

PASTEL ARTISTS.CA

A COMMUNITY OF PASTEL ARTISTS

“Purely Pastel”

www.pastelartists.ca

May, June, July, 2013



Forest Evolution
by **Terry Torra**



Dairy Above Derry
by **Rosemary Simpson, PAC, MPAC**



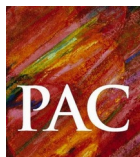
Akayla by **Sue Evans**



Stormy Weather by **Wendy Gordon Forsyth**



Longer Days by **Linda Lynn**



Pastel Artists.Ca

was founded in 1989. First known as Pastel Artists of Ontario, Canada, the name was changed in May of 2003 to Pastel Artists Canada. In August, 2007 it was incorporated under its present name, Pastel Artists.Ca., still expressed as Pastel Artists Canada.

Pastel Artists.Ca (PAC) is a mentoring organization and as such we encourage artists at any level to participate in our activities.

Learning and Fellowship Opportunities

If you are looking to improve your skills or knowledge of the pastel medium, PAC offers:

- workshops with well-known instructors
- local one- or two-day member paint-ins/outs

Public Appreciation

PAC sponsors two shows a year:

- Members' Show - open to members at any level
- Annual Juried Show - entries are selected by a judge

Recognition

PAC offers two levels of accomplishment:

- Signature status (PAC)
- Master status (MPAC)

Newsletter and Website

Our quarterly newsletter and our website offer:

Marketing Opportunities

- posting of your teaching workshops
- advertising solo shows
- noting acceptance into various exhibitions

Information Resources

- upcoming national and local events
- tips on painting and framing
- new products or marketing information

Past "*Purely Pastel*" newsletters can be viewed on our website: www.pastelartists.ca

Affiliations

- Pastel Society of Eastern Canada (PSEC)
- International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS)

Membership is based on the calendar year and renewal is due on January 1st. New members joining after September 1st will have the following calendar year included with the initial membership fee.

Annual Membership: \$50 CAD
Outside Canada: \$60 US

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From the President's Easel

Celebrating Maggie Price and a life of service

It was with great sadness and a sense of loss to all pastel artists that I received the news of Maggie Price's death on April 4th, 2013. Maggie had been struggling with a brain tumour, and died of pneumonia following chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Her death will leave a large hole in the leadership and activities of pastel societies across North America and beyond.

I never studied directly with Maggie, but I have used portions of her videos and numerous articles to provide clear and workable solutions to beginning students. She had a gift for making processes understandable and achievable, and I know many, many people benefited from her articulate teaching during workshops that she led all over the world. I did get to meet her at the *International Association of Pastel Societies* (IAPS) biannual conventions. It was abundantly clear that Maggie was a natural leader—energetic, organized, capable of managing multiple tasks at once while keeping calm and focused. Whatever the question or task, there was Maggie at the helm, guiding surely and capably.

Maggie was also the co-founder (with Janie Hutchinson) and long-time editor of *The Pastel Journal*, and though it has since passed into more corporate hands at F&W Media, all of us continue to benefit greatly from her vision and drive—I can't begin to express how much I owe to this wonderful source of inspiration and instruction. I would not be anywhere near the artist I am today without it.

Maggie's death has got me thinking deeply about legacies and service. Of course we each want to be the best artist we can be, and no doubt we all seek out every mode and method we can to support that growth. Being an artist is, in general, a solitary pursuit. However, it is worth spending a few moments reflecting on the artists and experiences that have shaped our development and being grateful for their provision.

If you find that you have been helped in your artistic development by the PAC, then perhaps it is worthwhile asking yourself what **you** can provide for others in our artistic

community. Perhaps you are not ready to teach workshops or deliver seminars, but could you volunteer to organize workshops, assist with shows, serve on the executive, write publications, create or distribute promotional materials? The PAC executive is an extraordinarily hard working small group, and more help is always, always gratefully received. Perhaps you'd like to consider contributing to our community in whatever way you can, to create a legacy of your own? If so, do contact any one of your executive and let us know your interests and abilities—we'd be very happy to have you on board to help out.

And take a few moments to look at the life and work of Maggie Price



(<http://maggiepriceart.com/information.html>).

We can all learn from and be inspired by her example.

This is a Special Issue of the PAC Newsletter

The theme is "**What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?**"

The first PAC Member to respond to this email was R. Duane Hendricks

"Claudette and I are in France at the moment, going to visit Monsieur Degas in a few days, and also the Girault and Sennelier and Henri Roché pastel houses. La vie est bonne!!"

