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Artists create in colour for Dundas Studio Tour



Hard at work

Alison Sawatzky works on a watercolour monotype print in her studio. |

Dundas Star News

By [Allyson Wenzowski](#)

For Dundas artist Alison Sawatzky, 2015 is a year of exciting new happenings.

In May she had a successful solo exhibition at St. James Church, in June she retired from a teaching career at Lee Academy, and this weekend, her studio will feature as a new location on the Dundas Studio Tour.

For the tour, Sawatzky will show a variety of watercolour monotypes. She was introduced to print-making at the Dundas Valley School of Art, where she learned etching and lithography.

“While I enjoyed the images I created, I wasn’t happy working with the chemicals used at that time,” she said. “About 15 years ago, I took my first water colour monotype course at Sir Sanford Fleming College, at the Haliburton Campus, and was hooked. I love the versatility of the process. I also enjoy the feeling of adventure that is involved. You are never quite sure what will be revealed when you lift the paper from the plate.”

The watercolour monotype process is complex and lengthy and involves applying water colour paint and/or water colour crayon in layers to a sanded plexiglass printing plate. Each layer must be dry before subsequent layers are added, with the paint being applied by brush, splattering or impasto style directly from the tube and then manipulated with various plastic scrapers. Objects such as feathers, string or netting are sometimes added to the plates to help create an image.

Sawatzky also works in oils, acrylic, drafting pen and traditional water-colour and enjoys combining pen and chalk pastel with her paintings.

The Dundas Studio tour runs Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and features 29 artists at six different artist studios.

Admission is free and each studio offers a draw for a special prize. For more information, call 905-379-7353 or visit the website www.dundasstudiotour.ca.