

Gayle Dempsey

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Artist's Statement

Gayle Dempsey, a fourth generation Muskokan, is an award-winning artist who feels a deep connection to the spirit of the land, the lakes, the naturally beauty and the peace that is Muskoka. Capturing the soul of place in acrylic and oil, Gayle's work connects with her roots. Loose underpaintings give way to structural details as her passion is revealed.

CV

PERSONAL/ BACKGROUND:

- Born in Bracebridge, Ontario Canada, 4th Generation Muskokan
- Mother, Grandmother
- Writer, poet, Life-long learner
- Owner/Operator, Muskoka Place Gallery
- Founder of Muskoka Chautauqua
- Arts advocate, community animator/focalizer

EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- 2012 – 2019 Various intensive workshops including: Blu Smith, Mark Hope, Brian Atyeo, Heidi Burkhardt, June Thomson
- 2010 – 2011 Print Making – Nipissing University – Janet Stahle Fraser
- 2009 – 2010 Canadian Art History – Nipissing University – Tim Rainey
- 2001 to 2010 - studying with Pat Fairhead, M.A., M.Ed., R.C.A., C.S.P.W.C., O.S.A.
- 2008 – Art History – Nipissing University – Cindy Long
- 2008 – Greg Hindle, Gord Miller Summer classes
- 2007/8 – Muskoka Futures Innovators Program
- 2007/8 Cultural Careers Council of Ontario Pilot Project Peer Learning Circle

- 2007/8 Advanced Painting – Nipissing University - Ed Novak
- 2006/7 Studies in Culture and the Arts – Nipissing University – Robert Hemming
- 2005/6 Drawing I and II – Nipissing University - Janet Stahle Fraser
- 2004/5 Women and Art History, Nipissing University – Professor Michelle Roycroft
- 1993/4 Painting with Dr. Paul Kelly, Professor of Fine Art, Nipissing University
- 1994/5 Matrix Studio course with Dr. Paul Kelly, Professor of Fine Art, Nipissing University
- Sir Sanford Fleming, Fine Arts
- 1993-present - A number of classes and workshops with Audrey Jolly, Ed Novak, Linda Blix, Joan Holben, Jon Oelrich, Nancy Gray Ogle, Nola McConnan
- 1971/72 University of Waterloo Fine Arts

AWARDS:

- Mystery of the Park Award – Second Place, ECOAA Annual, 2021
- Rose Baker Award - Best Water Media/Acrylic, Annual Members Juried Exhibition, 2021
- James O’Brien, 61st Annual Chautauqua Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Chautauqua Institution, NY, 2018
- Award of Excellence in Acrylic Painting, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show, 2016
- Recipient of the Muskoka Awards inaugural Arts Award for creativity, personal artistic achievements and support and leadership in Muskoka’s arts community, 2009
- Award of Excellence in Acrylic Painting, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show, 2008
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Award for Dedication and Advancement in Arts and Culture, 2004

MEMBERSHIPS:

- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto
- East Central Ontario Art Association (ECOAA)
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, March/April 2023
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Gallery Space – solo show 2022

- Gibson Centre, Alliston, Two-Woman Show with Jennifer Murphy 2019
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Gallery Space – solo show 2017
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Two-Woman Show with Marie St. Germain – 2017
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Two-Woman Show with Donna McLaren – 2016
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Fire & Ice, solo exhibition – 2011
- Muskoka Place Gallery, solo exhibition – 2006
- Catto Gallery, Muskoka Lakes Museum, Catto Gallery, Port Carling,

GROUP/JURIED EXHIBITIONS:

