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## Local artist hopes to help us enjoy life's everyday wonders

Port Credit artist Claude Stormes' paintings are imbued with emotion, communicating his own interpretation of a scene using an antique medium known as egg tempera.

Stormes applies the egg tempera using a Japanese Sumi-style dry brush technique, utilizing white space and a minimum of strokes to convey the images.

"A lot of the Dutch masters were fond of it (egg tempera). Rembrandt used it a lot," Stormes said. "It contains the best aspects of watercolor and oil. You can continue working on it as with oil, but it also has the glow of watercolor. It adds depth and richness and you can play with the colors coming

through one another."

Egg tempera isn't the only medium that Stormes, who has an exhibit running Saturday April 17-May 13 at the Valhalla Art Gallery, enjoys working with.

Stormes uses oils and watercolors.

He loves sailing and during the summer his hobby gets him around Georgian Bay to paint the area's many islands, rocks and inlets.

Not that cold weather and deep snow keep Stormes from his art work in winter — that's when the oil paints came in handy.

"We go out on cross country skis or snow shoes and set up the easel. The only problem is getting the wet

work back," he said.

He switched to watercolors when he sailed from Georgian Bay to the Gulf Of Mexico. In the confined quarters of a small wooden sail boat, watercolor paper and paints were easy to stow under the bunk.

Later, Stormes, who received a degree in psychology from California State University and pursued art at the graduate level, worked as an operations and flight dispatcher at the airport.

At his upcoming show, Stormes will be exhibiting a range of media and subjects from birds and florals to figures. He's fascinated with birds and recently became interested in cyclists and skiers. He likes to paint what he sees.

"My goal is to (try) to communicate a little better the wonder and the joy you see looking at things," Stormes said. "I was just laughing my head off in the park watching a couple of crows chasing each other in the park."

He has exhibited at Springbank Visual Arts Centre, Eaton's Gallery at the Eaton Centre, in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Parry Sound, California, Florida and Texas.

The Valhalla Art Gallery is located on Valhalla Inn Rd. off The East Mall at Burnhamthorpe Rd. and Hwy. 427. Gallery hours are daily from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.