



The bees are buzzing...

Did you know that according to the laws of aerodynamics, the bumblebee cannot fly? Yet it doesn't know this fact and flies anyway. Creativity has the same magic. It's blooming lovely! Come smell the flowers..

The garden is a perennial theme blooming year round, on canvas and panel in colour for **Amanda Onchulenko, Studio #6**, painter and textile artist. Images of gardens in their natural or cultivated states, captured on travels near and far, make up a large reference library gathered over 20 years of creative practice. “My camera is my studio assistant when the activities of my athletic family necessitate storing my inspiration for future use,” Amanda tells us. But the inspiration doesn't stop there, “I love to touch the earth, to feel connected to something larger than myself, to be literally grounded in the moment and the action of curating, or taming, a seasonal show in the company of hummingbirds and yellow finch, chipmunks and butterflies in my own garden.”

Amanda tries to “describe with the action of a loaded and wet, floppy brush or flat square bristle, the cheeky personalities of the poppy, the shapes of a perennial community, the buoyancy of a cluster of daisies, the strength of spring bulbs, or the expansive nature of a prairie landscape.

We can't wait to stand in Amanda's studio and garden, **Studio #6**, and be transported to the moment, energy, and place she has captured.



Amanda Onchulenko, Studio #6



I am not a big talker so I use my art as the expression of who I am. See what I say.

Milli Flaig-Hooper

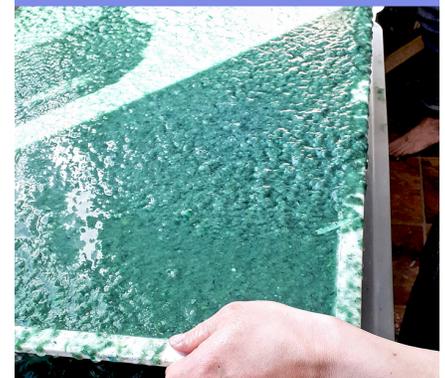
A forgotten children's paper-making kit, discovered in the back of the closet, became the basis of **Milli Flaig-Hooper's, Studio #19**, creative practice and full-time job. After graduating high school, Milli wasn't quite sure which direction to take. Both visible and invisible disabilities (Down syndrome and autism) seemed to narrow her options. So she created a new path all her own. Designing both large scale pieces and using all the paper scraps to make cards and tags means that none of her effort is ever wasted. The handmade paper is simple in its process from slurry to screen but it is labour intensive, taking up to 12 hours to ready sheets for drying. Milli's cat, Earl Grey, is a constant companion in the wet room, providing a purring soundtrack for the activity.

New work has Milli exploring more collage and layering in her finished work. As a lover of nature, much of her art reflects flora and fauna alongside the trees that shade them. Like the puzzles Milli works on to relax, she transfers those skills to find new ways to use the die cuts beyond their original intention. Her new "swirly flower garden" piece reflects the diverse use of her die cuts.

Come and marvel at how Milli pieces it all together, **Studio #19**.



Milli Flaig-Hooper, Studio #19



Always creating new, clever, themed collections, glass artist **Heather Dawson, Studio #7**, has turned her creative eye and hands to bringing the bright blooms of lilies to your garden. In lots of the world, this flower is a sign of early spring. But here on the prairies they come into their full glory at the height of summer.

Heather's fused glass lilies are kiln-formed, shaped to mimic the real thing. Mounted on a copper stake, this garden art can mingle with your foliage and flowers, or can be mounted directly onto a fence or even indoors as wall art. Either way, these impressive pieces will make your garden a beautiful focal point all year long.

Get your hands on one of these beauties, without risking the pollen stain, at **Heather's Studio #7**.



Heather Dawson, Studio #7

Marlene Van Helden, Studio #36A, loves stained glass because it lasts a lifetime. The play of light in the glass is a constant source of delight. She first started working with the material in her early 20s, making the novice's mistakes of cut fingers and hands. Many years exploring glass and constant research and practice have made her touch much more deft. .

As an intuitive artist, Marlene allows herself to be guided by nature. In her case that's a shout out from the lake that waves to her daily on her lakefront property alongside trees that shade her yard, and the deer crossing past her window. She has used that influence this year to play with creating whimsical fish together with water glass panels. Experienced in collage, Marlene uses a technique that adds a unique statement on her creative abilities, complimenting the glass work nicely.

Explore Marlene's expansive studio and work at **Studio #36A**.



Marlene Van Helden, Studio #36A





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