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Textile artist explores serenity through fabric in new solo show

Maria H. Klassen
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1 / 13 The pumphouse will hold an artist's salon Ann Marie Patrick Sunday, shown with Toadstools. | All photos by Maria H. Klassen

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Ann Marie Patrick's solo exhibition at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, *Forest Bathing,* is a unique textile and fabric-based collection that showcases the artist's innovative approach to fibre arts.

Her style is described as "experimentally eclectic," her work unbound by any single technique.

She explores dyeing and printing her own fabrics, using procion dyes, a cold water dye known for its bright, permanent, and wash-fast colours on fabric. Diverse textiles, textures and forms are incorporated in her work, including kimono silk, silk organza and commercial fabrics.

Flowers, leaves, birds and animals are cut out of fabric, fused with batting and sewn on for special effects. Photos are printed on fabric and used as background. All these techniques are used to reflect the sensory richness of the natural world; colour, shape, texture and feeling.

Patrick draws inspiration from time spent walking in the woods near her Lake Huron home. These sojourns leave her invigorated and creatively renewed. She explains, "In today's anxiety-ridden world, we strive for balance and inner peace. Being in and becoming part of nature helps rid us of turmoil and reminds us of the serenity around us. Bathe in the beauty of the forest." Her hope is to share these emotions through her work.

As a long-time quilter, Patrick has mastered the art of meshing fabrics with paints in her amazing collection. Come and view this exhibition, and step into the scene of each piece of art. Connect with the varied beauty of the outdoors, and find peace and tranquility.

Forest Bathing runs until Sept. 29 in the Joyner Gallery, with the opening reception Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. with the artist's remarks at 2:30 pm.

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