

## **Group: The Unlikely Collective**

### Group Artist Statement

“Diverse in our fields and experiences; our intentions and expectations; we united as an Unlikely Collective to share our work.

In coming together, ideas were stretched – like a canvas (but not only on canvas); and we brought forth our creative energy – inherently personal energy; to mingle and merge.

Limits were pushed, and rules were broken. We shared, and we held back; connections were established and bonds were strengthened.

This experience that brought us together, however; also pushed us apart. It required us to collectively envision various paths on the same journey, where our destination is different, yet somehow the same.”

### *Biographies*

#### **Michelle Dinnick, B.Sc.**

Michelle is a freelance writer, a member the Society of Professional Journalists, (SPA); the Canadian Authors Association (CAA), and the South Simcoe Arts Council (SSAC) Wordsmiths. She has a B.Sc. in Biological Anthropology from the University of Toronto. Michelle writes both fiction and non-fiction, and has had her work featured recently in the Voice of the Farmer newspaper, the Briar Crier Magazine, the Focus 50+ newspaper, and The Art Map Blog, [www.theartmap.com](http://www.theartmap.com).

Last November, Michelle participated in a group show at the Gibson Centre in Alliston; submitting two landscape paintings by a collaborator that combined her poetry. In April, she was shortlisted at the Ontario Writers Conference Story Starters Contest. This fall, a book-inspired industrial art piece that Michelle co-created with two other artists will be on display as part of the Helson Gallery’s ‘Transformation: An Exhibition of Altered Books’, in Georgetown, ON.

In her non-creative life, Michelle has been a ghostwriter; and has been hired to write Law and Medical School applications, grant applications, resumes, cover letters and advertisements. Michelle has recently taken courses in screenwriting and production, and copywriting-editing, to further her knowledge of writing and editing professional promotional material.

#### **Bert Hoferichter, MPA**

Bert Hoferichter, MPA, has been an award winning professional photographer for over 50 years. He arrived in Canada in 1958 and set up his first studio in Port Credit in 1967. In 1970 and in 1971, Bert won "The Canadian Professional Photographer of the Year" award, presented to him by the Canadian icon of portraiture, Yousuf Karsh. Bert has created memorable photographic studies of some of Canada’s most famous in every field of endeavour - politics, religion, business and the arts. Bert’s work is collected in the National Archives in Ottawa and in the permanent "American Loan Collection." In his career he has won some 35 National and International awards for his work.

## **Nancy McHardy**

Nancy McHardy enjoys painting with oil using brush and pallet knife, water painting and also carves soapstone. Her passion for horses and nature provides the inspiration for her paintings of horses and other animal portraits. She paints the calm scenic landscapes and sunsets of Lake Simcoe, Muskoka and Georgian Bay areas.

Post secondary school education includes Art Design and Photography courses at Georgian College. She is also a Certified Chris Irwin Horse Trainer and has completed his Equine Assisted Personal Development courses.

Nancy is a member of the Barrie Art Club, South Simcoe Art Council and the Artists at the Gibson in Alliston. Her paintings are displayed in private homes and businesses throughout Ontario and Alberta. She has two grown sons with families of their own including her four grandchildren.

## **Jennifer Scheffer**

Jennifer grew up on a 10 acre hobby farm near Schomberg, and now lives in a rustic century home on 100 acres near Gilford, also home to a bevy of free roaming Black Rock hens. She takes inspiration from the tranquility of her natural surroundings, and as in nature, her creativity knows no bounds, finding expression in both the collaborative world of theatre, and the solitary worlds of visual arts and creative writing.

She is a South Simcoe Theatre board member, active both on stage and behind the scenes. With an improve. group she is honing her comedic skills in writing and performing. Her visual art is also improvisational, responding to the moment, while searching for the heart of things.

Jennifer was a winner in the Cookstown Creative Chair Challenge 2016, for “Blue Box Chair”, which spoke to her passion for environmental causes.

## **Tracy Sinclair**

Tracy Sinclair spent her formative years at the Cleveland College of Art and Design (CCAD), becoming a sought-after artist. Large canvases are her standard.

Over the years, the fire in her heart to physically propel her journeys and visions has been realized in daily life, where she expresses them on a surface that will hold paint. Her work is truly an organic dichotomy of the soul's often dark and tree-covered earth, mixed with dream-like spiritual fire, never to be seen anywhere else.

## **Christina Luck**

Christina Luck is a painter and sculptor with a studio in Cookstown Ontario. She has a BFA in Visual Arts from York University, and since the early 80's has shown her work at numerous public and commercial galleries including Leo Kamen, Prime Gallery, MacLaren Art Centre, Lafreniere&Pai, and David Kaye Gallery.

In her art Christina places the people and objects of ordinary life in a buoyant new world of her imagination.

## **Diana Harding Tucker, B.A., OSA**

Diana Harding Tucker is a musician, an award winning Canadian photographer and multimedia artist. She studied Studio Art at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario and Photography at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Diana has followed an independent and autonomous path centered upon her connection of Nature, Science and Art in distinctive mixed media monoprints developed through the exploration of the media of photography, drawing and painting. Her unique depiction of 'Heka' (the magic of the natural) in Still Life and the Canadian landscape are included in over 15 collections around the world including the Ontario Public Archives. Exhibition venues include: Aird Gallery, Toronto; Helen McCLung Exhibit Gallery, York University; the Ontario Science Centre; Hummingbird Centre; Win Henstock Gallery; Ontario Place; Sutton Gallery, Québec; Tudor Hall, La Maison Ogilvy, Montreal.

Diana is a Past President of the Ontario Society of Artists and a past Director of South Simcoe Arts Council.