

ABOUT GWEN DAY



Born and raised in Alberta, Gwen has been deeply connected to both an outdoor and rural lifestyle since early childhood. She is largely self-taught, taking directions and instruction from some of Canada's most well-known landscape artists. Living and working at her country home in the foothills of Alberta.

Although her life has been full of many different professional endeavours, painting has remained her constant joy and passion.

Most recently, she has discovered a great joy for painting in *plein air*, combining her deep love for the outdoors and painting. This proves to be an incredibly rewarding creative challenge!

Gwen is versatile and experienced in many mediums. Her work is known for its strong value contrasts and vibrant colours created by natural light that guides her unique visual perspective. The result is an impressionistic and textural style.

Gwen's work has been juried into many professional level shows, local shows and she's hosted several solo shows. She is currently a juried in member of Federation of Canadian Artist and other local art societies. She is currently volunteering on the Federations local Calgary Chapter. Her work has been collected by both individual and corporate clients nationally and internationally. You can see more of her work on her website and social media. Her work is currently available in a couple of galleries in Alberta.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My paintings are my response to a deep and lifelong love of nature. I'm inspired to paint scenes that draw me in to a place of wonder. Capturing my strong connection to the Alberta prairies, forests and mountain landscapes. My paintings often draw the viewer in and down a pathway, to join a journey with me, to explore, to wonder, to look to a destination that's yet unknown.

I use dynamic composition, strong colours and creative textures in unison to create the sense of wonder I desire to infuse into my work. I begin with light layers of transparent oil paints and then build on that with more opaque and thickly applied paint with different tools, mostly my pallet knife. I work quickly and energetically especially while "plein air" painting on location, as the lighting is always changing and shifting. The complex nature of painting outdoors really excites me as an artist simply because of the extreme challenge inherent to this way of painting. The changing light, the uncontrollable elements of the weather, the uncertainty of the environment it's all very intoxicating.

My paintings are the products of many hours spent outdoors in wild and natural environments: hiking, kayaking, walking, observing, photographing, sketching and painting. Passionately capturing those magical moments on canvas, that grace my life, while transfixed by our creator's splendour seen everywhere in nature.

I feel so fortunate to have been exposed to some incredible experiences in the forests and on the lakes of northern Alberta as a child. What deeply moves me is the peace in the silence and stillness that can greet you in nature. Sounds of birds, or the rustle of the leaves, the unique smells in the different seasons awaken all the senses. Water is often a focal point in my work, the babbling creeks and streams always draw me to be in the moment, listen and be captivated by the continues yet peaceful movement.

While painting a rural landscape, the natural rhythm of agricultural life captures my creative energy. Distant tractors or combines at work, old barns, some no longer used but standing as sentinels of hard work of days gone by. The generational family farm has a beautiful story all its own, that inspires me to paint those scenes. The value of caring for the land and animals, the incredible respect I have for the rural lifestyle, parallels to my own story and runs deep in my heart of hearts!

My true desire is to convey that passion for nature, those moments of transition of time, of seasons, the peace in standing still and holding the scene before me in a place of wonder and respect. While I paint and abide in the moment, my goal is to then return to the studio and bring the wonder of that moment back with me transposing it onto larger canvases. Sharing the passion I have with the viewer is such a sweet delight, especially when someone relates to what I've expressed.



ARTIST CV

EDUCATION

- Self-taught artist
- 2022 to Current - Mastrius Professional Development Master Class Program
- 2018 to 2023 - Strada Easel 30 Day Paint from Life Challenge, once a year
- 1998 to Current – Several workshops annually, with Canadian and American artists
- 1990 to 2005 – Summer Series weeklong art workshops at Red Deer College
- 1985 to 2000 – Monthly workshops with the Carstairs Artist Guild
- 1985 to 1988 – Private and semi-private lessons with Joyce Mullen - Watercolour
- 1977 to 1980 – Salisbury Composite High School in Sherwood Park AB. Specialty program of Graphic Arts and Design for two years with teacher and Canadian artist, Albert Grundholm

JURIED EXHIBITIONS 2023

- Federation of Canadian Artists -Calgary Chapter - Spring Show
- Calgary Stampede Artists Studio – 5 Day Calgary Stampede Art Show and Sale
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Calgary Chapter – Fall Show
- Leighton Centre / Gallery- Members Show

