

Karin Richter Fine Art

Newsletter

Seasons' Greetings 2018



Vermillion Lakes II, Pastel, 12"x16"

It is that time of year again when we remember and acknowledge how lucky we are to be enjoying the lives we have, the freedoms and peace we take for granted - all that and more in an area of the world which is blessed with so much beauty: big skies, vast prairie and the Rocky Mountains! I haven't made it there too many times this past year but every time I do, I am again awestruck by the beauty. As a frequent traveler, coming home from exotic locations, I immediately remind myself that we have one of the most incredible sights just a short drive away. While celebrating the holidays in the spirit of gratitude, take a drive out to the mountains and treat yourself to some wonderful sights, especially now with the crisp air and snow making beautiful patterns on mountain tops and valleys! One of my favourite walks/hikes (not too difficult) is the trail along Johnston Canyon on Hwy #1A on the way to Lake Louise. Boots with good grip or cleats are recommended as you explore this wonderland of rocks and ice:



Over the years, this canyon has provided me with many a subject matter:



"Frozen Majesty", Pastel, 30" x 20"



"The Canyon Beyond", Pastel, 12"x16"

Even a drive to Banff does a mind and body good: a walk along the Bow River, a look into some galleries and the best grilled cheese sandwich at the Wild Flour Bakery & Café a few doors down from Canada House Gallery:



No matter who we are, we need inspiration, something to stir our soul and being in the presence of nature often does the trick. The past year has not been easy for artists with the current economy making art sales more difficult. There is also a shift in the art industry and even though more people than ever are producing art, there are not necessarily more admirers of original art. We all have a role to play in making people realize that acquiring the real thing is like falling in love. The Huffington Post wrote about it a couple of years ago (you can google it). New science apparently demonstrates that viewing a beautiful work of art creates the same chemical response as love, both triggering feel-good dopamine!

Making art is known to boost our happiness levels and help us express our emotions. The business of “Sip & Paint” (Paint Nights) is flourishing, much to my surprise. I hear Bob Ross is resurfacing 30some years after his death in the form of men made up like him and teaching his methods. “Happy Little Trees” are popping up all over the place. Even though these events are more about fun than art, they do bring some students to my classes.



Bob Ross can be credited with bringing a a lot of people to painting with his gentle persona and easy methods.

Many a student ask me what to paint and I often refer to a dear lady, **Mary Pratt**, one of Canada's foremost painters who we lost this year at the age of 83. Mary Pratt was "stuck" at home with several children not allowing her to roam the countryside like some of us can, to look for subject matter. She painted what was in her life, in her surroundings and subsequently became famous for it. Anything and everything is paintable!





Classes start the week of January 14 with my usual offerings of studio and watercolour and acrylic instructional classes at either Parkdale Nifty Fifties, Strathcona Community Centre or Michaels Sunridge. My website has a listing of my weekly schedule as well as workshops.

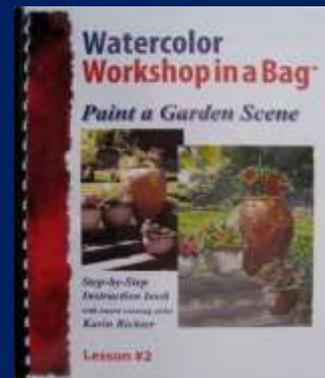
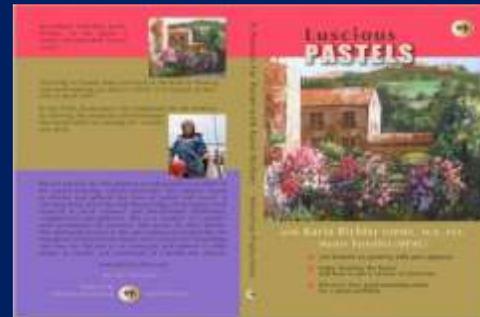
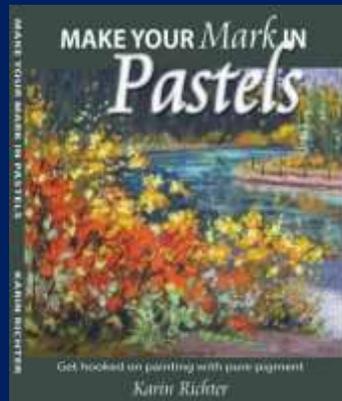
I hope that the holidays will give you a chance to practice some art, just playing around with materials can be satisfying and lead you to new discoveries.

For the watercolourist among you, there is still time to whip up a **handmade** card like the samples below. It is fun to do and always appreciated by the recipient.

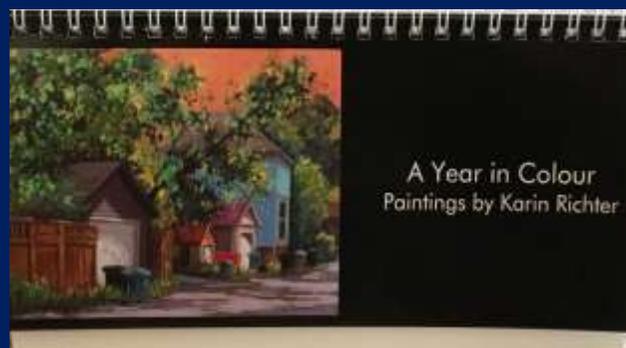


If you are looking to treat yourself or someone else to something artsy this Christmas, consider my book “Make Your Mark in Pastels” or my DVD. For

beginners in Watercolour, I have a complete set and subsequent lesson booklet.



At this point, there are also a bunch of desk calendars left. Let me know if you need any for your desk or someone else's.



I also offer a personalized critique service which you can order directly on my website.

My painting holiday to Morocco is full but other opportunities to enjoy and paint the world around us are available in 2019. If you would like to immerse yourself into some great Canadian scenery and practice your craft, all within driving distance and without having to carry a passport, then maybe you would like to join me in the Bear Valley Highlands near Lumby, British Columbia.



The retreat is now posted on their site at www.artworkshopsbc.com so you can have a look. The dates are June 21 to 23, 2019 and it promises to be great fun! Contact me to register.

In the fall, I shall return to Le Vieux Couvent near Toulouse in France for another unforgettable art experience. There is a lot of interest, so let me know if Oct. 4-14, 2019 is a good travelling date for you! Again, you can see the details at www.levieuxcouvent.com but contact me for price and availability.



"The Old Convent", Pastel, 18"x14"



"The Village Below", Pastel, 16"x16"

2018 has been a great year and much of it is due to the wonderful people around me. Thank you for your support and friendship. It means the world to me. I look forward to next year's classes, travel, laughter and camaraderie! I love these words by Deepak Chopra. Why not adopt them as our mantra for 2019?

"I will step into the field of all possibilities and anticipate the excitement that can occur when I remain open to an infinity of choices. I will then experience all the fun, adventure, magic and mystery of life!"



Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy &
Healthy New Year

Keep in touch!
All the best in life and in art!

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