Then we received responses from Jenny Angold and Sharon Steward with jpgs of their work attached. So it is thanks to these three members that an idea was born. We said "*Hey, this is something all our members should take part in.*"

Turn the page to see what can happen when we all pull together.

We will return to our usual format of colour solely on the front and back covers in the next newsletter.

"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"



Northern Lights 5 by **Jenny Angold**

I moved to Peterborough, Ontario, just before Christmas and have joined up with the Kawartha Artists Group here. I am enjoying a much better studio area in my new abode so have been working hard on a series of Northern Lights. Quite a difficult subject to try and get the movement! I am waiting for the warmer weather to be able to get outside with the group of outdoor painters from KAGS and as their exhibition in the fall is "Skies" - no prizes for guessing what I will be studying!



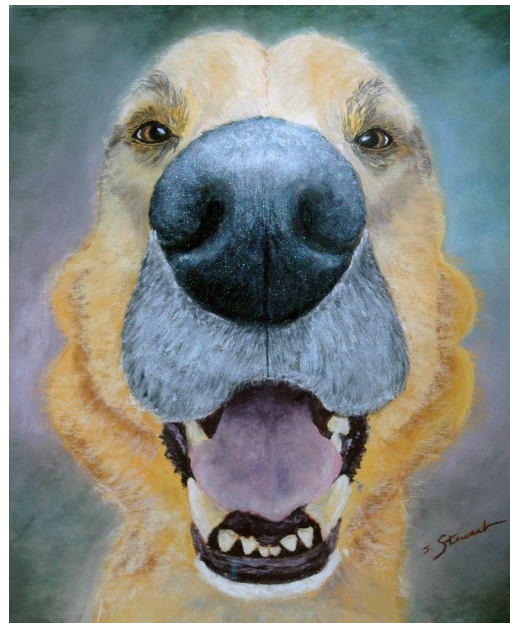
Summer Rush by **Vicki Brophrey**, PAC, MPAC

This year I entered the 17th Paint Ontario art competition held at Lambton Heritage Museum, Grand Bend, Ontario and was thrilled to receive 2nd prize for my pastel *Summer Rush*. This is a wonderful exhibition with over 150 paintings in various mediums depicting themes of Ontario. It is always well received and attended by the public.



Les Fleur by **Mauren Dorinda**, PAC, MPAC

What's news: My art will be at the Wychwood Barns, Gallery at the **Artscape**, Toronto, Ontario, in August in a show called **Trilogy**.



Unconditional Love by **Sharon Stewart**

I have attached a copy of my most recently finished pastel called "Unconditional Love". I tend to jump back and forth between oil and pastel. At present, I have an oil painting of running horses on one easel and a pastel sketch of a team of horses on my other easel. Lots of fun trying to keep everything straight. I love painting animals. Although I do the odd commission, I prefer painting without having to satisfy anyone other than myself.

"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"



Guayabitos by **Caro Perreault**

I was born in a small village in the Laurentians in Quebec, the forest was my playground. Very lonely as a child, I spent all my days exploring the nature. As far as I remember drawing has always been part of my life, in school visual art was of course my biggest interest.

I had the chance to take my first lesson in drawing and colour with M. Gilles Lanctôt, who was very passionate about colours, very disciplined and demanding, which gave me a solid foundation.

Then I discovered Gisèle Hébert, a pastel portrait painter. This artist has taught me the sensibility and the observation needed to be an artist, she also introduced me to pastels. And finally, a lesson in art history with Virginia M. Spicer, opened up a world of creativity.

I have been part of artist groups, organizing model workshops, exhibitions, plein air painting for more than 25 years and I have participated in several shows and events, artist exhibitions in several regions of Quebec.

