

The GCAA Presents:

## THE PAINTBRUSH BLOG

THIS MONTH AT THE GUELPH ARTISANS

by Gillian Joseph



A beautiful painting at the store by **Liz Hansen** spotlights a new creative style for the Guelph artist. Originally from Stratford, Liz and her late husband found their way to Guelph many years ago to join our creative community.



As a child, Liz was always drawing and painting, but she finally began to take her skills and talents seriously thanks to the encouragement and tutoring of her brother, a Guelph principal and talented oil painter. There are also others

with artistic talents in Liz's family. Her youngest daughter has a Fine Arts degree and teaches art at a school in Clinton, her son works with sculpture, her niece is a very talented artist and Liz's husband, once a painter, eventually became a photographer.

As she began to take her art more seriously, Liz first painted with oils, then switched to working with water colours for many years. Now, however, she mostly uses acrylics as her medium of choice. Although recently Liz's work has been influenced by the style of

abstract realism, most of her work is less abstract but still very detailed. It is that detail and finishing that gives Liz such pleasure in her work.

Her process may be familiar to some artists. Still-life composition is her favourite and she enjoys adding texture to a painting. The process usually starts with a photograph. As noted above, her husband was a photographer so Liz has lots of beautiful scenes to reflect upon. She begins by introducing coats of gesso to the canvas, followed by a wash of yellow ochre or another wash colour that complements the scene that she is about to paint. Then she draws a basic outline and begins to build up the colours, painting the background first. Liz has used acrylic mediums in the past but prefers to use water as her base.

Painting with other local artists has been a pleasure over the years. In the past, Liz painted with local artist [Nan Hogg](#) for some time and now paints with three other local artists who enjoy each other's company and creative support. You will see Liz's paintings at local exhibitions from time to time and her work displayed at the Guelph Artisans is very popular. Liz has been very pleased with her success and hopes it continues. A treat for her is when she hears from the people who buy her paintings and who follow her changing styles and techniques. To get in touch with Liz go to the Artist Directory on the GCAA main webpage and click on her [e-mail](#) address.