



# In Touch

## Spring 2025 Newsletter

### Greeting from the Director

The warm weather is here!



My orioles and hummingbirds are back... robins, sparrows and wrens are fighting over nesting spots... and a huge list of work in the garden is calling my name. The urge to go and load up my car at local greenhouses with lovely bright colours for my beds is strong, but it's still early so I'll resist... for a week or two.

Good thing I had a productive month or so in the studio to create some new pieces for Made in Kawartha Lakes. This is the 7th year KAN has participated in the show and we are back at Settlers' Village in Bobcaygeon May 24th – 25th for another great weekend. Even if it's not perfect weather, it's a lovely place to explore and many vendors are in the buildings, so you have opportunities to hide out from a spring shower while looking at some great art and artisan work. There will be food vendors as well, including Kawartha Dairy and one of my favourite local bakers, Natalie from Mochi's Bakery.

KAN will also have a booth in the Buckhorn Arts Festival again in August... vendors are all under cover, so another perfect show to see regardless of weather. If you come to the shows, please stop in and say "hi" while you check out new work by KAN members. Note that some of our members are taking solo booths in both of these shows, so you have a chance to see a comprehensive display for each of these very talented artists.

Enjoy the sunshine... appreciate the rain... and please support your local artists and artisans when you can! We always like to chat with people about our work so never hesitate to ask questions when you visit our booths.



Lesley

### Members at work

KLAC KAWARTHA LAKES  
ARTS COUNCIL

*7th annual show + sale*

### MADE IN KAWARTHA LAKES



**MAY 24 + 25, 2025 • 10AM – 4PM**



**KAWARTHA SETTLERS' VILLAGE**  
85 DUNN STREET, BOBCAYGEON

Come out and see the KAN and individual member's booths at the 7th Annual *Made in Kawartha Lakes*

Kawartha Settlers Village  
85 Dunn Street  
Saturday, May 24, 2025 10:00 AM  
Sunday, May 25, 2025 4:00 PM

Explore incredible local vendors showcasing stunning artwork, delicious food, and enjoy fantastic live performances throughout the weekend!

For a map and more information please go to:  
<https://kawarthalakesartscouncil.com/events/mikl-2025>

# Art Medium Feature – Pencil Crayon

By: Markus Leydolt



**Graphite pencils** are by far the most versatile, inexpensive, and convenient drawing instruments in the world. An Italian couple invented the first wooden pencil in 1560, shortly after the British discovered the material graphite and what it could do. The modern pencil “lead” became patented in 1795 by inventor, scientist and officer in Napoleon’s army, Nicholas Jacque Conte, when he combined graphite with a clay binder. Nicholas discovered by combining graphite, which was hard for the French to obtain at the time, with the clay he could not only stretch graphite reserves and strengthen the naturally soft material, but he could also create different grades of pencil by changing the proportions of the two. Thus, creating endless variations of line and tonal quality.

Pencil grades range from 9H to 9B; “H” meaning Hardness and “B” meaning Blackness. The higher the number in H, the more clay binder is in the pencil and the harder and lighter it becomes. Conversely, the higher the number in B, the more graphite is in the pencil and the softer, darker, and shinier it becomes. Harder pencils are best suited for outline work, rough sketches, and preliminary work because they are easier to erase, but they can easily indent or scratch the drawing surface. Softer pencils are better for shading, sketchy/messy and expressive work with their broader tonal range and blending ability, but they are harder to erase, leave unwanted shine, and can show more of the surface texture.

Depending on how someone holds the pencil, they can hold it upright for fine detail work or on its side for broad strokes and shading, no matter the grade.

Shading in pencils is achievable through hatching, cross-hatching, stippling, or even making small circular motions. People will often grab the darkest pencil immediately to do shading, but it is best to work in layers, graduating from harder pencils to softer pencils level by level to reduce/eliminate the graphite shine. There is sometimes the urge to blend with fingers, but the oil from skin is degrading



Like their monochromatic cousins, coloured pencils are convenient, portable, clean, mostly inexpensive and use primarily the same techniques for application and blending. But unlike their cousins, coloured pencils provide an excitement and diversity matched only by paints, and techniques unique to them – like burnishing and impressing. By layering and mixing colours in solid applications, a greater sense of depth, interest and complexity is achievable. However, colour mixing with pencils is more difficult than paints because the tooth of the paper can only hold so much medium, so a wide selection of colours does help.