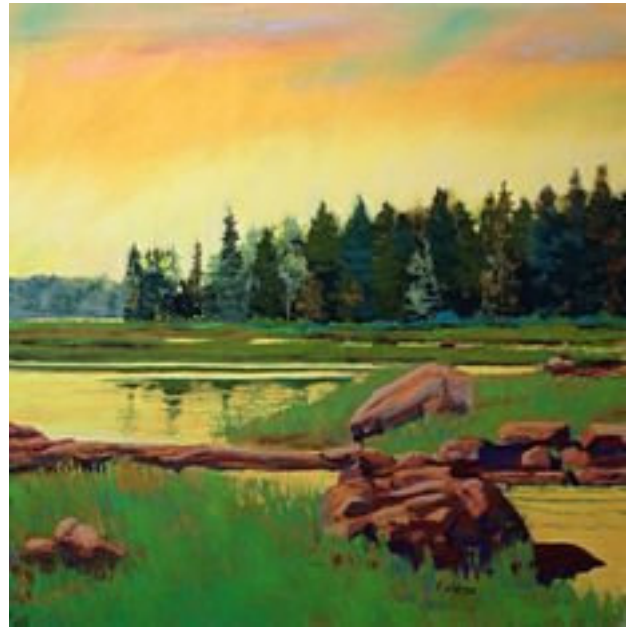


Delicious! by **Sandra Ingalls Misiak**

I have recently taken a pastel course through the Oakville Art Society and am planning on building up my 'body of work' over the next few months as I am applying to be a part of the Oakville Studio Tour taking place in October.

I recently entered the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod Annual Juried Show with the two paintings from Maine. I have not heard if they made it in yet. Liz Haywood Sullivan is the juror.

I also want to share an i-phone app called Artista oil a \$3 app that quickly converts a photo to a simulated oil painting. This helps distil the shapes and values, I find it helpful in finding a potential painting.



Evening Glow by **Fred Fielding**

Start With Onions (see next page) won an Honours Award in the 2013 Brush and Palette Show it is painted on a suede board, lovely to work on with pastels! The painting sold 5 minutes after the show opened!

I have lived in London since 2002 and have been fortunate to belong to 3 very busy art clubs here. I am very involved with each one and my work is starting to be recognized in the city. There aren't so many pastel artists in this area so I am trying to encourage the medium. I taught a session of classes for beginners in February and the 5 students I had loved it! One even put a painting into the last show! I have approached a gallery here called The Arts Project with the idea of teaching a beginning course on Painting with Pastels and I have been considered to run a course in the summer or fall.

In July I will have my second solo show in London at London One Place, a commercial building in the heart of London, which encourages local artists to exhibit their work in their front reception area. As many as 12 works can be exhibited. There is always a long waiting time for



"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"

this opportunity I've waited 2 years, and you have to be juried in to be accepted!

I am presently working on paintings for the summer show and I am always trying some new technique in pastels as they are so much fun to work in. I enjoy listening to classical music while I paint, it inspires me and guides my hand along, blending and moving the pastel creating a special mood in my painting

At the end of August I will be travelling to the South of France, Limoux, to paint with a small group of London Plein air artists, its beautiful area of France I can't wait!



Start with Onions by **Susan Moore**

Ann Oakley is having a solo show called *Images of Eden* at the Oakville Art Society, 560 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ontario. May 14 to June 11, 2013. The reception is on May 17 from 6 to 8 pm.



Glowing Birches by **Ann Oakley, PAC**



Red Flash by **Aili Kurtis, PAC, MPAC**

In the April 2013 edition of the *Pastel Journal* the above painting won Honourable Mention in the Abstract and Non-objective category. The competition is an annual event called *The Year's Best Pastels* and attracted 3,170 entries from 9 different countries.



Four Apples by **Gail Sibley, PSA**

This painting is from one of my demo videos. You can find it on my website (www.gailsibley.com) just click on the YouTube button at the top right of the page. I have just returned from a month in lovely La Manzanilla,

"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"

Mexico where I pastelled small still lifes (daily paintings) and also did some exploratory work that I am thrilled with! You can see some of the work via my blog at <http://www.gailsibley.com/blog> (If you like what you see when you get there, please subscribe so you don't miss a blog.) While in La Manzanilla, I *finally* started a Facebook Business Page. Naturally, I am looking for Likes!! Search for me at Gail Sibley Artist or try this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gail-Sibley-Artist/449320178478508?ref=ts&fref=ts> I hope you will Click Like and also tell me what you'd like to see on the page.



Blossom View by **Glenda Yates Krusberg, PAC**

What I was doing since January was winter scenes, about 7 of them, until one day, near the end of March, I said, "That is enough of "Fifty shades of White". The weather forecast for Ottawa is SNOW on Friday, the 12th of April. Perhaps I jumped the Spring gun when I painted *Blossom View* from photo references I took last Spring. One of my winter paintings was chosen for the Painting Challenge VI for PAC, titled *Highway 411*.

