



1515 Blanshard Art Gallery, Artist Profile

As part of a continuing series, we feature an interview with an artist whose works are part of the art galleries at the Ministry of Health.



Estuary Walk

Linda Rose Stagg

As an editor with the B.C. government for 15 years, Linda Stagg works with writers every day to make sure that information about government services is shared with people throughout B.C. While her editor’s mouse has refined thousands of words, she uses brushes and acrylics to express herself on canvas. Dental floss, bottle caps and peanut shells have provided special effects.

Linda’s Approach to Art

Linda is often inspired by photos taken by [Rob de Lange](#), a Vancouver Island photographer, and one can see the influences of Island life in her creations – birds, wildlife, water and marine scenes. She tries to spend some time every day at the easel. Even if she’s not picking up a brush, she’s looking at a painting in progress to see what’s working and what’s not. As she paints, she sings along with old-time rock ‘n’ roll, or with one eye on the game during National Hockey League season.

Her colleagues called her “a Rembrandt with correction fluid” when she worked as an executive secretary (before word processors) at an advertising agency. Building on her earlier experience with a Magic Slate, Spirograph and psychedelic doodle-art, Linda and her husband, Randy, took a painting class with artist [Nicholas Pearce](#) eight years ago. She continued lessons with Pearce. Randy became an artist’s roadie.

When asked about what painting means to her, Linda offers a fresh perspective: “Entertainment – a picture needs to grab and keep my attention. Entertainment does not necessarily mean comedy; it can bear a sombre, pivotal message too, like the ‘Vissi d’arte’ aria in Giacomo Puccini’s opera Tosca.” (She does not sing along with opera.) Just as she paints from photographs that attract her eyes, she hopes to engage the viewers through her paintings.



The Curtsy



Sun Paints Castle

Linda’s Display at the Ministry

Twelve of Linda’s creations deck a hallway at the Ministry of Health. Over the years, she has donated paintings to fundraisers for refugee support, environmental organizations and others. Recently, she got her first commission. One can spot her aircraft paintings on greeting cards at the British Columbia Aviation Museum.

For people who are interested in painting but may feel intimidated to start, Linda shares her best tip: “Never try to paint picture-perfect. The viewer’s eye needs to do some work. If you try to make everything in a painting perfect, the viewer will see what’s imperfect and miss the best parts.”



Jack and Ginger

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We welcome your input and feedback. Contact us at: MOHNewsletter@gov.bc.ca