

T H E
LAWRENCE HOUSE
C E N T R E F O R T H E A R T S





the lawrence house.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts is a community based, independent, not-for-profit, charitable organization committed to encouraging the creation and appreciation of the visual, performing and literary arts in Sarnia Lambton.

Left: by Iris Kippert

editorial

*“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”
— Sherry Anderson*

At the corner of Christina and Wellington Streets stands one of Sarnia’s most recognizable landmarks. Built in 1892 for lumber baron William F. Lawrence, the grand Queen Anne–style mansion—with its stained glass, intricate woodwork, and signature turret—feels like a postcard from another era. Yet step inside on any given afternoon, and you won’t find a dusty museum. You will find a living, breathing community hub filled with local artwork, live acoustic music, local literature, and friendly conversation.

What many visitors don’t realize, however, is that this entire operation runs almost entirely on the dedication of volunteers.

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. From staffing the front desk and curating monthly gallery exhibitions to hosting First Friday music nights, special events, and running the gift shop, volunteers are the lifeblood that keeps the doors open and admission free to the public.

In a world increasingly dominated by screen time and digital interactions, places like the Lawrence House provide something rare: real, face-to-face connection built around human expression.

For those considering where to donate their time in Lambton County, volunteering at the Lawrence House offers a distinct experience:

- **Fostering Local Talent:** Sarnia-Lambton is rich with hidden artistic talent. By volunteering, you directly help painters, sculptors, poets, and musicians showcase and sell their work.
- **Preserving Local Heritage:** Operating inside a designated historic home means every shift is a contribution to preserving a piece of Sarnia’s architectural history.
- **Building Community Connections:** Whether you’re welcoming first-time visitors during a First Friday art crawl or assisting with lawn concerts, it connects you to a diverse network of neighbours, artists, and culture lovers.

It is easy to assume that civic treasures simply maintain themselves, but non-profit cultural spaces face ongoing operational hurdles—from rising overhead to generating enough commission sales to cover day-to-day bills. The Lawrence House relies on community participation to thrive. Whether you can spare a few hours a month to staff the gift shop, help mount an upcoming show, or lend administrative skills to the board, your time directly ensures that art remains accessible in downtown Sarnia.

The next time you walk past the historic turret on Christina Street, don’t just admire it from the sidewalk. Step inside, discover what’s happening, and consider giving a few hours to keep Sarnia’s creative heart beating strong.

Stay creative,

Leann Cotton
Editor in Chief

*Left: Inaabanden (detail) by Mike Blackmore
Right: Hibiscus Spider (detail) by Mike Blackmore*

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ON THE COVER

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contributors

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Gift Shop Committee
Peg Kivi

City Of Sarnia Rep
Claudio Montanaro

Volunteer Coordinator
Deb Scragg



Dedication
*To all of the artists who
show up every day to
create something
beautiful.*

Left: "Garden Guitar" by Mike Blackmore (detail)
Top right: "El Sueño" by Leann Cotton (detail)



THE LAWRENCE HOUSE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Calendar 2026

- ART THAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD -

JANUARY	01	FEBRUARY	02	MARCH	03	APRIL	04
Gift Shop Sale (Ends January 18th)		Floyd Gibson Annual Members Juried Exhibition		Main Gallery - Fibre Art Turret Room - Members Show		Lambton College Arts Collective Photography & Pottery Show	
MAY	05	JUNE	06	JULY	07	AUGUST	08
High School Art Show		Three Fires by the Water		Main Gallery - Rabia Rizvi Turret Room - Sydney McKichan		"The Art Life" Texture & Colour Members Show	
SEPTEMBER	09	OCTOBER	10	NOVEMBER	11	DECEMBER	12
The Lawrence House Volunteers Show & Children's Summer Art Camp Show		Main Gallery - Sarnia Artists Workshop Turret Room - Peg Kivi (Intake September 25 - September 26)		"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It" Members Extended Gift Shop (Intake October 31 - November 1)		"Wrap it Up & Put a Bow on It" Members Extended Gift Shop (Intake October 31 - November 1)	





Art exists because someone had an idea,
but it thrives because a community chose
to nourish it.