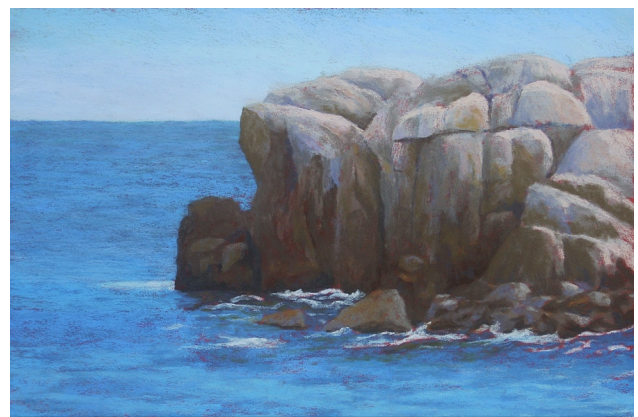
Coming up for me is Art in the Artists' Garden and Studio Tour, July 6 & 7, Ottawa. This will be my 3rd year to participate and in September I am again part of a group show, The Glebe Fine Arts Group. About 30 artists show their work and only a few of us show pastels. It is always fun talking to the public about this mysterious medium. Many think that pastels are not permanent.

See Glenda's painting *Highway 411* and Ann Kelly Walsh's comments on the paintings entered in Challenge VI and the **Painting Challenge VII**, which is challenging you to "portray the renewal, tenderness and purity of Spring!" on the PAC website www.pastelartists.ca.



Poppy Fancy by **Christine Camilleri, AFCA, PAC**

I organized a flower themed art show at our local framer and gallery this April and that challenged me to do some flower paintings -- something I never thought I would get into, never mind enjoy! It was a lot of fun and my challenge was to depict flowers in a different way than the norm. I love poppies especially and tried to capture their delicacy and colour.



Near Rose Blanche by **Gloria Burgoin, PAC, MPAC**

Last summer I took a road trip of over five weeks to our eastern provinces, the highlight being three weeks of painting, sketching, and hiking in Newfoundland. The



"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"

coastline is rugged and powerful, the villages picturesque. From Gross Morne to Twillingate to St. John's – painting potential everywhere! I came back with many paintings, photos, and memories. I was particularly drawn to the rocky headlands dropping off into the ocean, such as this one near the lighthouse at Rose Blanche.



Chester Race Week by **Rae Smith**

We spent the last week of February in Cuba and hired a taxi to take us to Havana and show us around, we had a great time, took over 300 pictures for future paintings from this trip. This painting was chosen to be the poster promoting Chester Race Week. It is the largest race week on the east coast, boats come up from the US to join in. It will give me lots of exposure and the painting will be auctioned off to raise money for the junior sailing program.



Lawrence and Thor by **Shirley deLang**

My subjects joined the VOCA Chorus where I also am a member. I admired Lawrence for his ability to sing with

no sight and have his guide dog at his side through practices and concerts.



Nibbles by **Shirley Black, PAC**

We have just returned from winter in Florida....a sleepy little town called Dunnellon which we return to each year when the snow flies. It is at the confluence of two rivers near Ocala, that beautiful horse country with acres of pastureland, granddaddy oaks dripping with Spanish moss and gorgeous horses....all very paintable. This pastel is of a favourite neighbourhood pet. We plan to spend the summer on the Rideau river on our boat, always a great opportunity to paint trees/ rocks and water!



Window to the Soul by **Gloria Kingsma**

I am a new member and have for the first time entered one of my pieces into the members show in Alton. I have to say I was very impressed with the beautiful facility in

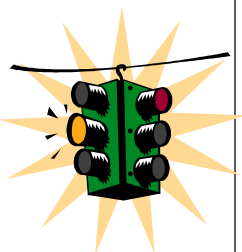
"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"

Alton and am so thankful that the PAC take such care in finding facilities of this quality to show case our work. This past Fall I did the painting shown on black pastel paper. Though I have painted for years in Watercolour and Acrylic, Pastel is a relatively new medium for me but I love everything about it, yes even how dirty I get.



Fall Coronet by **Christina Edwards**, PAC

In the fall I went to visit a friend in Huntsville and also took time to go out and paint from the tailgate of my Honda Element. 2012 was a phenomenal year for colour and I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to go! This winter I have been using those sketches to create something new on a larger scale. Here is one of them. In terms of what I am hoping to do...I am hoping to go somewhere near Blind River, Ontario (between Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie) to have a Group of Seven experience of spring! Can't wait!!



