

"Bold Reflections" The premiere showing of portrait artist Cyndy Robinson

**Brockville Arts Centre, 235 King Street West, Brockville ON
JUNE 1-28, 2013: Mon-Fri: 10 am - 5 pm, Sat: 10 am - 3 pm
Opening Reception: Thursday, June 13th, 6-8 pm**

Throughout much of her life, Cyndy Robinson has been intrigued by the arts. In one way or another, she has explored many realms and possesses a great appreciation for them. Born and raised in Brockville, she is a graduate of the Graphic Design and Photography Diploma from St. Lawrence College, Cornwall campus. This is where she began her true exploration into fine arts. The first year of the intense course schedule primarily consisted of traditional fine art skill development in disciplines such as etching, painting and illustration. She continued to practice in traditional illustration with pencil and pen & ink as well as dabbling in amateur photography. In 2002, she formally transitioned to digital illustration and design after succeeding with her post-graduate studies in Interactive Multimedia with Algonquin College.

In the late fall of 2011, Cyndy's mother Bette Bolton was diagnosed with terminal cancer. For a short diversion, Cyndy rounded up all of the materials in her home and attempted her first foray into painting with what little time she had to spare. The canvas was one she had purchased for a rainy-day project. The paints were old and limited in colour selection due to their age and quality. After putting the template on the canvas, she mixed flour and white glue to form a compound that she used to outline the graphic and give texture and interest to the design. The first painting to emerge was based on a self portrait photo of her daughter. She was impressed with the finished product and promised to try it again when time would allow. Being her mother's main care-taker, it wasn't until 10 months later that fall, following Bette's passing that Cyndy picked up a paint brush again and was ready to tackle a new project. Death is a catalyst for change. Sometimes a reason for it. There was a void, and she filled it with family, professional work, and time to paint. Encouraged by a friend, she completed a small piece, then started the first of the larger format 36" x 42" paintings for her husband in early 2012. For his birthday, she presented him with the portrait of Steve Yzerman, his favourite hockey personality. It hung on the wall near the fireplace.

Since then, she has made a long term project out of painting pensive portraits of those who influenced her life and gave her inspiration as she grew up in Eastern Ontario. The moments she shared with her father Ron as the two connected through following the Montreal Expos and Gary Carter in the team's closest experience with success in 1980. Remembering moments such as Greg Joy's Olympic Silver Medal in High Jump at the 1976 Montreal games through her painting. More of the portraits that appear in the show are based on Greg Norman's successes that were made from the fruit of his character; Silken Laumann's triumphant Olympic Bronze Medal win after a serious leg injury; Gilles Villeneuve's talent as a Formula One race car driver; Vicki Keith's success with multiple long distance swimming feats, and Brockville's own Conlin McCabe as the youngest of the Silver Medal winning 2012 Men's Eight Rowing Team at London's Olympic Event. You can see the progress of each work on her Facebook page.

Cyndy thoroughly enjoys working with acrylics. It's her passion. She continues to practice professional graphic design and small business marketing at her home studio, and at the local YMCA where activity and sport are very important to the culture. Pieces that are for sale from this show will help benefit the 2013 YMCA Strong Kids Campaign, a charity that is close to her heart. She looks forward to the near future and has begun photographing children and adults in active lifestyles on commission as inspiration for her new acrylic works. Portraits speak of, and to people. It's capturing the essence of form in colour on canvas. Bold reflections, big as life.

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