JURIED EXHIBITIONS 2022

- Federation of Canadian Artists - Calgary Chapter - Spring Show–3rd Place award
- Federation of Canadian Artists International - Vancouver – 10 X 10 Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists International - Vancouver – Water Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists - Calgary Chapter - Fall Anniversary Show
- Leighton Centre / Gallery – Members Show
- Summer and Grace Gallery – Ontario - Coast to Coast Canada Show

JURIED EXHIBITIONS 2021

- Federation of Canadian Artists International - Vancouver – Abstract Paintings
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - Online “Water” Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - 80th Anniversary Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - NOW Show



- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - Nature Trust of BC Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - Scenes from Western Canada Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - Peace and Trust Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Vancouver - AIMAE Show
- Federation of Canadian Artists – Calgary Chapter -Fall Show
- Leighton Centre – Members Show
- Leighton Centre – Clothesline Show
- Leighton Centre – Christmas in the Country
- Square Foot – Abstract Online Show and Sale – August

SHOWS 2023

- Leighton Centre – Christmas in the Country
- Leighton Centre – Clothesline Show
- Leighton Centre – Plein Air Competition and Wet Paint Sale
- Rosebud Collective – Plein Air Weekend, Show and Sale
- Solo Show – Silver Willow Sporting Club – Carstairs, AB

SHOWS 2022

- Leighton Centre – Christmas in the Country
- Leighton Centre – Clothesline Show
- Leighton Centre – Plein Air Competition and Wet Paint Sale
- Rosebud Collective – Plein Air Weekend, Show and Sale
- Solo Show – Silver Willow Sporting Club – Carstairs, AB
- Two Person Show – Carstairs Heritage Center- “Close To Home” Show

SHOWS 2021

- Leighton Centre – Featured Artist – June
- Lineham House Gallery – Feature Artist – February
- Rosebud Art Festival – Street Market
- Rosebud Collective – Plein Air Weekend, Show and Sale
- Solo Show – Silver Willow Sporting Club – Carstairs, AB

SHOWS 2020

- Rosebud Plein Air Paint Out Art Show
- Lineham House Okotoks – Rosebud Plein Air show



- Book Launch – Paint the Barn Red Book
- Solo Art Show – Silver Willow Sporting Club
- Heritage Center Christmas Market – Show and Sale
- Leighton Centre – Plein Air Competition and Show

SHOWS 2019

- Lineham House Gallery – A Painter’s View of the Rosebud Valley
- Leighton Art Centre Christmas in the Country
- Sundre Art Society Spring Show and Sale – Sundre, AB
- Featured Artist in the Leighton Centre Gift Shop
- Wellspring Fall Show and Sale – Olds, AB
- Leighton Centre Christmas Unframed Artwork Show and Sale

AWARDS

- 2022 -Leighton Art Centre- Paint the Foothills – Plein Air Competition – Third Place
- 2022- Federation of Canadian Artist – Calgary Spring Show – Third Place
- 2022- The Albertan – Readers’ Choice Award – Best Local Artist / Silver
- 2021 -Leighton Art Centre- Paint the Foothills – Plein Air Competition – First Place
- 2021- Leighton Art Centre- Paint the Foothills – Plein Air Competition – Rose Baxter, People’s Choice Award
- 2021- The Albertan – Readers’ Choice Award – Best Local Artist / Bronze
- 2020 – The Albertan – Readers’ Choice Award – Silver – Best Local Artist – (Carstairs/Cremona)
- 2020 – The Albertan – Readers’ Choice Award – Bronze – Best Local Art Teacher –(Carstairs/Cremona)
- 2019 – Mountain View Gazette – Best Local Artist, Gold
- 2018 – Mountain View Gazette – Best Local Artist, Silver
- 2016 – Mountain View Gazette – Best Local Artist, Gold
- 2015 – Mountain View Gazette – Best Local Artist, Silver
- 2014 – Mountain View Gazette – Best Local Artist, Gold

AFFILIATIONS

- 2022 – Present - Volunteer position with the Federation of Canadian Artists Calgary Chapter – Workshop Coordinator
- 2020 - Juried into the Federation of Canadian Artists as an active member





