

Fine Art by Ralph Heather

145 Hillside Avenue, Paris, Ontario, Canada N3L 3L4

Web: www.ralphheather.com • Email: ralph@ralphheather.com • Tel: 519-771-4407

Ralph Heather is an award winning visual artist living in Paris, Ontario, focused on original printmaking using traditional and contemporary techniques such as hand-cut wood blocks and etchings. The prints are hand-drawn, hand-carved, hand-etched, and hand-printed in limited editions at his studio. He also works in other art media such watercolour painting and drawing in a variety of mediums.

In his work he observes and reflects on the local rural and urban surroundings of people and living landscapes. He searches for connections in our local communities that seeming go unnoticed and can so easily slip away. Then weaves visual cues and stories together using the best medium to express them.

Ralph has a varied background in art from a lifetime in and around the visual arts. He is a graduate of Graphic Design at Sheridan College (3 yr), and has studied part-time at OCADU, DVSA, Centre3, and Scottsdale School of Art. He is an accomplished Registered Graphic Designer (RGD) operating his design business Baseline Graphics Inc. for 25 years. At the Dundas Valley School of Art he leads workshops in printmaking. He continues to pursue knowledge and skills under the mentorship of master printmaker Robert Creighton, and Wesley Bates, master engraver. As a painter he is fortunate to have had instruction and guidance by nationally recognized artists; Annette Smith, William Biddle, Holly Snead, Gordon Perrier, and Chelo Sebastian. Ralph also participates locally advocating for arts and culture in his community.

Artist Statement

Ralph Heather's recent bodies of work "Rural Detours" and "Sanctuary" are a series of original woodcut/linocut prints and etchings that pay tribute to the rich history of our local rural landscapes. Cutting through wood with chisels, inking, and transferring to paper, the woodcut/linocut resonates with a lively energy in darks and lights and realism.

He finds much of his inspiration not far from where he lives. It can be moments away or discovered while exploring the countryside. Searching for the missing connections to our local heritage and rural environment, finding himself surrounded by the historic places of trees, fields, homesteads, and working farmlands. Shared experiences, times and places are documented and are reflected in each work he makes. The interesting stories and situations are transformed into a woodcut print before they are forgotten by time and the unrelenting progress of today.

The art evokes a sense of place and encourages the telling of stories held within. The viewer often will first recognize the aesthetic beauty of the subject, landscape and a sense of place. Soon stories will emerge revealing details and messages in the remnants of a time forgotten, on land now being rediscovered and developed. This is the beauty of the still present ancient landscapes that are now overgrown, coexisting with generations' old homesteads and working farmland.

"It is amazing to me that we are able to travel such short distances in minutes and find ourselves back to the rural lands that feed our body and soul. However, it is surprising to see how many people are no longer in touch with our roots and the relevance of these surroundings – our history and natural connections." Ralph Heather

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Shows & Awards:

SOLO

- Carnegie Gallery, Dundas: "Sanctuary", October 2017
- Lighthouse Gallery, Port Dover: "People & Places, Here & There", June 2017
- Cambridge Centre for the Arts: "2 Routes, 1 Destination" with Ralph Heather & Roger Young, August 2015
- Hamilton Artists Inc., Hamilton: "Living Landscapes" with Ralph Heather & Herb Fodor, October 2014
- James North Art Collective, Hamilton: "Earthbound" with Ralph Heather & Janus, June 2014
- The Station Gallery, Brantford: "Featured Artist" August 2014
- Blue Dog Cafe & Gallery, Brantford: "Featured Artist" November 2013, November 2014
- James North Art Collective, Hamilton: "Rural Detours" June 2013
- Old Town Hall Gallery, Waterford: "Rural Detours" April 2013

JURIED

- Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, Elements 83 Juried Exhibition 2021
- Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, Elements 60 Juried Exhibition 2018
- Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford: Arts Country Annual Juried Art Competition 2015
- Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, Elements 57 Juried Exhibition 2015
- Dundas Valley School of Art, Dundas: Juried Auction Main Event 2015
- University of Guelph Gallery, Ridgetown, Desmond Annual Juried Exhibition 2014
- Woodstock Art Gallery, Woodstock, Elements 56 Juried Exhibition 2014
- Wellington Artists Gallery, Fergus, Annual Juried Show 2013
- Button Factory Gallery, Waterloo: PRESS Annual Juried Printmaking Show 2013
- Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford: Arts Country Annual Juried Art Competition 2013
- Dundas Valley School of Art, Dundas: Annual Juried Show 2013
- Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Brantford: "War and Peace" Juried Show 2012

