The 2018 UVRA Elder Academy Series: Becoming an Artist

Series Overview: Have you ever wondered how people become artists? Have you ever thought that you might like to paint, sculpt, collage or make fabric pictures when you retire? Have you retired but not yet made a move towards making art? Come and listen to four very different women who will recount and illustrate the paths they followed in the discovery of the various forms of creativity that have attracted them. One is a life-long artist, whereas the other three went to art school in the late 1990s at retirement from careers in government and teaching at UVic. Over the years they have developed their crafts and honed their skills as they built the courage to name themselves openly for what they are now in the world: they are artists. Join them in January and maybe test the possibilities for yourselves after you have heard what fun and adventures they have had over the course of their journey.

The UVRA is fortunate to have four women share their experiences in becoming artists, three of them after they retired from their chosen professions. Their experiences could no doubt apply to taking on any new challenge or passion, not just art, at any time in life. Come and be inspired by their stories as well as their artistic talent.

Dates: Saturdays, January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th from 10 AM to noon.

Location: All of the sessions will be in the MacLaurin Building D114 (MAC D114).

Cost: $20.00 for all four sessions or $6.00 per session.

Registration: Please see the last page (4) for registration and payment options and parking.

Session 1. 6th January, 2018. Jenny Waelti Walters: painter, printmaker and photographer

Did I give projects on creativity to my Women’s Studies students because I wanted to do them myself? Was I inspired by my students to go to workshops and classes? Whichever it was, the result was that I had fallen in love with painting just at the time when UVic offered an early retirement package to 55 year olds. I quit after 30 years of teaching to go to the Victoria College of Art. Thus began my second career as a full-time artist. In my presentation, I shall take you on my journey from the day an Italian photographer printed my photos on the wrong-shaped paper and turned me into a photographer too, through art school, to showing my prints in Tokyo and Madrid. There are many anecdotes, many adventures and many pieces of art I’d like to share. Then maybe you’ll be tempted to step into art too, it can be a blast.

Between 2000 and 2017, Jennifer Waelti Walters has been in 29 shows, either solo or with up to 3 other artists, and has been accepted into Sooke Fine Arts and Sidney Fine Arts shows 17 times. Her prints have been shown in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, Paris, Madrid, Sophia, Tokyo, and in travelling exhibitions in New Zealand, South Africa and the UK. She received her B.A. Hons (London; 1960-1968), and her L-es-L (Lille) and Ph.D. in French Literature (London), as well as completing the Diploma and Associate Program at Victoria College of Art (1998-2001).
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**Session 2. 13th January, 2018. Fran Baskerville: painter**

As a retiree, do you find that the world is suddenly full of new opportunities? How does one choose? Or, is this the time in your life that you can be a child again, experimenting and trying everything that appeals to you? Having just read Norman Doidge’s "the brain that changes itself", I am excited about the goal of keeping one's brain healthy. One way is to challenge yourself with a new activity that requires your full attention... such as learning a new language, or picking up a new sport... or making art!!

Art-making embraces all your life experiences. A pivotal moment for me in art school was learning that one's emotional responses to events or situations were important. They were not to be ignored but used as direction. While the figure has always been my focus (even as a youngster) I have explored a variety of techniques, styles and subjects, including public and political art. I am fascinated by human energy, whether it takes the form of physical movement, as in dance, or the form of emotional intensity. Today I will show you how this interest eventually led me to a new career after years of teaching and being a professional librarian and bureaucrat.

*Fran Baskerville is a graduate of English, Language and Literature from the University of Toronto and has a masters degree from the University of Western Ontario. Since graduation from art school in 1990, she has had numerous solo, group, and juried shows in the Pacific Northwest and in Toronto, and has created public art installations in Victoria and Gordon Head.*


This was not on my radar. Never in my wildest imagination had I thought of becoming a practising artist – note that I use the word practising as opposed to “professional” as I still don’t quite believe that I’m an artist. I use “practising” as this is how I view what I do – I practise and continue to hone my skills and improve and change what I do. One of the problems that I faced was the habit of comparing myself to others. I believed that I just didn’t have the talent that others around me seemed to exhibit. My expectation was that you should just be able to pick up a pencil and draw what you see and when I could not do that, I came to believe that I didn’t have any talent.

