

# Gayle Dempsey

Box 172, 1182 Foreman Road, Port Carling ON P0B 1J0 705-765-1048 [mci@artsinmuskoka.com](mailto:mci@artsinmuskoka.com)

## CV

---

### PERSONAL/ BACKGROUND:

- Born in Bracebridge, Ontario Canada, 4th Generation Muskoka
- Mother, Grandmother
- Painter, Writer, Poet, Life-long learner
- Self-Employed
- Owner/Operator, Muskoka Place Gallery
- Principal Partner, Muskoka Cultural Impresarios
- Founder, Director of Development and Arts Education Coordinator, Muskoka Chautauqua
- Arts advocate, community animator/focalizer
- Arts Education Champion
- Teacher/Coach/Mentor

### ARTIST

### EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Nipissing University – Studies in Culture and the Arts, 2004-2010
- Apprenticeship with Pat Fairhead, M.A., M.Ed., R.C.A., C.S.P.W.C., O.S.A., 2001-2010
- Self-directed intensive workshops: Blu Smith, Mark Hope, Brian Atyeo, Heidi Burkhardt, June Thomson, Janet Stahle Fraser, Greg Hindle, Gord Miller, Audrey Jolly, Linda Blix, Joan Holben, Jon Oelrich, Nancy Gray Ogle, Nola McConnan, 2012 – 2020
- Muskoka Futures Innovators Program, 2007-2008,
- Cultural Careers Council of Ontario Pilot Project Peer Learning Circle, 2007-2008
- Advanced Painting, Nipissing University – Ed Novak, 2007-2008
- Painting and Matrix Studio, Nipissing University, Paul Kelly, PhD, 1993-1995
- Sir Sanford Fleming, Fine Arts, 1994
- University of Waterloo Fine Arts, 1971-1972

## **SCHOLARSHIP/FUNDING**

- Ontario Arts Council, Exhibition Assistance, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2022
- Cultural Careers Council of Ontario Pilot Project Peer Learning Circle, Scholarship, Toronto, 2007-2008
- Centre for Emerging Leadership, Minnesota – Women in Leadership Program – Canadian Retreat, Scholarship, Muskoka, 2001

## **SELECTED AWARDS:**

- Best Use of Colour – Muskoka Arts and Crafts, 2024
- Mystery of the Park Award – Second Place, ECOAA Annual, Algonquin Park, 2021
- Rose Baker Award - Best Water Media/Acrylic, Annual Members
- Juried Exhibition, Georgian Art Centre and Gallery, Sutton, 2021
- James O'Brien Award, 61st Annual Chautauqua Exhibition of Contemporary Art, Chautauqua Institution, NY, 2018
- Award of Excellence in Acrylic Painting, Muskoka Arts and Crafts
- Spring Show, Bracebridge, 2016
- Muskoka Awards inaugural Arts Award for creativity, personal artistic achievements and support and leadership in Muskoka's arts community, Minett, 2009
- Award of Excellence in Acrylic Painting, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Spring Show, Bracebridge, 2008
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Award for Dedication and Advancement in Arts and Culture, Port Carling, 2004

## **SELECTED MEMBERSHIPS:**

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

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:**

- Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, The Wave Cometh, 2023
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Gallery Space, Port Carling, 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

#### **SELECTED GROUP/JURIED EXHIBITIONS:**

- Propeller Gallery, Toronto, 2023
- Gibson Centre, Alliston, 2023
- 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 – 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 exhibition, 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

#### **SELECTED PUBLISHED ARTICLES, STORIES, BOOKS, PAPERS, ARTWORK:**

- Digital Medicine in Muskoka, Arts and Ideas, South Muskoka Doppler, October 22, 2021
- Healing and the Wheel of Time, Arts and Ideas, South Muskoka Doppler, June 25, 2021
- Celebrating Our Indigenous Artists, Part I and Part II, Arts and Ideas, South Muskoka Doppler, July 9 and July 23, 2021
- Muskoka Magazine, May 2013
- Retreats Magazine, July 2008
- Hildegard of Bingen – an historical perspective in a contemporary context framed in the domains of leadership, art, and community unpublished paper with paintings, 2005
- 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
- Website articles/content – Centre for Emerging Leadership, Muskoka Arts and Crafts, Muskoka Place Gallery, Muskoka Cultural Impresarios, Arts Council of Muskoka, 2001–present
- Barriers to Democracy, Muskoka Magazine, 1999
- Art and Healing, Muskoka Arts and Crafts Newsletter, 1998

