

Arnprior EMC

Arnprior Artist completes art for new CBC series

Posted Sep 1, 2011 By Kathryn Glynn

EMC News - The art of Nathalie Van has caught the eye of television producers Bob Martin and Don McKellar for use in a new series to be aired in September, on CBC.

Nearly 30 pieces, all abstracts will adorn the set of Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays, a half-hour comedy about a therapist and his most challenging patient, David. And Van is thrilled.

"At first I didn't believe it," she said of a request she received through an email.

Van, who prefers to sell her work online, was contacted by email earlier this year to provide six canvases, mostly reds for the pilot. Six months later she learned CBC had picked up the series and they would need 22 more pieces.

"It was a short time line. They wanted some new abstracts and some based on ones I already had," she said.

While Van has been creating art since she was a child, it wasn't until 2002 that she started producing professionally.

"It was really driven from a desire to stay home with my three children Katie, 12, Jadon, 8 and Thomas, 4," she said.

Her 700 square foot studio is located on the lower level of her family home in Arnprior. She has two distinctive styles, both created with acrylics.

"Abstract appeals because it is freer and you don't have to stay in the lines," she noted.

Her other style is very detailed and contains delicate lines influenced she says by her native Switzerland and her Chinese husband John. Her signature style is the use of several canvasses to complete one piece of art.

"This began with me wanting to paint larger pieces and the post office requiring special post for the larger canvases. By using several canvasses I can increase the size of my paintings without increasing the packaging. So, something that began as practical has become my signature style," she said.

Van has no formal training in art but credits her grandmother in Switzerland with inspiring her. Van would sit beside her for the long hours it took as she produced traditional Bauernmalher (translated farmers painting), an intricate style found on furniture from the 1500's, in the old castles of Switzerland.

"Sometimes she would give me something small to paint on," Van explained.

Van is passing on her love of painting in much the same way to her daughter Katie.

"She is always sketching and started painting when she was four," Van said, holding up a delicate painting of flowers and a hummingbird, painted by the 12-year-old. Her talent is already evident.

"She will be famous one day," Van said.

They both have paintings on display at the Klaesi's bakery in Pembroke.

Van's art can be viewed and purchased online. Visit www.nathalievan.com to tour a gallery of her work.

She also accepts commissions.

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Kathryn Glynn, Arnprior EMC
AN EYE FOR ART: Artists Katie and mom Nathalie Van in their home studio. The pair often work side-by-side painting in acrylic. Here, Katie holds up a recent creation and on the table one of Nathalie's signature style multi-canvas works of art dries.

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