



### A Picture of a Picture

As an artist, you may know how it feels to see someone receive a painting you made just for *their* enjoyment. The portrait of this newborn and his father was one such case.

The man in the painting was adopted, as an infant, by a dear friend of mine. His birth parents were young students of hers. He is now married with two (other) children. This year he and his wife adopted a wee baby, born to young teenagers. My friend, commissioned the painting for her son's fortieth birthday this spring.

She sent me a picture of him cradling the painting as he had cradled the baby in the portrait and perhaps how my friend had cradled him. Here's that picture. Definitely an "Awww!" moment and one that brings me joy whenever I recall that photo, which is often.

-Joe Murphy

What a very special story, heartwarming and inspirational.

Thank you Joe, for sharing this precious and personal moment with us.

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## Odaray Over O'Hara: Intersections of Light

By Mary Lou Whitehorne  
DVAS Webmaster



Painting a subject like this takes a good bit of planning, as well as a careful analysis of the different elements in the composition, and how they work together to create this beautiful scene. It's a little like constructing a layer cake, with each layer of paint going on, and drying thoroughly before the next layer begins.



This is the source photo of Mount Odaray reflected in the water of Lake O'Hara. It shows a complex combination of direct light, shadows from trees on the left, and reflections of the mountain, in the foreground lake. There's a lot going on here, and it will take several layers of paint to achieve the desired results.

Now, read on to see how Mary Lou interprets photographs of her beloved mountain vistas in the Rockies, into spectacular paintings...



Once the elements have been drawn on the canvas with pencil, the canvas is covered in a transparent and sloppy wash of diluted-and-mixed cad red, cad orange, and quinacridone magenta. When that's completely dry, the real fun starts, using lights and darks to paint in the sky and to establish the shape of the mountain.

Here, the horizontal shoreline of the lake has been defined, and a subtle green-to-blue gradation of colour is painted across the lake. Then, using a very dark green (almost black), I paint in the seep shadows that help establish depth in midground, and shape in the foreground. Suddenly, the feel of the landscape has been established.

Progress! There are details on the mountain, the midground forest has appeared, its reflection has been painted into the lake, as have shadows from the foreground trees on the left. Note that the reflection of the midground forest is incomplete, because direct sunlight from the left has illuminated the lake and overwhelmed the reflections there.

This part is the brain-bender! The canvas was turned upside down to paint the reflection of the mountain into the water. Note again where direct sunlight from the left overwhelms the mountain reflection, so it fades to nothing. At this point the colours in the lake are adjusted by adding blue to the reflected sky to match what is seen in the source image.

The final steps involve adding the undergrowth and small foreground trees in the lower left. These are all in direct sunlight, coming from the left. The shadows in and under the foreground trees and bushes are added, giving depth and perspective to the entire piece. The very last thing is, of course, a signature.

## Light, Shadows and Reflections

As artists, we each have our own distinctive styles and methods of approach.

Our thanks to Mary Lou for taking the time to take us through her unique artistic process, step-by-step. Her stunning paintings are a result of thoughtful observation, careful assessment and painstaking attention to the effects of light on the landscape.

Although she makes it look simple, we all know *it most certainly is not!*

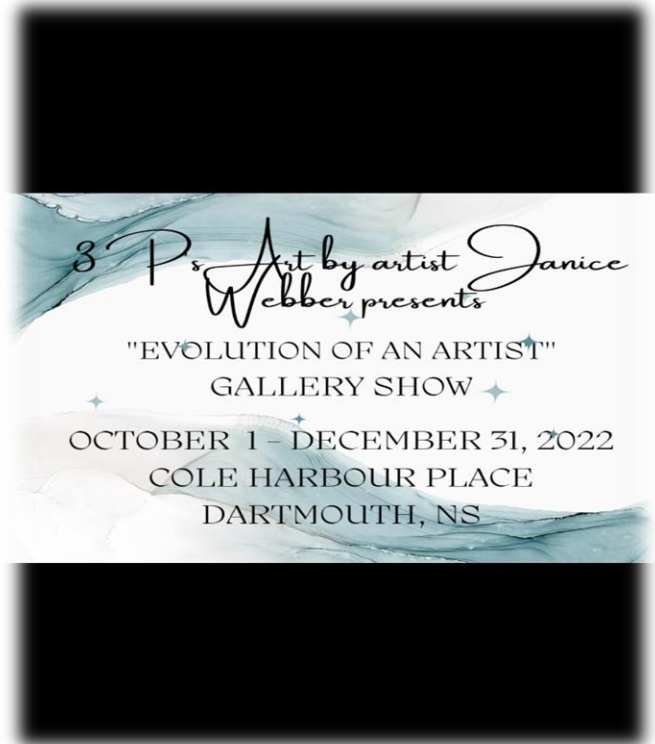
**Janice Webber** (DVAS Membership) currently has an exhibition of her artwork at the Cole Harbour Public Library. This venue is an opportunity for local artists to display and offer their artwork for sale.

Find out more at:

[www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca)

Wishing Janice a successful exhibit.

Why not pop into the library and check out her display?



Thankyou to the members of DVAS who have contributed news and features to our Newsletter. Let's share our art news! [warnesworld51@gmail.com](mailto:warnesworld51@gmail.com)

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Seasons Greetings *Janet Warnes*

# DVAS Newsletter Editor