To the volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to the arts: thank you. You are the invisible architecture behind every gallery opening, community mural, local theater production, and neighborhood workshop. Long before the lights come up or the doors open, you are there—setting up chairs, hanging artwork, welcoming guests at the front desk, packing up supplies long after the crowd has thinned, and solving the hundred small problems that make a large vision possible.

Creation requires inspiration, but sustaining a creative community requires labour. By lending your hands and passion, you make art accessible. You create spaces where people feel welcomed, inspired, and connected. You ensure that local artists have a platform to share their voices and that audiences of all backgrounds have a place to discover something new.

Your generosity doesn't just keep the lights on; it reminds us that art is fundamentally a shared human experience. Thank you for your dedication, your enthusiasm, and for being the heartbeat of our artistic community.

Thank you ♥



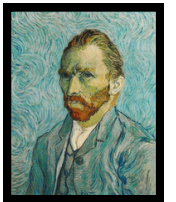
art history month.

Artistic Elements & Composition

- **Artificial vs. Natural Light:** Van Gogh captured the contrast between the newly installed artificial gas lamps, which cast a golden glow across the deep blue water, and the natural starlight radiating in the night sky.
- **The Constellation:** Ursa Major (the Big Dipper) is prominently visible in the sky above the river.
- **Foreground Figures:** In the lower right corner, a couple strolls along the shore, grounding the landscape with a personal human element.
- **Color Palette:** Dominated by shades of Prussian blue, ultramarine, and cobalt blue, contrasted with warm yellows, golds, and bronze reflections.

Van Gogh painted the scene en plein air (outdoors at night) and described his fascination with nocturnal light in a letter to his brother Theo: "It does me good to do difficult things. That doesn't stop me having a tremendous need for — shall I say the word? — for religion. So I go out at night to paint the stars."

September 1888 - Van Gogh's Creative Explosion in Arles: Vincent van Gogh painted several of his most famous works in September while living in the Yellow House, including Café Terrace at Night and Starry Night Over the Rhône.



September 4, 1972 - Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Heist: Armed thieves pulled off the largest art theft in Canadian history, stealing 18 paintings including Rembrandt's Landscape with Cottage alongside works by Delacroix, Manet, and Gainsborough. The total value exceeded millions, and the works remain unrecovered.



The 1972 Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Heist—often referred to as the "Skylight Caper"—took place on the night of Labor Day, September 4, 1972. It remains the largest art heist in Canadian history and one of the most significant unsolved art crimes in North America.

More than 50 years later, the heist remains unsolved, and 17 of the 18 paintings—including the Rembrandt—remain missing. Insurance claims were settled by Lloyd's of London, which legally acquired ownership of the unrecovered works should they ever surface.

September 1, 1911 - Mona Lisa Investigation Peak: Following the theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in August 1911, French police famously arrested poet Guillaume Apollinaire and briefly interrogated Pablo Picasso in early September as suspected co-conspirators before exonerating both.



September 8, 1504 - Unveiling of Michelangelo's David: After more than three years of carving a single giant block of marble, Michelangelo unveiled his 17-foot masterpiece of the biblical hero to the public in Piazza della Signoria, Florence.

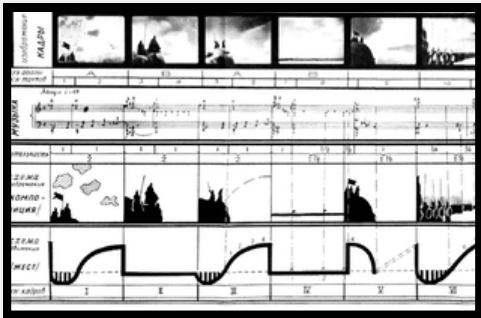




Visual art influences movie music across several distinct levels—from direct graphical mapping of visual movement to musical notation, to thematic scene scoring built around key paintings, to entire atmospheric film scores shaped by artistic movements.

