



Photo by Joel Robertson

A change of pace...In a departure from her usual subject matter, Mississauga artist Wendy Whitmore has put together a 70-piece exhibit of landscapes and portraits of native Canadians. Whitmore, who has gained recognition for her vibrant florals, has studied under renown watercolorist Zoltan Szabo. Her exhibit at the Springbank Visual Arts Centre opens tomorrow (Friday).

Watercolor artist Whitmore hosts Springbank exhibition

By SANDY MCLEAN
Special

Local watercolor artist Wendy Whitmore, best known for her florals, is preparing for her sixth annual solo exhibit starting tomorrow at Springbank Visual Arts Centre.

This show promises to be different, Whitmore said. Unlike, previous exhibits displaying many floral pieces, this show consists of mostly landscapes, along with three introductory, full sheet paintings of native people in traditional costume.

"I'm a real environmentalist," she said. "I'm really into trees and there's a lot of different trees featured in my paintings. There's a real strong affinity with nature, not so much wildlife for me, but landscapes — trees, rocks, sky. Basically, I paint what moves me in a spiritual sense."

Many of the 70 original paintings in

the upcoming show depict scenes from British Columbia, including Long Beach Pacific Rim National Park and River's Inlet, a remote area only accessible by boat or plane. Using a panoramic style, Whitmore tried to capture the mood of the scene in front of her in her works.

Each painting is different

"Each painting is inspired by something different," Whitmore said. "There's a story behind each one."

A graphic designer and illustrator, Whitmore turned her talents to watercolor full time about eight years ago, studying under well-known watercolorist Zoltan Szabo.

The exhibit runs Nov. 5-6 from noon-6 p.m. and Nov. 7 from noon-5 p.m.

The following weekend, Nov. 13-14 at Springbank, The Group Of Eight will present their 18th annual show and sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

There will be everything from pottery, gingerbread houses, flower arrangements, duck door stops, Christmas decorations and sweaters to baked goods, jewellery, silk scarves, folk art and decorative painting pieces.

"This is the only show and sale in the year," said The Group Of Eight advertising co-ordinator Fran Sutcliffe.

The event is a culmination of a year's work for members and everything is juried before entering the show. For the first time, the sale will be held for two days.

"There's antipasto to kill for — I've ordered 10 jars," Sutcliffe said with a laugh. "And beautiful sweaters."

One group member will set up her spinning wheel to demonstrate how she spins her own wool to create her sweaters. There will also be a tea room with sandwiches and home-baked goodies for hungry shoppers.

Springbank is located at 3057 Mississauga Rd. N.

WHITMORE, Wendy
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