

LIVES WE LEAD, Tricia Savoie, Art Teacher, Spring 2015 Newsletter



Autumn Echoes



Shimmer and Shimmy



Tricia painting "en plein air"

Whether it be a burst of sunshine, or a glistening reflection in a pool of water, Tricia can lighten her students' moods and ignite their senses. Née Patricia Wilmot Heath, she was named after her mom, but she was called Treechie by the family. Friends knew her as Tricia. Younger brother John was born when Tricia was one, and Craig completed the sibling count when Tricia was three. The family had moved from her mom's family home in Outremont, Quebec to Notre Dame de Grace when Tricia was two.

From an early age Tricia loved colouring and drawing both at home and at school. Whereas her young friends proclaimed their favourite subject was "Recess", Tricia always proclaimed it was "Art".

After high school, Tricia attended Business College, but eventually decided that an artistic career was her true vocation. Her mom was her greatest supporter and very generously paid for all of her Art classes and materials. Quite possibly Tricia's artistic interests were partly inherited from her maternal grandfather who had been a serious amateur artist throughout his life.

Tricia married Guy Savoie in 1973 and when she and Guy were expecting their first son, Nicholas, in 1975, they bought a house in Pierrefonds. Guy worked in the Banking field, and while Tricia was expecting their second son, C. Ryan (1979), the family moved to Nassau, Bahamas. After the Nassau project was completed, they then moved to New Jersey. In 1986, they returned to Canada, this time to Beaconsfield, a western suburb of Montreal.

Finally, with their sons in school full time, Tricia could further pursue her interest in Art. She took drawing lessons and various workshops in oil. Tanya Axiuk, a well-known professional artist in Pointe Claire, became her teacher from 1996 to 1999. She also took watercolour lessons from Barbara Simmons, also a well-known artist and teacher in the Montreal area.

The family moved to Gloucester (now amalgamated with Ottawa) in 1998. At first Tricia travelled back to Montreal frequently, for lessons and advice. But Tanya eventually told her that she was certainly talented enough to be able to continue her career on her own.

Tanya Axiuk had always been very enthusiastic about painting outdoors and Tricia became equally passionate about what is called "en plein air" painting. However, more recently, as our winters have become more onerous, she spends less time painting outdoors in the colder months.

Tricia has participated in many competitions and group exhibitions in the Ottawa area and has exhibited her work in both solo and group juried shows. She has won many awards for her art, among them: Art East competitions; competitions sponsored by the Nepean Fine Art League; The Ottawa Art Association, where her most recent award was first place in the autumn 2014 Ottawa Art Associations Members' award night, followed by Best in Show at the George Street Ottawa School of Art December Fundraiser.

Tricia's section of the "Artists in Canada" website (www.artistsincanada.com/savoie) describes her work as "romantic contemporary impressionism". Her paintings hang in private and corporate collections in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia and across Canada.

On her website (www.twilmotsavoie.ca), Tricia reveals much of her personal philosophy. She sees painting as a universal language of the soul that communicates with the viewer without the need of speaking. She describes each of her paintings as a bridge. Every brush stroke is a ripple in the river of life, affording her the opportunity to transmit her energy and feelings to others and to share her visions of world harmony and peace.

Tricia began teaching Art herself in 2003, first at the Gloucester Senior Centre, then with Nepean Visual Art Centre, and then with the Ottawa School of Art. She helps her students reach their potential by offering various teaching techniques from artists she has known, as well as advice she has found to work for herself. Some of her tips include ordering frames from wholesale manufacturers and painting on cradled wood panels which do not need frames. She often gets inspired by the tranquility of working in her garden. When time and finances allow, she hopes to expand her artistic horizons by travelling in North America and Europe.

Tricia has been teaching her popular Monday morning Intermediate Oil and Acrylic classes at GSAC for over ten years. We are very happy that such a renowned artist has found time to teach us and hope that more of our members will join her class.