Direct Audiovisual Mapping: Alexander Nevsky (1938)

Director Sergei Eisenstein and composer Sergei Prokofiev pioneered a technique known as vertical montage, where the visual composition of a shot was mapped directly to the physical movement of the musical score. In the famous "Battle on the Ice" sequence, Eisenstein drew graphic diagrams matching the visual contours of the shot's horizon and figures directly to Prokofiev's musical notation—causing the pitch and rhythm to mirror the spatial lines in the picture.



Eisenstein's vertical montage score diagram. Source: ResearchGate

Key Film Examples of Art Shaping Music



Jackson Pollock's Abstract Expressionism in Ex Machina (2014)

The Artwork: Jackson Pollock's No. 5, 1948. The Influence: During a central scene, Nathan explains artificial intelligence by referencing Pollock's drip-painting technique—action without pre-planned structure. Composers Ben Salisbury and Geoff Barrow crafted an atmospheric, non-traditional synth score that mirror Pollock's visual approach: chaotic textural layers flowing over a minimalist structure rather than traditional melodious themes.



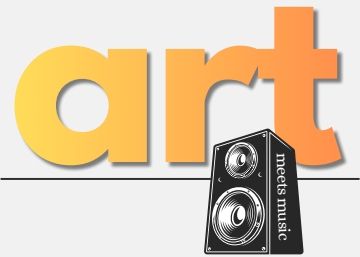
German Expressionism in Batman (1989) & The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)

The Movement: Sharp angles, exaggerated shadows, and warped perspective. The Influence: Danny Elfman's score for Tim Burton's Batman borrows heavily from 1920s German Expressionist film aesthetics. Elfman matched the angular, jagged gothic architecture on screen with stark brass swells, dramatic dynamic shifts, and minor-key romanticism.



M.C. Escher's Surreal Geometry in Inception (2010) & Labyrinth (1986)

The Artwork: M.C. Escher's impossible architecture (Relativity). The Influence: Escher's recursive visual loops inspired Hans Zimmer's use of the Shepard tone in Inception—an auditory illusion of an endlessly ascending pitch that mirrors Escher's infinite staircases. In Labyrinth, Trevor Jones composed dynamic, shifting time signatures for the climax set inside a real-life physical Escher maze.



Art and music share a fundamental, structural language. Both rely on principles like rhythm, harmony, contrast, tone, and tempo to evoke emotion without needing strict literal explanation. Where visual art uses space, line, and colour, music uses time, pitch, and timbre.

How Music Inspires Art

Music provides visual artists with a non-representational blueprint—a way to express emotion and energy without painting recognizable objects.

- Visual Music & Synesthesia: Painters like Wassily Kandinsky experienced synesthesia, literally hearing colors and seeing sounds. Kandinsky titled his abstract paintings Compositions, Improvisations, and Impressions, attempting to paint pure sound the way a composer writes notes.
- Capturing Musical Energy: Artists like Piet Mondrian (Broadway Boogie Woogie) used grid structures and vibrant colors to capture the syncopated, energetic tempo of jazz music visually.
- Album Art & Visual Identity: Modern art regularly translates musical themes into graphic imagery—from Alex Steinweiss inventing the illustrated album cover in 1939 to contemporary art director partnerships

How Art Inspires Music

Visual art gives composers a tangible narrative, mood, or spatial framework to structure sound around—a process known as programmatic music.

- Tone Poems & Musical Portraits: Modest Mussorgsky's famous suite, Pictures at an Exhibition (1874), was written as a direct musical walkthrough of a gallery exhibition featuring paintings by his friend Viktor Hartmann. Each movement translates a specific sketch or painting into sound.
- Impressionism Across Media: The Impressionist art movement (Monet, Renoir) directly inspired musical Impressionists like Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Debussy used whole-tone scales and fluid rhythms to mirror the shimmering light and soft, blurry edges of Impressionist paintings (most famously in La Mer and Clair de Lune).
- Modern Soundscapes: Contemporary composers frequently use artwork to establish texture. For instance, Morton Feldman wrote Rothko Chapel, translating Mark Rothko's monumental, monochromatic color-field paintings into spacious, meditative vocal and instrumental soundscapes.

