



DELAVAN ART GALLERY

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NOTED CANADIAN ENCAUSTIC PAINTER FEATURED IN SEPTEMBER SHOW AT DELAVAN ART GALLERY

Syracuse NY, August 21, 2009 – Reaching beyond U. S. borders, Delavan Art Gallery is pleased to celebrate the engaging talents of an encaustic painter who hails from Toronto, Ontario in neighboring Canada.

“Discoveries,” featuring encaustics by Tanya Kirouac, opens in the gallery’s Wild Card space with a public reception from 5:00 – 8:00 pm on Thursday, September 10.

Kirouac, whether talking about herself, her art, its detailed technique, its ancient roots, or proper care of the finished piece, she is at once charming, thorough and extremely interesting. Her experience and litany of solo and group exhibitions are equally impressive.

The artist describes the term encaustic, derived from the Greek word ‘enkaustikos’ meaning “to heat” or “to burn,” as a technique that uses wax in a process involving heat to apply the medium and secure it. Composed of beeswax or microcrystalline wax, damar resin and pigments, the term is often used to describe both the paint itself and the method for using it. Unlike other paints, encaustic is never wet or dry – it goes from a liquid to solid state and back again in seconds, allowing additional layers to be added immediately, without disrupting the composition. The artist explains further, “Once the surface has cooled, the paint has reached a permanent finish, but the painting can be revised and reworked with heat at any time – minutes or years later.” Here, Kirouac makes mention of the technique’s ancient use by Greco-Roman Egypt in the Fayum Portraits, housed today in many museums in excellent condition after some two thousand years.

Of her own choice in painting with this technique, Kirouac’s artist statement best says it all. She says: “I am an encaustic painter, deeply rooted in the visual language of landscapes and the natural world. Similar to the way nature builds up and washes away what it creates, I apply and remove layers of wax. Possibilities, which had yet to be discovered rise and make themselves apparent. This process allows me to develop complex images in relief.” Kirouac continues, “Encaustic has an inherent opacity. This quality creates transparency, which mirrors the fragility of our world. These transparencies give the completed works an almost dreamlike finish - a reminder of the possibility that the objects of my inspiration can be fleeting and might one day exist only in my memory.”

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Before making her home in Toronto, Tanya Kirouac had roots in Montreal, Quebec where she was educated in the Applied Arts as an illustrator and worked as an art director, graphic designer and arts educator for over 18 years. More than nine years ago, her passion for painting was reignited following studies at the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Toronto School of Art. A self-taught encaustic painter, Kirouac is currently showing and working at a variety of galleries and exhibitions throughout Canada and the U. S.

The Wild Card Show, “Discoveries” shares the September 10 opening with Delavan Art Gallery’s main exhibition titled, “Visions,” and featuring paintings by Phil Parsons, photography by Bill Storm and ink drawings by Barbara Stout.

Delavan Art Gallery is a 3,800 square foot showcase and sales venue for fine art created by area artists. Conveniently located in downtown Syracuse at 501 West Fayette St., just a block beyond Armory Square, the gallery is free and open to the public. Off-street parking is available and the gallery is handicapped accessible. Regular Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from noon – 6:00 pm, Saturdays from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, and at other times by appointment.

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