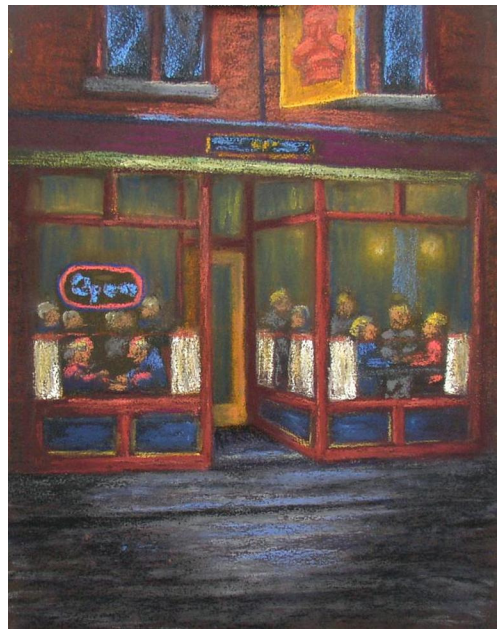
Next Newsletter

Deadline

July 15, 2013

Images on front and back covers are from the
PAC Members' Show 2013

Alton Mill Arts Centre, Alton, ON. April 2 to 28, 2013



Friday Night at Aggie's by **June Gauthier**, PAC, MPAC

When I painted Aggie's it was a swinging place, about 6 months later it went bankrupt. The new owners changed its name to Donabie's. A couple of years later I painted it as another rainy night scene in acrylics. You guessed it, it closed. It is now The Bicycle. **What am I doing now?** I am fighting the urge to paint a picture of their eye-catching blue and white sign and the old bicycle that leans against the window frame. I think I have done enough damage to Flesherton dining.



Winter Walk by **Cliff Riviere**



"What are you doing, what are you planning to do, what have you done?"

It seemed like a good idea at the time: *plein air painting of wintry scenes in and around my neighbourhood*. Ha! Freezing temperatures, grey days, very little sunlight, cold fingers trying desperately to hold onto pastel sticks, did not add up to successful 8 x 10's. Out came the digital camera! Several photos later and back indoors, I came to realize that though I had decent photos, something was missing. Then it struck me: no colour! Don't get me wrong, I enjoy wintry white scenes (especially indoors sitting next to my fire place), but I thought my compositions needed more "oomph". That's when I decided to use a limited palette of yellows, violet, blue, red/orange and white. That was how my **Add-colour-to-Winter Series** got started. This is the first of three 8 x 10's. Next winter (hopefully), with the appropriate winter gear (i.e WARM fingers), it will be back to plein air. We shall see.



Tobermory by **Janet Parker**, PAC, MPAC

I haven't been doing much pastel work lately (in fact it has been difficult for me to get motivated to do anything in any medium) but this is a commission piece I just finished. It is of the client's boat and cottage. I tried to persuade her to have it done in oil but she insisted on pastel. She has bought several of my paintings before, so best to keep her happy I'd say.




El Vestido Rojo by **Margaret Ferraro**, PAC, MPAC

El Vestido Rojo means "The Red Dress" in Spanish. I was inspired by a troop of Flamenco dancers I encountered, while leading a group of artists, painting in the south of France. We were actually at a large Open Air Market in the city of Cahors, in southwest France, when this troop of about 20 dancers took over part of the large open square. It was this woman, wearing a red dress with polka dots that really caught my eye. The ruffles were spectacular as was her gestural way of expressing herself through Flamenco dance. At this market we often see Whirling Dervishes, dancers, jugglers or musicians. It's a very lovely, colourful place, and the food isn't bad either! Just tons of things to paint, an overwhelming of the senses.

The Wow Factor

by Aili Kurtis

Red Flash, (see page 6) which won Honourable Mention in the April 2013 issue of the *Pastel Journal* magazine, is the same pastel that I had entered into our recent PAC Purely Pastel Competition. It just goes to show that jurors have personal tastes, and their choices may be quite different from each other. Liz Haywood-Sullivan (who judged our PAC competition and did not choose my painting as a winner) is now the juror for the Landscapes category in the *Pastel Journal*. Jennifer Gardner, however, is the judge in the Abstract category in the *Pastel Journal*...and she chose my painting as a winner.

This has happened to me before: I had an abstract painting in the PAC Purely Pastel Competition in 2005 - which did not win anything, but was sold at the show. Then I submitted it to the *Pastel Journal* and it won **third** prize! A real honour. See **Composition in warm and cool**, on back cover. 

