

Art is major interest of city doctor

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MISSISSAUGA LIBRARY SYSTEM

Very early in life, Hildegard Schmidt-Malo's two main interests started to emerge and were competing with each other. One was her interest in medical science and the other was her compulsion to paint and draw whatever happened around her.

Schmidt-Malo was born during World War I in Upper Silesia, which was then German territory and is now Polish.

This German-born psychiatrist decided in 1933, with Hitler in full power, and her father on the Nazi blacklist it would be wiser to go into medicine and to postpone art, even though she had won an award for one of her posters and an offer from an advertising agency to finance her art studies.

During World War II, Schmidt-Malo was sent to Poland to work as a physician in a hospital where she had many interesting and frightening experiences, including contact with the underground, seeing a German V1 and V2 in action, and fleeing, together with staff and 320 patients, from the Russians to Saxony.

Travelling to Saxony was a long and unforgettable trip. It started out on January 8 and lasted until June 10, 1945.

"We were always surrounded by Russians," remembers Schmidt-Malo. The weather was extremely cold, and little children were freezing to death along the way. Their corpses were thrown overboard. "We had no choice," said Schmidt-Malo sadly.

The doctor opened a general practice in Northern Bavaria in 1947, and emigrated to Canada in 1951.

During the years between 1936 and 1951, with survival a top priority, the doctor did not have much chance to devote to her other love, art.

Once the doctor arrived in Canada, she found she had to take all her medical exams again, and it was at this point she decided to specialize her practice.

One year after taking up residency in Canada, she married and has been a Mississauga resident for the past 20 years.

The doctor is a senior citizen, and up until just recently, had a full private practice. Schmidt-Malo now has a lot more time to devote to artistic endeavors.

Since her move to this country, the doctor and part-time artist has participated in a

number of group and one-man shows such as the Bellair Gallery of International Fine Art in Toronto, OCA Open House in Toronto, Gallery at the Fairways and the Scholarship Exhibition of OCA.

Some of the juried competitions she has entered are Physicians Art Salon in Montreal, and Toronto where she was awarded for distinctive Merit in Traditional Fine Art, to name just a few.

The Harcourt Crescent artist-physician, has lived through many horrendous, as well as exciting events.

Despite hard times, she is extremely adept at creating tremendous beauty in her works of art.

Schmidt-Malo is a realist artist, and her works have a surrealist flavor.

She takes much pleasure in seeing and relating to the environment and she tries to put these fleeting and personal moments into lasting statements using any media that best suit her purpose.

The artist's creations are not confined to being captured on paper or canvas. Her works can also be found in copper wire, plastic fibre, on fabrics or in a weave.

Hildegard Schmidt-Malo's art work will be on display until the end of this week at Gallery of the Central Library, located at 110 Dundas St. W., and again at the Gallery at the Fairways during November and December.