But the need to create remained throughout my adult life and was demonstrated by a variety of arts and crafts from candle making to stained glass and occasionally a drawing class. I was given the opportunity to leave my professional life with incentive when the government downsized the public service. With a vague set of three objectives I set out to meet one of them which included “arts and crafts”. I had annually been intrigued by a 6 week art immersion program offered at the Victoria College of Arts and finally in the late spring of 1997, I enrolled in the immersion program. Let's just say, the rest is history.
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Agnes Ananichuk has participated extensively in Victoria area juried and group art shows including Sooke, Sidney and Ground Zero printmakers’ shows. She has been in the Moss Street Paint-in for 11 years, done Artist in Residence at 3 hotels in the region and demonstrated her art making at various public venues. She has had the privilege of doing a three year collaboration with a Quebec printmaker resulting in 40 pieces and 5 shows in Rouyn-Noranda and Amos (Quebec), Victoria and Vancouver. She produced a solo show focused on what she felt was left of her cultural heritage entitled “Cultural Remnants”. She has recently joined the artist run Gage Gallery here in Victoria.

Agnes has her Bachelor of Religious Education (1969); a Bachelor of Arts (1971) in Anthropology; a Master’s program in Anthropology (1971-1973); a Certificate in Adult Education (1979); and completed a Diploma Program at Victoria College of Art (2000).


I’ve had the good fortune to be a working artist my entire life. Therefore it’s only natural for me to encourage anyone, at any age, to embark on their own artistic adventure. My love affair with art is a long one, which began when I ate my first crayon, and continues to this day.

So far my career as an illustrator, fibre artist and art educator has been exciting and varied. It includes painting theatre backdrops, making illustrations for publications, businesses and events, providing art for film backgrounds, and creating original art for shows and commissions. Teaching art, and helping people reach the artist living inside of them, is exceptionally rewarding, too. I take great pleasure in watching my students, many of them retired and investigating art for the first time, experiencing the sense of unlimited possibility that making art engenders. I am looking forward to sharing some of my stories! Currently I work from my studio in Victoria. My website, aprilcaverhill.wordpress.com, provides information about my classes, shows and events, and features an online portfolio.

April Caverhill is an honours graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design (University), majoring in Communication and Design, and Surface Design for Fabric. Her illustrations appear regularly in Canadian and US publications, and her paintings and fibre art have been exhibited in galleries across Canada, and in Iceland. Articles and interviews about her work have been featured on national radio and television, and published in many magazines including Asian Art News, Artichoke, Monday and Boulevard.
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REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

**TO REGISTER:** Please email the name(s) of the person(s) attending; the session(s) wanted; and method of payment to uvra@uvic.ca (If registering by phone or in person, please provide your email address.)

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

1. *Interac* e-Transfer sent by email to “uvra@uvic.ca”.


3. In person: Office hours, when a volunteer is available, are 1:30pm to 3:30 pm. If there is no one in the office to greet you, please leave your registration/payment in the tray on the right side of the office door. Note: If preferred, you may leave your registration/payment with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

**IMPORTANT:** If you have a UVic parking pass, you can NOT use the reserved spaces in front of R-Hut. If you do not have a pass, please register your vehicle’s license plate # and your space # with IALH on arrival. Please vacate those reserved spaces, after dropping-off your registration.

4. If paying at the door, please bring a cheque made out to UVIC Retirees Association. For accounting reasons, we can no longer accept cash at the venues.

**PARKING:** LOT “E”. On Saturdays, all day parking costs $3.00. Please note you will need to enter your licence plate number into the parking meter and do not have to return to your car.

**CAMPUS MAP:** [www.uvic.ca/home/about/campus-info/maps/pdf/parking-map.pdf](http://www.uvic.ca/home/about/campus-info/maps/pdf/parking-map.pdf)

**BUS ROUTES:** [www.uvic.ca/home/about/campus-info/maps/maps/](http://www.uvic.ca/home/about/campus-info/maps/maps/)