

# Leather artist displays his work

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A Mississauga artist will display his works Feb. 4-26 at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington.

But what makes this more than just another art show is that Richard Berghammer works with an unusual medium — leather. He paints wildlife scenes which he then raises and embosses using his considerable leather making skills.

Berghammer, 52, moved to Mississauga about a year ago. Originally from Lloydminster, Saskatchewan almost 60 of his works are housed there in the Barr Colony Museum.

"I started working with leather when I was just a kid, age 7 or so, and have been doing it ever since," he said. "I do wildlife, but it's a lot more. Each painting shows the animal or bird in its natural habitat."

He uses a high-contrast paint which actually gets into the leather as a dye. He then uses leather-making tools to raise the scene in relief so it ads an almost 3-Dimensional effect.

Berghammer said 28 works from the Barr Colony Museum will be shipped to the RBG for his upcoming exhibit. This is the first time he has shown his works in eastern Canada since a 1975 exhibit in Kingston.

Now living in Mississauga, which he says he enjoys very much, Berghammer is considering a display here in the near future.