The Intersection: Interdisciplinary Formats

When art and music meet as equals rather than just inspirations, they create hybrid art forms:

- Graphic Scores: Composers like John Cage and Cornelius Cardew threw out traditional musical notation, creating visual drawings and diagrams that musicians interpret as performance guides.
- Audio-Visual Installations: Modern digital art uses real-time sound frequencies to generate dynamic visual displays, making the boundary between sound wave and light wave invisible.
- Stage & Production Design: Opera, ballet, and concert touring setups (such as Es Devlin's sculptural stage designs for stadium tours) treat live musical performance as a three-dimensional visual artwork.

*iris*kippert

The Sarnia creative community is honoring the memory of Iris, who passed away on August 5 after a long battle with cancer.

“I enjoy capturing still life, taking everyday objects and transforming them into a story. This often leads to unseen realities.

It is the ability of photography to manipulate or bend reality into your own view that makes it very exciting for me.

My aim is to take these experiences and make them into art.”

— Iris Kippert



Gabriel Lima Da Silva



For Iris Kippert, art was a way of looking beyond what was immediately visible. Whether working with photography, painting, printmaking or mixed media, the Sarnia artist brought imagination and a touch of surrealism to the people and everyday objects around her.

Raised in Sarnia, Iris began her artistic journey as a self-taught artist before enrolling in the photography program at Lambton College in 2020, where her work earned her multiple student photography awards.

Iris earned a bachelor's degree from McMaster University and went on to study language in Germany at Gutenberg University. She eventually moved to Greece, where she met and married her husband, Sakis, and raised their two sons on the island of Kalymnos.

During her time abroad, Iris remained deeply connected to her creativity and embarked on several artistic projects, including designing and constructing mosaics with her husband and taking iconography classes on the island. Along with these projects, Iris remained devoted to drawing and painting daily.

Her years in Greece continued to influence her work long after she returned to Canada. During later visits, she often photographed the places and surroundings that had become such an important part of her life. The religious imagery she encountered through Greek culture and her study of iconography also found its way into her mixed-media work, sometimes appearing in the characters she created using images of Mike.

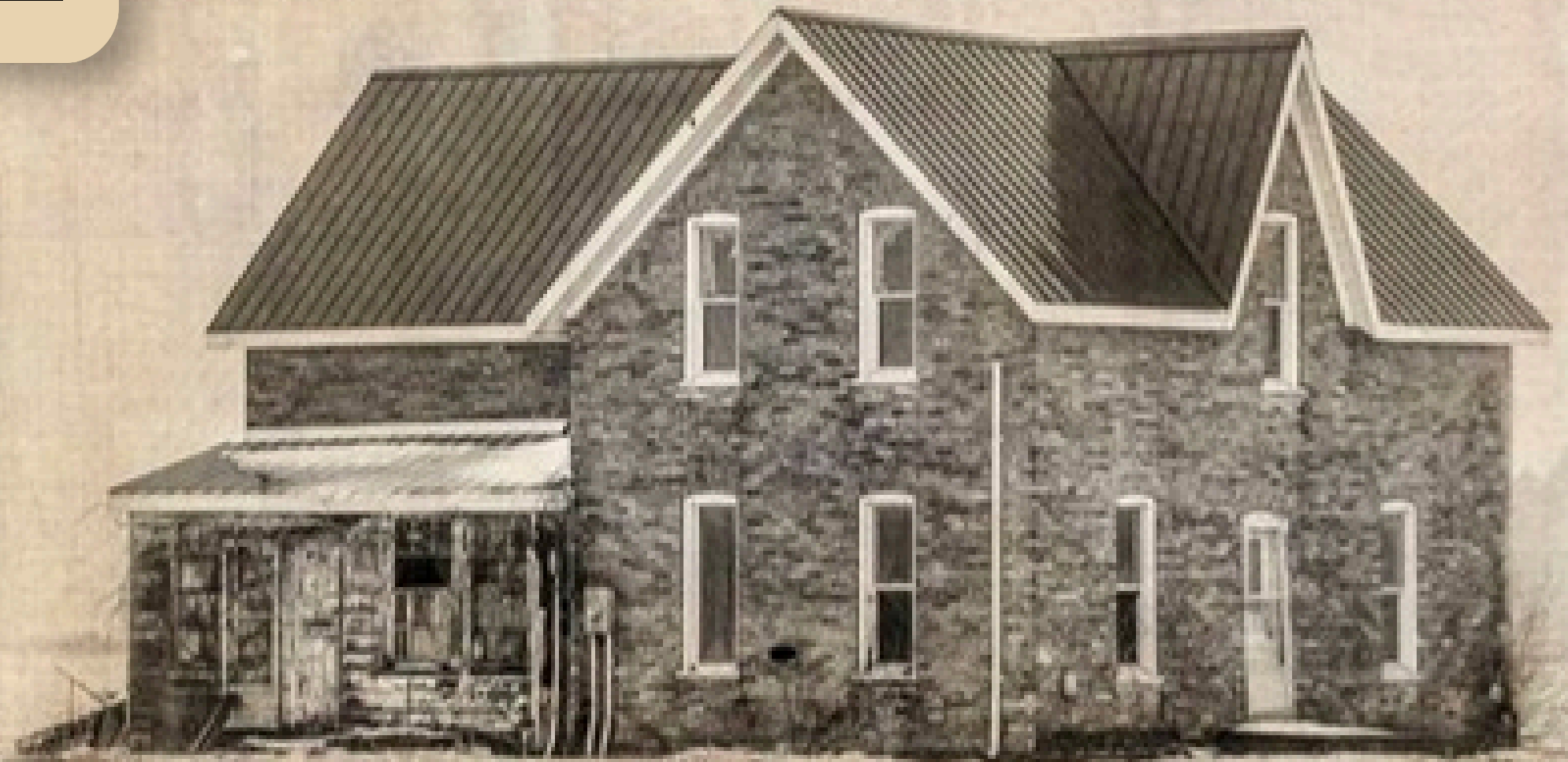
The mosaics Iris designed and constructed in Greece left another lasting impression. The patterns, fragmented forms and layered quality of mosaic work can be seen echoed in her later printmaking and mixed-media pieces. In this way, the different stages of Iris's artistic life became interconnected—drawing and painting, mosaics and iconography, photography and printmaking all becoming part of the visual language she made her own.