In 2004 I had entered a pastel to the International Artist Annual Competition and didn't win anything, but they used my pastel *Killarney Dusk* (see back cover) in their book "100 Ways to paint Seascapes, Rivers, and Lakes".

There is a lesson to be learned here: jurors are human and art is, in the end, subjective. I encourage our membership to enter work into competitions and not get discouraged if you do not win. The jurors state (in the article "The Wow Factor" in the April issue of the *Pastel Journal*) that once an entry has met the criteria of strong design, textural qualities, and fine handling of values, movement and colour, the jurors turn to a more intangible measurement - the "wow" factor. The wow factor is a subjective response to a painting and varies from one individual juror to the other.

Art is my life and my passion and I delight in the excitement that I feel when I create something out of nothing. If I like the painting well enough, I submit it for competition - mainly to confirm in my own mind that the art that I create communicates something to somebody else. But the bottom line is that we are all winners if we enjoy the process of creation!

Another Spectacular Members' Show

by June Gauthier

I have been a member of PAC for 12 years and have participated or attended almost every Members' Show. I have watched the paintings get better and better. The venue and quality of work in this year's show made it, in my opinion, one of the best yet.

The beautiful stone building which houses The Alton Mill Arts Centre was built as a water-powered factory in 1881 by The Beaver Knitting Company. The Company was renowned across Canada for the production of fleece-lined long underwear. The Mill is now designated an Ontario Heritage building. Extensive renovations were made in recent years to save and convert it to an arts and heritage centre complete with artist studios, galleries, a museum, cafe and small shops. Well worth a visit.



The PAC show was hung in the Falls Gallery, a 770 sq. ft. space with a soaring cathedral ceiling ranging from 12 to 16 ft. High, that has windows overlooking the waterfall.

The gallery provided a lovely setting for the paintings (see front and back covers). The Opening reception on Sunday, April 7th was well attended. It was good to meet old friends and to put faces to names on my mailing list.

Edward of The Pastel Studio, whose philosophy is " We believe in a try before you buy." set up a display table with samples of the pastels and papers to be found in his store. (www.pastelstudio.ca)

I was lucky to receive a sample of the brand new Pastel Studio Lava Grit Surface which is a paper that Edward is making himself.

A bountiful refreshments table was provided and enjoyed by all.

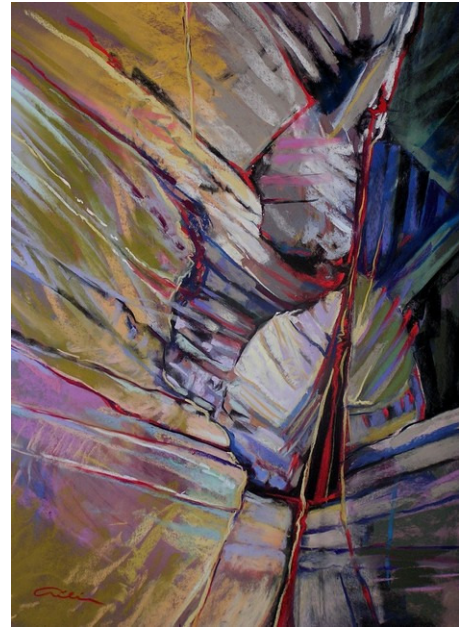
PAC President, Ruth Rodgers gave a short opening speech thanking Vice President and Exhibitions Chair, Jessie Grant, Exhibitions Coordinator, Heather Laws and Submissions Coordinator, Rosemary Simpson for all their work in presenting such a viewable Members' Show for 2013. Ruth also thanked Bill Grant, Jessie's husband, for all the work he was persuaded into, including bringing a gallon of coffee from Starbucks - a heavy load.

I noted that at least one painting was sold before I left the gallery, a lovely pastel by Maureen Dorinda. A true sign of appreciation for the quality of work on display.

Now it is time to look forward to the **PAC 22nd Annual Open Juried Exhibition 2013, "Purely Pastel"**. The **Call for Entry** is enclosed in this newsletter and is posted on the website www.pastalartists.ca.



Killarney Dusk by **Aili Kurtis**, PAC MPAC
See The Wow Factor on page 10



Composition in Warm & Cool by **Aili Kurtis**, PAC MPAC
See The Wow Factor on page 10



The Living Sanctuary by **Patia Schacht**



Lola Gathering Sticks by **Heather Laws**



Badlands Tapestry Summer Light
by **Tony Vander Voet**, PAC, MPAC



Hard Day by **Stanley Martin**



First Love by **Janice McDermott**