## Art Medium Feature

### Pencil Crayon - continued

Overall, it can sometimes be a very time-consuming process, but the effects achieved in coloured pencils can reach a level of sophistication like that of oil paintings.

Coloured pencils come in a selection of types: wax, pastel, hard, water-soluble, and chalk. Except for water-soluble, all the distinct types of pencil crayons are remarkably alike and thus share the same techniques. The “leads” comprise of particles of coloured pigment mixed with an inert white filler to create opacity, like kaolin or talc, a binding medium to hold the materials together and enable the shaping of coloured sticks, and waxes to give the pencil smooth handling properties. These ingredients combined in different proportions create various qualities, textures, and colour strengths. There is no real industry standard, so experimentation to see how each brand feels/handles and whether the colour quality is satisfactory is best.

## The KAG ‘Art Nook’

by Joan Forsythe

The Kawartha Art Gallery presents ‘The Art Nook’ – a new permanent space for local art groups. They now will have a rotating space, a section for the permanent collection, and a revolving space for smaller shows with the community...a dream fulfilled.

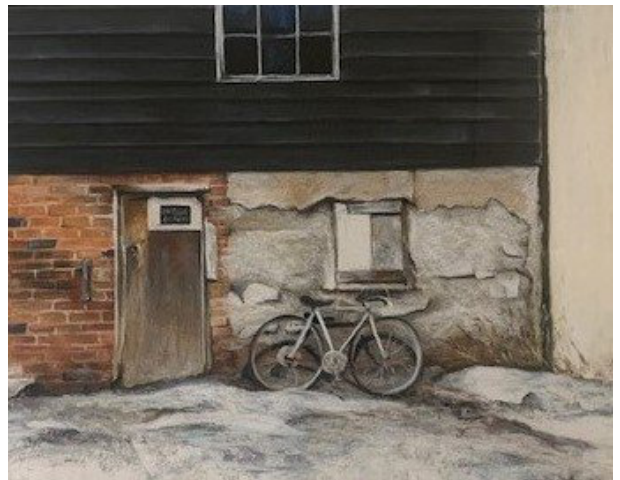
For its first show ‘The Circle of Writers’, and the Kawartha Lakes Art Gallery have teamed up with ‘Inspirations’: a show pairing a painting and a poem or a short piece of prose. The writers were to take inspiration from the art piece that they selected.

Two Kan members, Joan Forsythe, the Moderator of the group, and Laurie Johnson took part in ‘Inspirations’. Joan chose a nude life drawing, ‘Contemplation’ by Dianna Davis. Her poem ‘Muse’ was life-drawing from the viewpoint of the model, from fear to fame. Laurie chose our Lesley Drummond’s chalk pastel drawing ‘Private Parking’.

Her poem ‘Layer upon Layer’ described the layers of the old building and how it mirrors our lives.

The Gallery had an opening for us on May 3rd with lovely charcuterie from The Pie-Eyed Monk.

The ‘Art Nook’ is a great addition for the Library and hopefully it will be home to many shows with KAN in the new space.



‘Private Parking’  
Lesley Drummond’  
Chalk pastel

### Layer upon Layer

Soft glow through the window beckons the rider  
Surveying the once beloved building  
She gently rests the handlebars against the aging wall  
Peeling plaster reveals layers of mortar and memories

Deep breath  
Fixed smile almost reaches her eyes  
Trepidation and wonder seesaw for supremacy  
As she lifts her hand to knock  
The door opens abruptly

Light and warmth fill his wrinkles  
Her stiff shoulders soften in his embrace  
Hiccups of relief bubble forth  
Laughter erupts  
Joy surfaces  
Worry slithers away in submission

Laurie Johnson



# Updates on KAN Workshops

Your 2025 Programming Committee - Joy McCallister (Lead), Laurie Johnson, Pat Miller, Heather Atherton, Astrid Hood, Jessica Shepperdson and Shanthi Howe.

## Beginner Scratchboard



## Cold wax



## \$15 Credit for KAN Classes in 2025!

Members and Non-members who take three KAN classes in 2025 are eligible for a \$15 KAN credit. The \$15 credit can be applied to a student's 3rd class in 2025 provided the two preceding classes have been paid for, or it can also be applied towards a future KAN class, or it can be applied to a one-year KAN membership, the normal fee for which is \$45 per year.