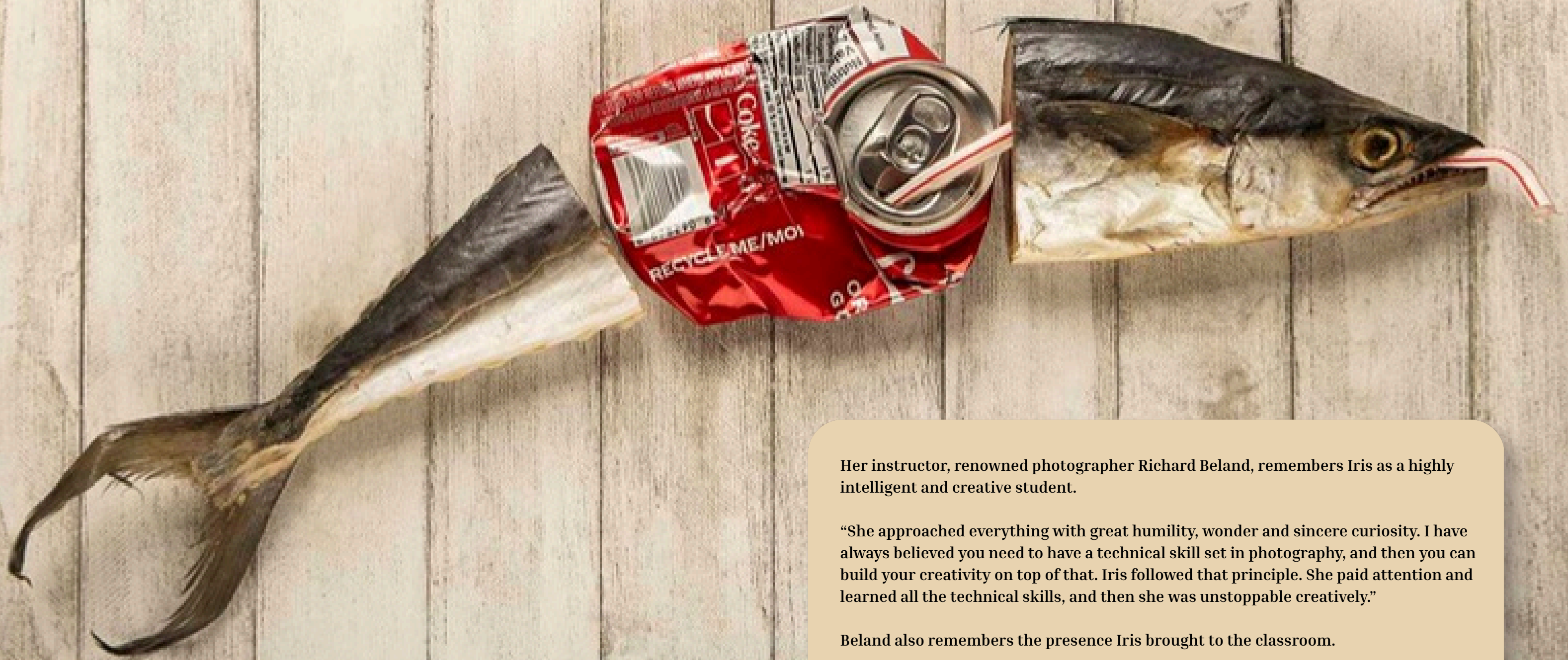


“She approached everything with great humility, wonder and sincere curiosity. I have always believed you need to have a technical skill set in photography, and then you can build your creativity on top of that. Iris followed that principle. She paid attention and learned all the technical skills, and then she was unstoppable creatively.”

- Richard Beland

Photography had always interested Iris during her travels abroad, and after moving back to Canada with her family, she decided that Lambton College's photography program would be a natural fit with her artistic background. The technical skills she developed through the program merged with the artistic eye she had cultivated over many years. Her ability to capture real-world moments through the camera, combined with her painterly sensibility and love of surrealism, allowed her to bring the two mediums together in her own distinctive way.





Her instructor, renowned photographer Richard Beland, remembers Iris as a highly intelligent and creative student.

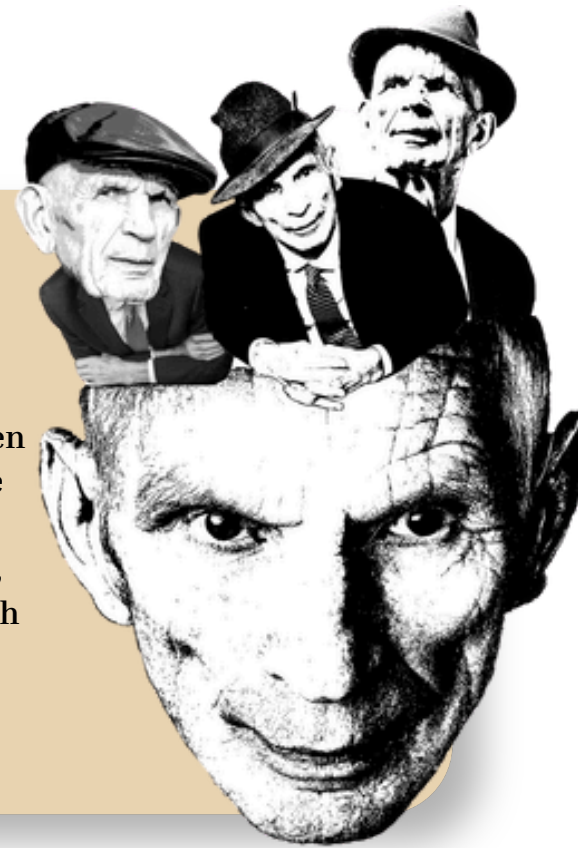
“She approached everything with great humility, wonder and sincere curiosity. I have always believed you need to have a technical skill set in photography, and then you can build your creativity on top of that. Iris followed that principle. She paid attention and learned all the technical skills, and then she was unstoppable creatively.”

Beland also remembers the presence Iris brought to the classroom.

“Iris brought calm confidence into the classroom. She helped others, answered questions, and her creativity was untethered by the things that may hold others back.”



