



Friday, May 30, 2003

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*Drawing
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Artist Suzanne So

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Suzanne Sandboe sketches near the creek behind her home just west of Sexsmith.

Photo: Diana Rinne

Drawing inspiration

**DIANA RINNE
FOR ENCORE!**

The ever-present Northern Alberta wind whips through the trees as Suzanne Sandboe cracks open her sketchbook and gazes at the creek which runs behind her home. "I often come here or go over to Buffalo Lakes to sketch when I need some inspiration," she smiles.

It was actually the Kawka and Kinuso Falls areas that the local artist drew her inspiration from for a new show of her work entitled *Wilderness Trail*. The show opened at the Front Gallery in Edmonton last weekend.

"This show is near and dear to my heart because of the area that the paintings are done from. We spent a lot of time there when I was growing up. I almost feel this show should be here at home for people to see," she says.

The 29 watercolour paintings in the show feature landscape scenes that many Peace County residents may be familiar with, but which may be new to those in Edmonton. "I really don't know what to expect from this show," admits Suzanne.

A well-known commodity in the Peace Country, the artist is hopeful her work will do well in the city.

"I've been getting some very positive response to my painting," she says. A member of the Alberta Society of Artists, Suzanne recently had two works accepted into a juried show with the organization in Calgary.

Also a member of the Peace Watercolour Society, Sandboe is recognized more for her watercolour

paintings but works with a number of different media, enjoying the various aspects of each.

"When I was in high school a lady gave me a set of oils and that's what I painted with for quite a few years," she says. "I was also interested in airbrush painting and a friend asked me to paint her van so that's how I got started in that."

Sandboe has done quite a bit of interior home decorating and murals with the airbrush in the past few years, but has also taken up pottery and done a number of sculpting commissions. She also paints the ice at the Sexsmith arena every winter.

"It's funny how it takes you in many different directions," she smiles. "I've ended up doing a lot of differ-

ent things, I think, because I have the ability to. It all starts with drawing and one thing leads to another and another."

Over the years, all of those creative projects have been done on a part-time basis, until recently.

"I quit working last August and am now doing my art full-time," she explains. While Sandboe has seen her art evolve over the years, but notes having the time to really work at it has made quite a difference.

"I've seen a huge growth in my work from when I first started selling pieces. When you look at any artist's work it will change over the years. There should be growth if you're working at it. Even in a short time of being able to paint full-time I feel more confident and can see the improvement," she says.

"I've always had a drive to create...I think I see things a little differently, which is probably true for most artists. I think artists see things through composition and shape - you don't just see the landscape, you see what's in it and how it's put together," she says.

Like many artists in the Peace Country, Suzanne's work is often focused on the landscape by which she is surrounded. "I paint what I enjoy and endeavour to share that with the viewer," she says.

"I do a lot of landscapes but," she admits with a sly grin, "In the deep, dark corners of my heart I really enjoy painting people."

It is landscape, however that is the focus of her latest series of works now showing at the Front Gallery in Edmonton. The show will be on exhibit through to June 5.



One of the works in Suzanne Sandboe's exhibit *Wilderness Trail*