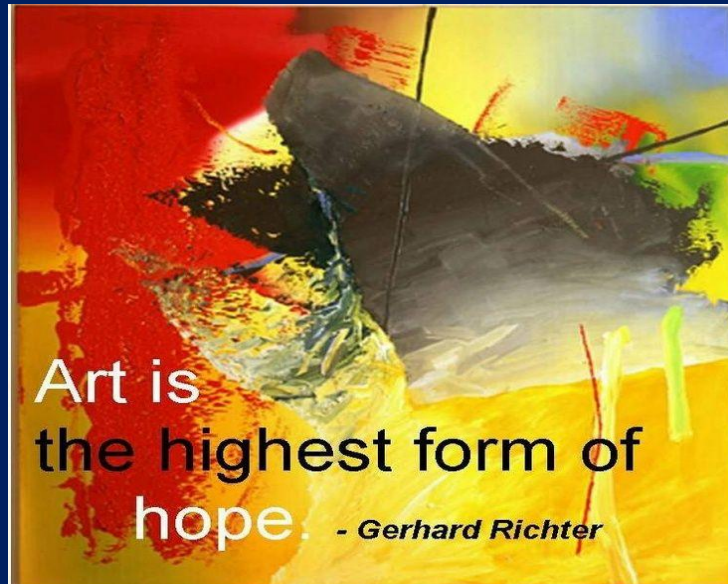


Karin Richter Fine Art

Newsletter

Spring 2018



What a beautiful way to start spring when it does arrive!

I have mentioned Gerhard Richter, my namesake, in a previous newsletter and I still have to find out if we are related, totally possible as my father's family comes from the same place in the former East Germany and a nice thought! He is the most famous and highest selling artist alive today. He has had an amazing career, doing everything from realistic art, photography, to incredible abstract art. I love his methods, loading a big wooden paddle with paint and dragging it across a huge canvas! So inspiring! You can check him out on YouTube!



With spring taking its sweet ol' time getting here, we could certainly use some hope and inspiration while waiting for its arrival. Trying out something new is always a good idea. We don't "play" enough. I am reminded of a quote by **Chuck Close**, the famous massive-scale photorealistic portrait painter:

"Inspiration is for amateurs, the rest of us just show up and get to work"

I have "made" myself work on new watercolours recently and slowly I am getting to a point where I like where I am going. To me, watercolours – notice the word "water" in it", is still the most fluid medium. A loaded big brush and an open mind can create wonderful things that please the artist within. There is a certain amount of uncertainty and I think that is what appeals to me. Can I pull it off? Will the "wet water" cooperate?



"Mountain Symphony", 11"x15"

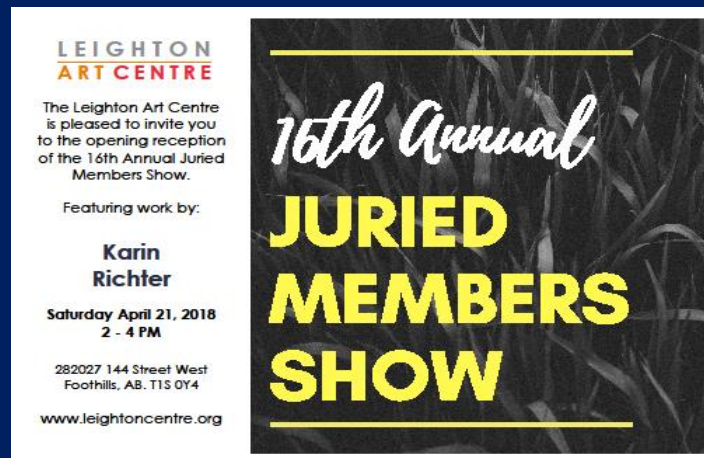


"Mountain Vista, 11"x15"

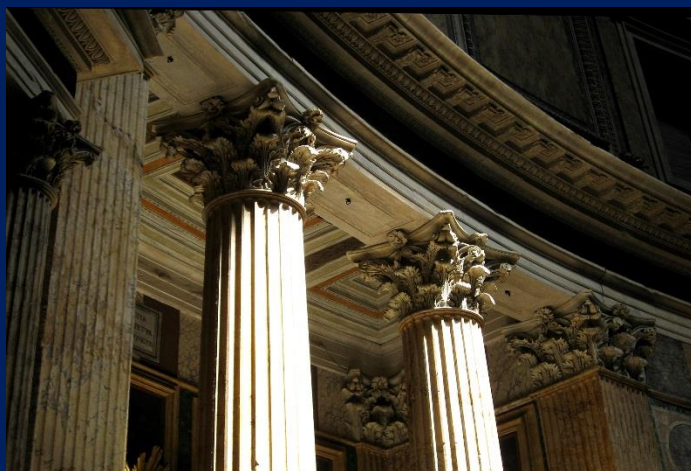
When I work on something new, I will "test" it and submit it to a show or competition somewhere. I am happy to report that "Mountain Vista" made it into the France Exchange Exhibition put on by the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, on display first in Toronto in the summer, then in Avignon, South of France, in the fall! Needless to say, I will be going to the opening there, a good reason to visit France, a place I used to live and work in my younger years. I am excited and look forward to seeing what kind of watercolours are being produced in that part of the world. I will no doubt report on my findings in my Fall newsletter.