GROUP

- Carnegie Gallery, Dundas: "Tower Poetry Society" - 2021
- Carnegie Gallery, Dundas: "Recharge" - 2021
- BOHO Gallery, Paris: "Eye Candy" - 2021
- Westland Gallery, London: "Printmakers Group Show" - 2018
- Dundas Museum & Archives, Dundas: "Impressions, 500 Years of Printmaking" - 2016
- Centre3 / The Print Studio, Hamilton: "Wayfinding" - 2016
- Illumine Gallery, St. Thomas, 2016
- Blue Dog Cafe & Gallery, Station Gallery, Laurie University, Brantford: "Brant Studio Tour" 2011 - 2016
- Gallery M, Cambridge: "Form Human", 2015
- Hamilton Artists Inc., Hamilton: "Members Exhibition" 2011 - 2015
- Carnegie Gallery, Dundas: "On the Rock" 2014
- Proof Gallery, Distillery District, Toronto: "Chinese New Year" 2014, 2013, 2012
- James North Art Collective, Hamilton: "Members Exhibition" 2014, 2013
- Stir It Up Gallery, Brantford: 2011
- Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington: "National Lily Show" 2011

AWARDS & GRANTS

- Woodstock Art Gallery, Annual Juried Show 2016, "JUROR'S CHOICE"
- OAC Exhibition Grant, 2015
- University of Guelph Gallery, Ridgetown, Desmond Annual Juried Exhibition 2014 "BEST OF SHOW"
- Woodstock Art Gallery, Annual Juried Show 2014, "JUROR'S CHOICE"
- Wellington Artists Gallery, Annual Juried Show 2013, "THIRD PRIZE, All Media"
- Button Factory Gallery, PRESS Annual Juried Printmaking Show 2013 "THIRD PRIZE"
- Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, Art Country Annual Juried Art Competition 2013 "THIRD PRIZE"
- Dundas Valley School of Art, Dundas: Annual Juried Show 2013, "BEST OF SHOW"
- OAC Exhibition Grant, 2013

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Reviews and Articles:

- **“Lines and Form. Visual artists respond to words by Tower Poetry Society.”**
Regina Haggio, Arts & Life Reviews, Hamilton Spectator, May 2021
- **“First annual Lawren Harris Week in Brantford ended with the unveiling of a piece of public art created with an unprecedented amount of community support.”**
Mike Peeling, Brant News, GO Art Reviews,, October 2018
- **“On the Canvas: Printmakers’ works on exhibition at London Gallery. We are lucky to have so many experienced educators introducing young students to printmaking.”**
Joe Belanger, London Free Press, June 2018
- **“Ralph is a passionate printmaker and painter and loves that he can teach people about the arts.”**
Valerie Sawicki, BrantScene, November 2016
- **“Creating a dialogue through art. I really believe that art has a voice. Capturing the essence of feeling in a landscape enables Ralph to tell a story about what may have once been but is no longer there.”**
Colleen Toms, Brant News, July 2015
- **“Old Meets New, is a striking black and white woodcut that joins the past with the present.”**
Regina Haggio, GO Art Reviews, Hamilton Spectator, May 2014
- **“These works for me exhibited that union of form and content which makes certain works more impactful than others. Inviting contemplation of what has been, of the meaning of "home", the concepts of "shelter" and "security.”**
Arlene Laskey, Art Reviews, Brantford Expositor, April 2013
- **“Cutting through wood with chisels, inking, and transferring to paper, Heather’s work resonates with a lively energy in darks and lights and realism.”**
Kathryn Hogg, Curator, Old Town Hall Gallery, 2013
- **“Ralph’s art uses wonderful, subtle ironies, to reveal the stories within his woodcut prints.”**
Curator, Glenhyrst Art Gallery of Brant, 2012