Iris developed a unique style that combined her photography skills with printmaking and other artistic techniques. Her mixed-media pieces often featured a local Sarnia resident, Mike, whom she met while taking Tai Chi. With her painterly eye, Iris saw the layers of his life reflected in his face, and the image of Mike eventually evolved through her imagination.



By combining photo transfers with painting, drawing and cut-out elements on canvas, Iris created an aesthetic entirely her own. Mike's image appeared repeatedly in her work, transformed into different characters, with a hint of surrealism running through each piece.







Iris passed away on August 5, 2026,
from breast cancer.

She leaves behind not only the memories held by her
family, friends and fellow artists, but also a body of
work that reflects her distinctive
way of seeing the world.

Iris spent much of her artistic life looking beyond what
was immediately visible—finding stories in everyday
objects, character in familiar faces and, in her own
words, “unseen realities.” Through photography,
painting and mixed media, she transformed those
observations into something uniquely her own.

That way of seeing remains in the art
she left behind.





Mike Blackmore is a well-known, veteran figure in the Sarnia-Lambton music scene. In addition to being a Musician, Mike is also a graphic artist, sculptor, and wood carver, artistic endeavours he's enjoyed as long as he's been in music.

- Mike performs across a wide range of genres, including classic rock, 1960s and 1970s popular music. His performances often blend versatile guitar work and acoustic vocals with thoughtful storytelling and humour.
- Beyond his solo work, Blackmore has sat in with various performers on percussion. Notably, he performs in the local trio Supermodels alongside fellow Sarnia musicians Daniel Murphy and Brian Hynes. The trio focuses on close-harmony acoustic sets.
- Mike is one of the organizers and performers with the local Joyful Noise Drummers, a hand percussion group with 25 members performing for local public institutions and groups.
- He is a regular staple at local community venues, outdoor summer concert series (such as events at Canatara Park and regional parkettes), downtown First Friday events, and house concerts at cultural hubs like the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts.



get
YOUR
TICKETS





BusvWorkshop©MikeBlackmore/2025

- Graphic Artist
- Sculptor
- Photographer
- Wood Carver
- Musician

*mike***blackmore**

Mike uses his unique artistic blend in combining his wood carving, photography, session setup, Photoshop, an AI program, and story research, resulting in this finished artwork titled “Mishi-ginebig”.

The most prominent mythical snake in North American Indigenous lore is the Great Horned Serpent (known as Uktena in Cherokee, Oniare in Iroquois, and Mishi-ginebig in Ojibwe), a powerful water spirit of the underworld symbolizing water, chaos, and magical transformation - Wikipedia



Mishi-Ginebig-01©MikeBlackmore/2026/AIAssisted

What inspired you to start making music?

When I was 22 years old I made the giant decision to leave the hometown of Bathurst New Brunswick and head for British Columbia... I have just turned 70 and I am convinced that decision saved my life.

My youth and teenage years were not reflected in the “family” television shows of the time, so when I learned to play guitar while working in an isolated fly-in mining camp in B.C.’s Haida Gwaii, music and guitar became the tools to decipher who I was.

I worked away at turning thoughts into words, words into lyrics, and lyrics into songs.



StormClouds-4703©MikeBlackmore/2026



GardenGuitar-3940©MikeBlackmore/2026

What do you think it is about a live music experience that resonates with people?

Essentially, music allows the subconscious to breath. Like a smile that lingers. I only wish that the success of live music was not intrinsically connected to the alcohol industry.

Do you think art & music can bridge cultural or social divides?

It requires an artful design to bridge significant social or ideological boundaries separating different groups. It is a hard nut to crack. It has been done. I have never started a project with that end in mind.

Do you think the societal context of when a song was created matters in how it's interpreted?

Time marches on, values adapt to present situations, what was an accepted norm in the past can be interpreted much differently today. There are many examples throughout the ages.

Are there particular places or experiences that spark your creativity?

I like finding driftwood and exploring what I could do with it, whether it be carving, photography, photoshop, or a combination of all.

Some pieces sit around for years before anything gets started. Sunsets are great and always open to interpretation using different digital tools. Industrial settings often give me ideas.