Payment for the KAN class to which the \$15 credit is being applied must be paid by e-transfer or cheque.



# You can with KAN!

## Courses for Fall and Winter 2025



Children:  
Clay Sculpting  
September 6



Teen:  
Drawing Series  
Sep 6, 13, 27- Oct 4



Fusion Painting  
September 13



Children's:  
Drawing  
Sept 13



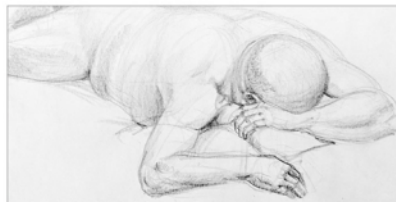
Adult:  
Cold Wax Encaustic  
September 20



Children:  
Acrylics  
September 27



Landscapes  
with Jane Hall  
October 4



Adult:  
Drawing  
October 18



Teen:  
Beginner Scratchboard  
October 18



Scratchboard  
Intermediate  
October 25



Glass Ornament  
November 15





# An Interview with Rob O'Hoski

By: Joan Forsythe



Self-Portrait Sketch - 2021

It is a pleasure to interview Rob O'Hoski for the Spring In Touch KAN newsletter.

Rob has been a very active member since 2019 when he and his partner, Angela, moved to Lindsay. He has worked - and still does - on the Curatorial committee, setting up shows for our booths and is also the Treasurer for KAN. He does an awesome job at that.

Rob was born in Hamilton and moved to Toronto in 1969 for his university days. He graduated from U of T in Philosophy. I asked him about his family and if he might have inherited his fine art skills. "Not a one was artistic." He was not encouraged by his family to pursue art as a career as it wasn't considered to lead to a good job. The first drawing he kept was from the age of 16, in 1966. He preserved this and then took up art seriously in his early twenties.

Rob's mother turned 100 this year on April 19th - a true milestone. He has a brother in Kawartha Lakes and a sister in Australia. Rob has two children and three grandchildren. Hopefully his talents will pass down to his kids. His partner, Angela, is the chief supporter of his art and his artistic Muse as he tries to capture her beauty in paint.

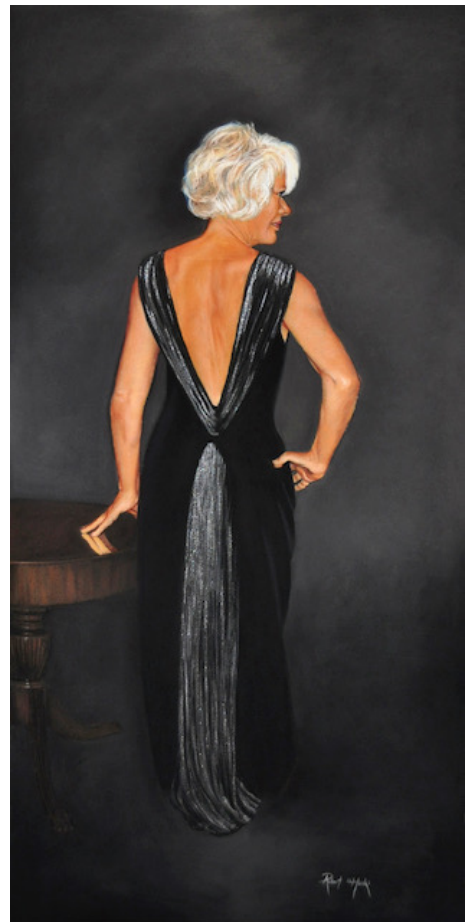
Rob enrolled in a painting course at the Three Schools in Toronto in 1983 and then apprenticed with teacher Michael John Angel, a protégé of the Italian master, Pietro Annigoni.

From Michael John Angel, he learned how to make and use egg tempera, oil painting and developed his passion for art.

Rob taught both egg tempera and anatomy for artists at Angel's National Portrait Academy in Toronto.

Rob's three distinct artistic periods are 1980-1997 painting, 1997-2010 photography, and 2014-present painting. In his first painting period, he worked in oils and gradually moved to soft pastel as he loved the beauty of pastel. He executed commissions, mainly portraits at this time.

