

Concerts, tributes, and holiday favourites highlight Fall Season



By Brock Weir

Filled with firsts, building on past successes, and responding to requests from the community, the fall season at the Aurora Cultural Centre offers something for everyone.

The finishing touches are being made on the new fall program which includes a new concert series, artistic collaborations, and returning favourites just in time for the holiday season.

According to Jane Taylor, Program Coordinator for the Aurora Cultural Centre, the season showcases both vibrancy and what people want to see from the Church Street landmark.

"We want people to feel this shared space reflects their interest, but beyond that, that it feeds their curiosity," she says.

One of the visual highlights of the season is already installed in the Red and Blue Gallery. Abstract paintings from Miiko are illuminated in the galleries by natural light tinted by the glass art of Greg Locke. The exhibition of glass art is a first for the Cultural Centre and a brainstorm of curator Clare Bolton that these two very different artists and their very different works would complement each other well.

Encaustic work is on display in the Great Hall Gallery featuring work from artists Michelle van Nie and Robin Burnett. They will be on hand to talk about their works this Thursday from 1 - 3 p.m., as well as on October 3 and October 10.

"It is four artists working at a very high professional level," she said. It is having glass for the first time, and it is rare and unusual to have the opportunity to see a glass artist. To showcase a glass artist from York Region is truly a bonus for us. Miiko's incredible abstracts, especially the scale of them up against Greg's glassworks have really come together in a way that is really like an experience."

Future shows in the galleries this fall include "Borderlines", bringing together oil paintings, poetry, and iron sculpture by artists Sheila Davis, Jean Kallmeyer, and Tracey Lee Green. This runs from October 18 through November 16 with an artists' reception on October 26 from 1 - 3 p.m.

After "Borderlines" is taken down, the galleries will be filled with the work of well-known Aurora artist Dorothy Clark McClure. "Bene Acta Vita (A Life Well-Lived)" is an exhibition and sale of the late artist's work running from November 20 - 30. Curated by her son, Andy McClure, the show will have particular poignancy for both McClure's family as well as the Cultural Centre.

“It is really going to be a landmark for us leading into the holiday season,” says Ms. Taylor. “We were very honoured to host Dorothy’s last exhibition while she was alive giving artist talks and tours through her works. What a wonderful thing for Andy and her family to be able to relive her memory by bringing the works here.”

Excitement is also mounting for a new concert series hosted by John Sheard who, with Wendell Ferguson, brought the house down last year with “A Sheard, Wendellful Delight.”

“John Sheard Presents: The Great Reunion” is a new three-concert series debuting on October 4 with Russell deCarle of Prairie Oyster, Wendell Ferguson on January 24, and Terra Hazelton on March 21.

“The concerts were a little bit kismet,” explains Ms. Taylor. “When we met we just had this great connection. [After his last show] we had been pestering him to come back. He was very amenable to curating his own series.”

The music program continues November 1 with a Patsy Cline Tribute, featuring Leisa Way bringing to life the vocals of the “Crazy” singer, backed by a four-piece band. Folk singer Reid Jamieson will take the stage November 28 at 8 p.m. in a new Indie Music Series.

For further information, including tickets, to any of these events, contact the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.