## **SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS/INTERVIEWS:**

- Kenneth G. Mills Foundation, Prism of Harmony Artists' Dialogue, 2023
- Following the Thread, Ignite, Gravenhurst Opera House, Gravenhurst, 2018
- Our Story, Repatriation, Critical Care Ontario conference, Orillia, 2016
- "Y"'s Women in the Arts – Nipissing University, Bracebridge, Ontario, 2012
- Mobilizing Community around Arts and Culture – Direction Ontario Tourism conference, Ottawa, 2008
- Guest Speaker, Divine Dinner series, St. Thomas Anglican Church, Bracebridge, 2007
- Women's Resource Centre, guest speaker, Daphne's Drop In – Hildegard of Bingen, Bracebridge, 2005
- Gravenhurst Manor Women's Group – Hildegard of Bingen, 2005
- Brain Brew Radio – PRI Public Radio International – Re: Anthology, 2004
- Radio Body Talk – Health Network Radio – Arts and Healing broadcast on radio stations across the United States with live web broadcast worldwide on <http://www.healthradionetwork.com>, 2005

## **COMMUNITY BUILDER/ARTS ADVOCATE**

### **FOUNDER**

- Founding Director of the Arts Council of Muskoka, 2006
- Founding Director of the Rotary Club of Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes, 2001
- Co-founder of Muskoka Chautauqua, 1998
- Founding Director of Muskoka Healthy Communities Coalition, 1995
- Founding Director of Community YWCA of Muskoka, 1994
- Founding Director of Muskoka Community Network, 1993

### **COMMUNITY AWARDS**

- Parry Sound Muskoka Community Network/Founders Circle Innovation Award "Small Communities Innovation", 2019
- YWCA Maggie Ringling Award for pioneering women's services in Muskoka, 2018

- Muskoka Awards – Inaugural award for the Arts for creativity, personal artistic achievements and support and leadership in Muskoka’s arts community, 2011
- Ontario Trillium Foundation – Great Grants Award – Arts and Culture, 2007
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Award for Dedication and Advancement in Arts and Culture, 2004
- Township of Muskoka Lakes Volunteer Award for outstanding dedication and commitment in building the New Port Carling Memorial Community Centre, 2001

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Director, Parry Sound Muskoka Community Network, 2010-2023
- President, Arts Council of Muskoka, 2007-2010
- Director, Bracebridge-Muskoka Lakes Rotary Club – International Service, 2002-2005 – built a school in Jamaica and a Learning Centre in an orphanage in the Bahamas
- Director, Arts Network for Children and Youth, 2003-2005
- Director, Muskoka Healthy Communities Coalition, 2002-2004
- President, Port Carling Memorial Community Centre rebuilding program 2000-2003
- Director, Gateway Homes Affordable Housing, 2000-2006
- Trustee, Trillium Lakeland District School Board, 1986-89

## **AGENT/CURATOR**

- Curator, Township of Muskoka Lakes Public Art Space, 2004-present
- Curator, Muskoka Place Gallery, 2004-present
- Agent for Pat Fairhead, M.A., M.Ed., R.C.A., C.S.P.W.C., O.S.A., 2003-2010
- Curator, Muskoka Lakes Museum Catto Gallery, 2004-2009

## **TEACHING/COACHING/MENTORSHIP**

- Placement Supervisor, Ontario College of Art and Design University, 2023–present
- Teacher/coach/mentor and workshop coordinator, Muskoka Place Gallery, 2001-2023
- Teacher, coordinator, co-op and internship supervisor, Muskoka Chautauqua Festival and Arts Education, 2001–present
- Private and corporate workshops, mentorship and coaching, 2001–present

## RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ArtsSmarts, Ontario partnership leader – developed and delivered Kaleidoscope Arts in Education programs in 23 schools bringing together artists, teachers and students to explore the formal education curriculum using an art form as a means of discovery and co-learning, Trillium Lakeland District School Board and Muskoka Community Futures Development Corporation, 2004–2014
- Music Expansion Program – lead research project for elementary school music programs with a view to bridging inequities and making recommendations regarding the development and implementation of broader, more accessible instrumental music programming programs, Trillium Lakelands District School Board and Muskoka Community Futures Development Corporation, 2005
- Economuseum – International Culture and Heritage project – lead Northern Ontario feasibility study, researched, inventoried and assessed viability of arts and crafts products and processes to create employment and promote cultural heritage, Futures Economic Development Corp., 2003
- Project Co-ordinator for a year-long Job Creation Strategy project with partners from post-secondary education, community economic development, a music festival and four resorts to re-shape Muskoka's image as four-season culture and heritage tourist destination, Ontario Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs, 1996