- Algonquin Visitors' Centre Gallery, ECOAA Annual Mystery of the Park Show, 2021
- Georgina Arts Centre & Gallery, ECOAA Annual Members' Juried Show, 2021
- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto – Juried Beginnings/Endings – 2021
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show - 2021
- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto–Juried Fall Members Show – 2019
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show – 2019
- 61st Chautauqua Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art, NY - 2018
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show – 2018
- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto – Juried Exhibition 2017
- Orillia Museum of Art and History, Juried Exhibition – 2017
- Muskoka Place Gallery – Two Women Show – 2017
- Muskoka Place Gallery Group - 2017
- Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show – 2016
- CEI Galleries & Kati Bujna Fine Art Studio - 2013
- Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, Juried Show – 2012
- Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, Juried Show – 2011
- Chancery Gallery, Bracebridge, group show – 2011
- Discovery Centre Gallery, Minett, group show - 2011
- Proof Studio Gallery, Toronto, Year of the Rabbit group print show – 2011
- Proof Studio Gallery, Toronto, Year of the Ox group print show– 2010
- Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, Juried Show – 2010
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Group Exhibition – 2010
- Discovery Centre Gallery, Minett, group show - 2011
- Proof Studio Gallery, Toronto, Year of the Ox group print show – 2009
- Arts and Letters Club, Toronto, Juried Summer Show – 2008
- Allison Potato Festival Art Exhibition - 2008
- Muskoka Place Gallery, 2 women show - 2008

- Muskoka Place Gallery, Spring Group Show – 2008, 2010, 2011
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Group Exhibition – 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
- Muskoka Place Gallery, 4 group exhibitions – 2007, 2008
- Muskoka Lakes Spring Art Tour – 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011
- Chapel Gallery, Bracebridge, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show – 1995-2011
- Chapel Gallery, Bracebridge, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Members Show 1995-2011
- Orillia Museum of Art and History – juried group show, 2007
- WKP Kennedy Art Gallery, North Bay – 2005 Juried Group Show
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Port Carling – 2005 Juried Group Show
- Catto Gallery, Muskoka Lakes Museum, Port Carling, three-artists' exhibition 2005
- Muskoka Tourism Information Centre, Gravenhurst – 2005
- Muskoka Place Gallery, Port Carling – 2004 Three Group Shows
- Silver Bridge Gallery, Port Carling – 2003

JURIED TOURS/EXHIBITIONS (BY PEERS):

- Arts and Letters Club, Toronto 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2017, 2019, 2021
- Muskoka Lakes Spring Arts Tour 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 2021
- Orillia Museum of Art and History – group show, 2007, 2016, 2017
- Big Art Thing summer arts tour 2005, 2006

PUBLISHED ARTICLES, STORIES, BOOKS, PAPERS, ARTWORK:

- Muskoka Magazine – May 2013
- Retreats Magazine – July 2008
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Ratepayers Association – 2005 Arrow – painting
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Ratepayers Association – 2004 Arrow – painting
- The White Dress and 8 paintings in My Story Listens to Your Story – An Anthology of Women's Images and Stories – Centre for Emerging Leadership – 2001
- Muskoka Lakes Association Yearbook – painting 2000
- Barriers to Democracy for Muskoka Magazine 1999
- Art and Healing for MAC Newsletter 1998
- CD Cover (back cover) – Muskoka Lakes Music Festival – Festival Favourites – Vol. 1

- Websites – Centre for Emerging Leadership, Muskoka Arts and Crafts, Muskoka Place Gallery, Muskoka Cultural Impresarios, Arts Council of Muskoka
- Hildegard of Bingen – an historical perspective in a contemporary context framed in the domains of leadership, art, and community unpublished paper with painting

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/INTERVIEWS:

- “Y”s Women in the Arts – 2012, Nipissing University, Bracebridge, Ontario
- National Post – July 2008
- Mobilizing Community around Arts and Culture – Direction Ontario Tourism conference, Ottawa
- St. Thomas Anglican Church, Bracebridge – guest speaker, Divine Dinner series
- Women’s Resource Centre, Bracebridge – guest speaker, Daphne’s Drop In – Hildegard of Bingen – an historical perspective in a contemporary context framed in the domains of leadership, art, and community
- Gravenhurst Manor Women’s Group – Hildegard of Bingen
- December 2004 – Brain Brew Radio – PRI Public Radio International – Re: Anthology
- August 2005 – Radio Body Talk – Health Network Radio – Arts and Healing heard on several radio stations across the United States with live web broadcast worldwide on <http://www.healthradionetwork.com>