During his photography period, he started in film and did studio photography of models, and created a 'Body Landscapes' series of work. He finally - kicking and screaming - moved to digital in 2004. He had enjoyed the hands-on darkroom work. Rob also shot slides that he used to accompany the numerous travel articles that he wrote and published in Canada, USA and Spain.



Arrangement in Grey & Black - 2023

## An Interview with Rob O'Hoski - Continued

Rob's 'Renaissance' in 2014 led him to work in several mediums, including watercolour, oil, pastel, monotype and mixed media. He has dealt with landscapes, portraits, nudes and non-representational works. The human face and landscape of the body were endless inspiration for his artistic exploration.

Rob's process is fairly classical, starting with small sketches, then full size, then transferring the outline to the support before painting finally begins. He is working on 'loosening up' and finds the non-representational work helps with that. He currently is working on a Greek mythology series, drawing directly on the support, playing with design, making and correcting mistakes and generally letting the design emerge. He hopes to eventually sell more paintings, but financial gain is not his motivation.



Self-Portrait With Mask - 2021

Rob has received numerous awards for photography and has 12 published travel articles. He has participated in many juried art shows, with 2 honourable mentions, and 3 solo shows. He was selected for the "It's a Wrap" Kawartha Lakes traffic box project as well as having his chosen image featured in the KL Municipal Calendar.



The Bank - 2025

In his spare time, Rob loves to read Fantasy and Physics while sipping on sherry and other wines, and to our surprise he is a 'Certified Sherry Wine Specialist' (CSWS) trained by the Lustau Bodega in Spain.

I asked him what he has done that no one would guess. Rob admitted to being an avid Scuba Diver and enjoyed dives in Nicaragua, Cozumel, Cayman Islands and Indonesia. His proudest accomplishment is his art, looking at some pieces in disbelief that he created them. He is still working to paint his Masterpiece. His standards are very high as so much of his work seems that he is already there.

KAN is so fortunate to have Rob O'Hoski with his admirable talent and hard work in our midst. Thank you, Rob, for all you do for KAN. You are an Inspiration for us all.



Fysiki -2024



# Plein Air 2025

*By Anders Widjedal*



Donna Lockey  
Irondale river, Minden. July 2024.  
Oil on board

The Plein air committee:  
Donna Lockey, Roberto Correia  
and Anders Widjedal.

We are looking forward to our second year of plein air outings and encourage you to be part of the rebellion that Impressionists started! We have come up with a variety of locations in the Kawartha Lakes, hoping that they will provide us with a variety of challenges and samples of the local landscape. There are six outings planned, weather permitting. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on location and the specific coordinates will be shared at a later date.

1. May 22nd - Fenelon Falls at the falls
2. June 26th - Bobcaygeon
3. July 11 - Janetville - Donna Lockey's perennial gardens - focus on floral motifs.
4. August 28 - Norland
5. September 18 - 21 - Silent Lake Provincial Park - come and join us for camping, or come for the day
6. September 25 or October - Woodville - Urban sketching

We are hoping that more artists will be joining us this year.

The outings are open to all mediums, approaches and skill levels, so even if you are not a "landscape artist" do come out and try it. I don't consider myself a landscape artist, but embrace the artistic challenge and chance to try something new. I look at it as going to the gym for an artist, as my skill will improve with diverse experiences. Was my first piece good? (The National Gallery didn't call me. :) )

Where to start? Please read Donna's article from last year that was printed in the spring newsletter.

Another benefit of plein air excursions is having an enjoyable time meeting and talking to the other KAN members. I learned a great deal from others by talking about approaches to the subject matter. It's a free workshop!

For the future, we are hoping to include potential media/subject workshops or focus on specific mediums for some of the outings. And who knows: a potential exhibit of our creations may happen in the near future!

I would highly recommend Wolf Kahn's lecture on "Six Good Reasons Not to Paint a Landscape."

The lecture is organized around the six reasons he puts forward, which are:

1. There's no ideology these days to back up landscape painting.
2. It's all been done.
3. It's far too polite - it ends up in hospital waiting rooms and corporate boardrooms.
4. You're mistaken by the public to be a lover of beauty.
5. You're mistaken to be an environmentalist.
6. There's no politics in landscape painting.

Do join us on one or more of these outings - send a note to KAN if you'd like more details about specific excursions!



# En Plein Air on Location

Republishing Donna Lockey's article from last year.

