

ART IN THE HEART: 1st WEEKEND A BLAST!

Bracebridge, ON - The kickoff weekend for Art in the Heart's 4th annual outdoor art market was a brilliant success in downtown Bracebridge, buzzing with visitors eager to see works by new and emerging artists. Shoppers were rewarded with the talents of Henrike Clement, Shelby Crook along with first time participants, Joey Brunner, Sonya Grabowski and Brian Verbonac, The whole weekend experience was electric.

"I received so much positive feedback," smiles first time Art in the Heart exhibitor Sonya Grabowski. She said, "I began sculpting and painting because of my attraction to graphic images, harsh lines, and the physical reaction we have to rusted surfaces. After a number of years working with metal, fiber glass and paint, I experienced a monumental personal shift in which I felt the need to transform my work from being harsh to feeling soft. I use fabric, lace, and doilies as a base inspiration to print and sculpture."



S. Grabowski in front of her lace inspired creations.

Sonya's work embraces colour and pattern; it is both beautiful and thought-provoking. Her enthusiasm about her work is evident when she starts to talk about it. "I've been repairing crochet & lace tablecloths and doilies for years now. I get such satisfaction from working with hand-made pieces whether new or antique because they are personal, a continuance of family, of grandmother and mother. To be able to work with these items is a privilege."

"We are very pleased with the diversity of talent that will be showing their artwork this year. We expect to see repeat visitors to Bracebridge as Art in the Heart continues through to August 7th," said Cheryl Kelley, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Bracebridge.

Displaying brilliant, intricate quill work on birch bark, Henrike Clement was excited to see so many people downtown over the weekend. "I spoke to so many people who wanted to know about my quill boxes – I love making them. I have used some traditional designs in my work but have also developed my own – images of owls, cats, fish. They present a challenge, but the end result is definitely worth it." In addition, Henrike also creates beautiful images made by hand-stitching tiny glass beads onto deer hide. They have a 3-dimensional look, vibrant with colour; either framed with wood or on antique-looking snowshoes.



Close up of intricate beading by H. Clement

About Art in the Heart: In 2008, Art in the Heart was launched as a two-weekend pilot with 15 artists. In 2009, 21 artists displayed their works over six weekends with the programming growing in 2010 to include 23 artists. Participants in the program receive business training as well as the opportunity to showcase and sell their work in the alleyways and public spaces along Manitoba Street in Bracebridge. In addition to offering an opportunity for new artists, another the goal of the partners, Town of Bracebridge, Muskoka Small Business Centre and Muskoka Arts and Crafts, is to create a new static attraction for Bracebridge where visitors are encouraged to come downtown to check out the changing artist line-up every weekend. More information on the program is available at www.artintheheartbracebridge.com



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Next weekend, July 16th and 17th, Art in the Heart continues with returning artists Joyce Butler, Sonya Grabowski and Joey Brunner with the addition of new exhibitors Sherry Beiers, Shannon Durnan, and Katie & Rebecca Morton. Visitors to the street will be inspired by creative works in photography, painting, print making, and pottery. It's definitely worth the trip to Bracebridge!

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