- 2019 – Present – Federation of Canadian of Artists- National
- 2019 – Present – Member of the Calgary Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artist
- 2008 to 2022- Wellspring Visual Arts Network for Central Alberta Artist
- 1995 – Juried into the Canadian Federation of Artists – (Alberta)
- 1985 to Present – Member of the Carstairs Artists’ Guild

INSTRUCTION

- 2024- Oil and Cold Wax – 2 day workshop- Carstairs Artist Guild
- 2024 – Ladies Retreat – Creative Expression Class – Golden BC
- 2023- Mom’s of Pre-Schoolers paint night -Carstairs
- 2023- Olds Art Club – Oil and Cold Wax – 2 evening classes
- 2023- Momma and Me paint night in Three Hills
- 2023- Women’s Retreat Weekend – Watercolour Class -Sundre
- 2022 - Exploring the Foundations of Art – Children Classes (Weekly for 6 weeks)
- 2022 – Olds Artist Guild, Beginner Oil and Cold Wax – (2 Evenings)
- 2022- Women’s Retreat Weekend – Watercolour Class - Sundre
- 2021 - Exploring the Foundations of Art –Adult Classes (Weekly for 6 weeks)
- 2021 - Exploring the Foundations of Art – Children Classes (Weekly for 6 weeks)
- 2021- Created a Video series of 5 Art Lessons for Children in Orphanages in the Phillipians
- 2020 – Exploring the Foundations of Art – (Weekly Studio Art Class, 8 weeks)
- 2019 – Olds Artist Guild, Beginner Watercolour Class – (2 Evenings)
- 2019 – Study of the Elements of Art, All Mediums – (Weekly Studio Art Class, 8 Months)
- 2018 – Beginner Watercolour for Cremona Community Engagement – (3 Evenings)
- 2017 – Olds Horizon School for Special Needs Children Grades 1–12 – (3 Days – Volunteer)
- 1998 to 2004 – Basic Drawing and Watercolour – (Weekly Child and Adult Classes)
- 1996 – Watercolour Classes for Grade 4 and 7 – (At an Olds Area Private School – Volunteer)
- 1993 to 1994 – Drawing Classes After School – (Weekly at the Carstairs Public School)

MURALS / LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

- 2023 – Live Acrylic Painting -Fundraiser for Pregnancy Care Centre – Olds, AB
- 2023- Live Acrylic Painting – Worship Service – Easter Sunday
- 2020 – Live Watercolor Painting to a song -Church Service
- 2019- Live Watercolour Painting -Fundraiser for Pregnancy Care Centre – Olds, AB
- 2011 – Mural of a Large Dove -Outside wall of the Residence Building - Ministry in Haiti
- 2010 – Live Watercolor Painting -Fundraiser – Carstairs, AB
- 2009 – Live Watercolor Painting to a Song -Calgary Church Service
- 2007 to 2008 – Three Different Live Watercolor Full Sheet Painting to a Song - Church
- 2001 – Two Panels of Riders and Mountain Scenes for a Float -Calgary Stampede Parade
- 2000 – Mural of Garth Brooks and Elvis -Didsbury, AB
- 1994 – Three Panel Mural in a Church -Didsbury, AB

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

- Old's College – Commissioned painting of the Old Red Barn- Olds
- Pheasants Forever – Feature Artist 2020
- Carstairs Family Chiropractic Office
- Villa Maria – Italian Restaurant -Carstairs
- Alberta Treasury Branch – Carstairs Office
- Carstairs Museum
- Martinson and Harder Law Office - Didsbury
- Town of Carstairs Municipal Office

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 - Paint the Barn Red – History and Paintings of Barns in Mountain View County, AB (<https://gwendayart.ca/paint-the-barn-red>)
 - Featured artist and Project Chairperson
- 2017 - Write Art – A Collection of poems and paintings
 - Featured artist
- 2013 - The Alberta Rose Project (fundraiser for the Alberta Flood Victims)
 - Featured artist



GALLERY REPRESENTATION

- Leighton Art Centre – Gallery and Gift Shop – Millarville, AB
 - <https://leightoncentre.org/>