## Equipment and supplies suggested to pack:

Backpack, pochade box or easel  
Bamboo brush roll for art tools  
Your media ...small bag of paints..oils, acrylic, watercolour, inks or drawing supplies  
Solvents, brush washer, water container, rags or paper towels  
Cardboard viewfinder (rectangular or square)  
Bulldog clips or masking tape  
Garbage bag (take out garbage with you)  
Apron  
Sketch pencils, charcoal, erasers for your type of art  
Tripod, stool or collapsible lawn chair  
Wheeled cart (collapsible grocery cart, dolly)  
Personal Items  
Water bottle, coffee, snacks  
Bug spray  
Hat with a brim or peaked cap  
Sunscreen (rated Hell or Sun Surface to be safe, ;))  
Wet Wipes, Kleenex or toilet paper  
Umbrella...if using an umbrella, use a grey or light interior for reflection  
Sunglasses or light changing lenses will affect your colour perception

## Getting Started:

Prepare your canvases at home – toned or coloured.  
Make it easy for yourself and try to load your supplies into a backpack or roller cart. You may be walking a distance to find a suitable subject. You may want to scout out your subject before you haul your equipment with you.

To transport a wet canvas, you could choose a frame style carrier or use match stick or wood spacers with bungee cord for two panels. There are carriers you can buy such as Raymar painting carriers and canvas separating clips. Consider weight you can carry when transporting your supplies.

## Choosing a subject:

Scout out your spot

Look for something that interests you, inspires you, catches your eye.

Don't spend a long time looking for a subject but ask yourself what ingredients are needed for a good painting composition.

Be aware of : light that produces strong or interesting values, ie. dazzling light, reflections. Observe of the direction of light in the composition and it doesn't go directly into your eyes.

Think of your subjects as shapes. Simplify, block in your interested shapes and colours. Use your viewfinder to create the composition at your site.

Dramatic skies, beautiful clouds, sunsets, reflections, etc

Repeating patterns in nature, veins of leaves, petals on flowers, spirals, stripes, spots.

In urban scenes...rectangles, squares, repeating patterns again. Notice value changes and match those values against a test strip. Is it the right value you want?

Observe atmospheric changes and how light changes in the distance of mountains, hills or buildings against buildings as things recede farther away.

Ask your painting buddy, if you have one, to view your work and comment on pros and cons of your composition.

Have fun! It's okay if things aren't working that day.

Keep trying!



Anders Widjedal  
Silent lake. 2024  
Oil pastel on board

# Call for KAN Membership

New members are always welcome. Membership provides many benefits, as outlined below.

**Exhibits:** We participate in many local shows and galleries. We are all encouraged to help find opportunities for everyone to share their work throughout the Kawartha Lakes and beyond.

**Networking:** We meet monthly, in hope of creating an environment that fosters creative thinking, artistic networking and information sharing. We work to encourage the youth of our community to get involved in the arts. We look for opportunities to connect with other local artists, develop and showcase artistic abilities and to actively promote art in the Kawartha Lakes region.

**KAN Website:** You are entitled to an artist page on our website to promote your artwork. It typically includes a brief bio and one or more images to represent your work. You can also provide a one-page bio with an image for the KAN artist binder we put out at shows. Individual artists are showcased regularly on our Facebook page. We are currently running monthly art challenges and post the results on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Art Supplies:** Your membership card gets you a discount at a number of art suppliers such as Aboveground Art Supplies in Toronto and Curry's Art Store.

**Education:** KAN offers art classes and educational workshops to the general public and to artists looking to expand their skill set and meet other local artists. You are entitled to a \$15.00 discount on each class. We are always looking for artist instructors, so these classes and workshops also provide you with an opportunity to teach.

Membership in KAN costs \$45 per year, \$25 for students. Everyone shares the running of our co-operative by joining one or more of our committees.

To purchase or enquire about any works from our artists or if you have any questions about the Kawartha Arts Network, please contact

KAN at [info@kawarthaarts.ca](mailto:info@kawarthaarts.ca)



## We KAN be social

Web site: <https://kawarthaarts.ca/>

E-mail: [info@kawarthaarts.ca](mailto:info@kawarthaarts.ca)

Kawartha Arts Network  
c/o 632 Janetville Rd  
Janetville, Ontario  
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*Kawartha Arts Network*



*kawarthaartsnetwork*