



Stittsville Artist **Patrick Mason** adjusts his oil painting "**Just before Sunrise**" which is on exhibit at the new exhibition "Reflection" at the owaa gallery at the Goulbourn Recreation Complex in Stittsville.

Reflection exhibition - John Curry News Staff

Dictionary definitions can vary from mirror image to a commentary. And similar variance of meaning can also be found in the new exhibition at the Ottawa West Arts Association (owaa) gallery at the Goulbourn Recreation Complex (GRC) in Stittsville, suitably entitled "Reflection." As Sue Perley-Robertson, a founding member of the **owaa gallery**, current chair of the owaa and one of the exhibition's organizers, points out, reflection can have several meanings in this new exhibition which will run through until Friday, Jan. 4, 2013.

It can mean reflecting on times past or reflecting on yourself or also an actual physical reflection. And there are some of all of these meanings and more in this new exhibition "Reflection."

An example of a physical reflection is found in the sculpture by **Susan Carey** entitled "**Your Choice.**" It depicts a person sitting on a giant chair, looking at a reflection in an actual mirror while also holding a mask.

But there are other examples of physical reflections in this exhibition.

Jan Inniss' oil "**Candle in the Window**" focuses on a four-pane window in a log building, with a candle glowing or reflecting out of one of the panes.

Denise Noonan's oil painting, appropriately named "**Reflections,**" is a blue and green masterpiece, with two central masses with orange dots sitting one above the other – a reflection but not a mirror image.

And this same name, "**Reflections,**" is used by artist **Aud Karin Sund** to describe her geometric oil painting with its myriad of colours – blue, green, orange, red and more.

We can imagine that **Kathy McClure's** large mixed media piece "**Light Magic**" follows in this style, with its predominant orange colour pulling in the eye of the viewer.

Vera van Baaren's acrylic called "**Fall Reflection**" shows four of the most brightly coloured trees that you will ever see (blue, red, yellow and green) filling much of the painting, with their reflections captured in a stream flowing past them in the foreground.

But reflections can also mean considering or thinking about something.

Donna Wiegand's oil "**Rainy Day**" captures a youngster staring out at a rainy outdoors. What he is thinking is left to the imagination.

You can feel the reflective thoughts of a youngster looking down off a foot bridge over a flowing stream (perhaps Poole Creek?) in **Alain Bernard's** oil painting "**Ruisseau d'Automne,**" with its vibrant, yet subtle colours.

Sheila Murphy's oil "**Memories of Maya Tradition**" shows a woman in a colourful embroidered garment, looking very much like the wise matriarch of a household.

Gerald Smith's oil painting of **Nicole Ritzer** is not one of his famous giant portraits but its subject still captivates the viewer from its dominant position in the painting. There is lots of detail including her most elaborate necklace.

And **Preston Zaborowski's** photograph on canvas entitled "**Innocence,**" done in black and white, shows a youngster looking out a window – no doubt reflecting on the outdoor situation, although we cannot see the face.

Reflections can also portray times past as well as reflections found right in nature.

"**Reflections of Summer Past**" is **Louise Barker's** oil painting of a cottage type house, perhaps a cottage from childhood, with flowers in the foreground.

John Edkins, a new artist in the owaa fold, portrays a seemingly familiar scene with his photograph of a pond in a forested area.

Another owaa newcomer **Agata Zaborowski**, wife of owaa member Preston Zaborowski, has perhaps the most intriguing work in this exhibit, an acrylic entitled "**Je Pense**" that uses bright, stark colours of blue, red and yellow, among others, while featuring a facial depiction in a work that is spotted with diamond shapes. It makes you think or, could we say, reflect, on the situation.

And **Joe Aragona's** photograph is not only big but striking. Entitled "**Flaming 1949 Ford,**" that's exactly what it is – a photo of a 1949 Ford with a yellow hood area emitting flames along the side of the vehicle leading to a darker rear area.

And, in keeping with the exhibition's theme, don't miss the reflection of another vehicle captured in the hubcap of the front wheel and also on the front chrome bumper.

Silvie Sabourin is another photographer and one who has sought her reflection in the landscape, with the photograph being an evening shot showing clouds, water and a rowboat.

This is similar in context to the oil of **Betty Sullivan** entitled "**Pink Lake**" depicting a scene of hills, forest and water.

And in this same vein is **Roseanne Facchin's** oil called "**Northern Solitude**" which depicts a wintery scene of snow covered trees, frozen water and a background of hills.

A watercolour by **Josie Braden** entitled "**Drama**" also reflects a landscape of water, sky and hills.

And if none of these strike your fancy, there are others on which you can attach your own reflection.

"Murky Waters," an acrylic by **Soraya Silvestri** or "zizi" is a mass of blue vertical strokes.

Patrick Bourke's photo "**The Eye of the World**" is a fascinating, yet perplexing view of a water faucet/tap with an eye-catching little glow at its tip.

Patrick Mason's oil on canvas board "**Just Before Sunrise**" is a mesmerizing work, not by its complexity but rather thanks to its simplicity – a fog shrouded sky, shoreline and lake filling two thirds of the painting, with the rest filled with the sparse branches of a tree awakening to meet the coming day.

This is one of a series of four paintings done by Mr. Mason, showing the same scene at different times in the day. This early morning scene began the series.

Mike Goguen produces most interesting and complex work and his oil on canvas entitled "**Change in Time**" fits this bill. It is an Arabic-style scene with an old man looking out over a sea of buildings and towers. And what's that in the sky?

Sheila Turner Whalen's acrylic "**Poppy Trio**" would make a great Christmas present for that gardener in your life. Three bright red poppies – what could be more colourful?

Ana Maria Rutenberg's watercolour "**Emerge**" is another floral, a striking purple in colour.

Terry Sametz's photo "**Two Brains Are Better Than One**" derives its appeal not from colour since it is a black and white photo but from the appeal of its images. And is that one image and a reflection of it or two separate images? You have to see it to decide.

And two of the larger pieces in the exhibit both bring their own uniqueness to the show.

Mark Grasz's oil "**Fall in Ottawa**" depicts four females in the foreground, with trees in the background partially hiding a view of Parliament Hill.

Stephen Harrison's photograph is on his now-trademark dye-infused aluminum which delivers a clarity and crispness to his work that is eye-riveting. This blue work "**Wishing Well**" shows what would be window panes which look through to an amazing array of patterns and designs. Just how artist Harrison achieved this effect is his secret. Indeed, the piece could be hung another way and still make sense and attract the eye.

This exhibition "Reflection" at the owaa gallery at the GRC on Shea Road in Stittsville is on view through to Friday, Jan. 4, 2012. The gallery is open whenever the GRC is open which is all day long seven days a week.

Make sure that when you visit, take time to fill out a ballot in the People's Choice voting that is held in conjunction with every exhibition at the owaa gallery. You may not want or be able to purchase one of the pieces of art on display but you can make an artist's day by voting for his or her work and entering it in the People's Choice voting.

A good time to visit the owaa gallery will be this coming Saturday, Nov. 3 when a fourth birthday party is being held there. There's going to be lots going on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. including free birthday cake.