Meanwhile, we have already seen spring art shows popping up all over town. I hope you have a chance to visit some of them. The

Leighton Art Centre near Calgary is having their Annual Juried Members' Show, certainly worth a drive to the country.



I was part of two photography shows, one being the “In Focus” Exhibition in Edmonton and the Alberta Society of Artists’ “Artists’ Lens” shown in several venues around our province.

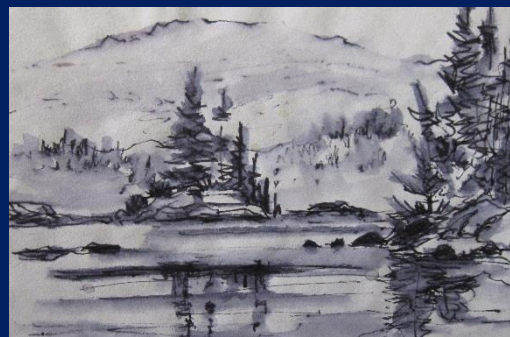


“Holy Light”, Digital Photography

My winter and spring sessions are wrapping up, just in time for the “outdoor season” which for painters means of course “plein air” work. I recommend aspiring artists head outdoors and start looking at the real thing. There is no substitute for sitting in a lovely spot and watch nature unfold. All a person needs is a small sketchbook, an ink marker (Sharpie) or a few water-soluble pencils along with a water brush, and sketch what a scene offers:

Study a tree trunk, see how the branches move, the clumps of foliage and so on. Photography is good for future reference but “observing” is necessary to really understand how an object is made or how a scene “feels”. It makes a world of difference in the development of an artist.

One can also start by simply doing pencil sketches with a soft (4-6B) pencil or – my favourite – a soluble marker that will bleed with the touch of a water brush (water reservoir in it):



Sketchbook, Water Brush,
Soluble Marker or Watercolour Pencils on at least 90 lb. paper so it can take a wash.

For the more serious painter, an initial sketch is always good, followed by a simple watercolour painting to capture the moment like I did in Portugal last year.



A Value Sketch to determine the path of darks, a simple design plan and a final quick painting by the side of the road: A lovely memory of a perfect day!

As I write this, a group of 10 people is getting ready to leave for a favourite spot of mine – La Foce in Tuscany, Italy. We will be doing a lot of what I just talked about and yes, trying to make you jealous! La Foce is a little piece of heaven in a land where simple rituals still count. Two weeks of visual and artistic explorations without the mundane restraints of everyday life and a lot of vino is what the doctor ordered! If this all sounds scrumptious, sorry, you just have to join me next time!



La Foce Gardens, 16"x20", Pastel

We may want for spring to get here as soon as possible but spring also means that hibernation is over and we have to come out of our dens! Garden work awaits which – if we allow it – again will keep us from being creative with our art. Let this be the year we realize the promises we made to ourselves – take an artist date, go to a gallery, attend an opening, cruise some country roads and follow our muse.

I have a very busy year ahead. I organize my life such a way that I can travel while I work.

Upon my return from Italy, I will be part of the instructional lineup at the Canadian Pastel Convention called “ICAN” in Aurora, ON May 28 -June 1 with demo and short workshop sessions (www.pastelartists.ca). Further into the summer, I am teaching several workshops in assorted media and subject matter at the St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario, the Canadian gateway to the beautiful Thousand Islands June 25 to July 6 of this year (stlawrencecollege.ca):



In early August, I embark on my Art-at-Sea holiday onboard the MS Swell (www.mapleleafadventures.com) going to Alaska. Even I must say: "This is the Life!" and I feel very lucky!

Plans are already underway for the year 2019 and it will be even better, starting with an artful adventure to **Morocco** April 2-15. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to experience a truly enchanting and safe country! As something different, I am then planning an artist retreat at the Bear Valley Highlands where I will facilitate a 3-day workshop (www.artworkshopsbc.com) June 13-16 in this peaceful and rejuvenating Okanagan setting.

Later in the year 2019, I may offer a trip to New York to experience the wonderful art there. "**A New York State of Mind**"! Let me know what you are interested in and I will make it happen!

And as a last note, I understand that National Geographic channel is starting a series on **Picasso** on April 24. A great way to get to know this "infamous" artist played by Antonio Banderas.

Enjoy the upcoming season, it always is wonderful to see nature renew itself!



Keep in touch!

All the best in life and in art!

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