Through Art with Chad Irwin

Plants and trees speak to us in a secret language. Magically, it is the same language as art. Through drawing and painting we will learn how to decode this secret language to discover who they are. You can bring the

practice home with your own field journal and plant identification kit.

Painting with Paper with Emerald Chamberlain

In this unique workshop you will create a "painting" using Japanese, Nepalese and other imported handmade paper on a canvas. Look around at the trees and rocks of Algonquin Park and use them as your inspiration. Come out and enjoy a new art experience.

Play with Clay with Caitlin Charbonneau

No experience is necessary for this introductory session to clay and the artistic process of creating in three dimensions. Develop a sense of touch by using your hands and small tools to work with a naturally made material that will dry in the sun. Let the wildlife and foliage of Algonquin Park inspire your creation!

Printmaking with Julia Bertelsen

Create unique, colourful and vibrant prints using both positive and reduction techniques by carving, painting, using brayers and objects from nature. Suitable for all ages. Additional material fee if block carving is chosen.

Watercolour with Wool with Pam Carnochan

This unique art form fits beautifully with the inspiring landscapes, and easily allows people to get lost in their creativity. Pam provides wool from her own sheep, dyes it and creates truly original landscapes. No experience necessary, and fun for all ages.

Zentangle with Julia Bertelsen

A form of drawing that can be done almost anywhere. It is an easy relaxing, meditative and fun way to create beautiful images by using black ink to draw structured flowing patterns. Use nature as your inspiration and create an intricate piece of art that is uniquely you. This course is suitable for ages 8 and up.

HOW TO REGISTER

Call the Algonquin Art Centre at **705-633-5555**
or drop in any time.
Space is limited so pre-registration is encouraged.

**For more information
and to view the ART CLASS CALENDAR
Visit algonquinartcentre.ca**

A Piece of Shield Country

By Artist Neil Clifford

Supporting the Environment



"Autumn Reflections, Lake Superior" - Bronze, Granite

The rugged Canadian Shield provides the inspiration and the materials for my new series of sculptures. While scouting rapids on wild rivers, hiking through dense forest or snowshoeing along frozen shorelines, I encounter special stones. Eroded and etched, some fractured and split by the powerful forces of wind, water, ice and changing seasons – I choose each one for its natural beauty.

With great care and effort, I bring these stones back home and create sculptures to compliment their unique characteristics.

Last fall I paddled the north shore of Lake Superior. It was a unique experience, with some calm, easy-going days that could turn wild very quickly, forcing us to shore to escape crashing waves which could capsize a canoe in an instant. It wasn't uncommon to watch three metre waves tumbling onto the shoreline, and for half of our six day trip we were windbound. I remain awestruck by such dramatic shifts in weather, from glassy waters when you could see the lake bed 60 feet below, to screaming tempests which can rip massive trees out by their roots.

In Canada, I have paddled the northwest passage in Nunavut, tripped in northern Ontario towards James Bay, and run whitewater rivers in Quebec.

Every journey presents unique challenges, and over the years, there were moments of bliss and adventure that could so easily have given way to disaster. Three years ago in Quebec, I stepped into a narrow crevasse

while portaging around a falls, canoe on my shoulders. I gashed my leg, and within a day had developed a severe infection. It took another three days to get off the river, and arriving at a local hospital, the doctor took one look at my leg and said, "we better get to work. I don't want to have to amputate it!"

Not every trip is so dramatic, thankfully! But I am inexorably drawn to wilderness, to experience the land as if I was the first to explore it. In some cases, I may have ventured into wild, far-away areas that few if any people had previously traveled.

I remain humbled to this day, when coming face to face with the power and majesty of our vast Canadian wilderness. Influenced by my journeys into the wilds and by those whose lives remain connected to the earth, I strive to make compelling works of art for the viewer that evoke our dynamic natural world.



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