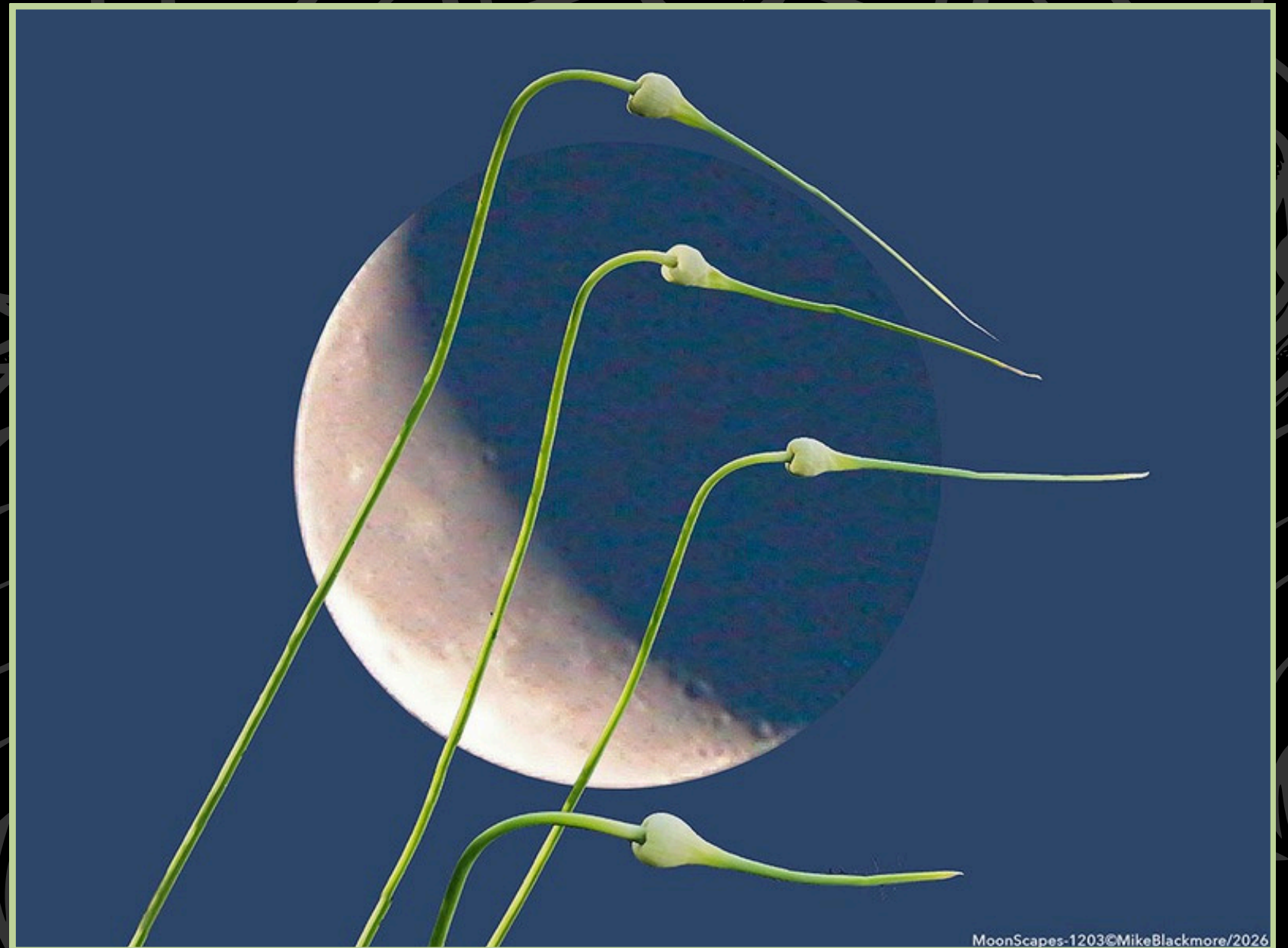
HibiscusSpider-4203©MikeBlackmore/2026



Inaabandan-7©MikeBlackmore/2024

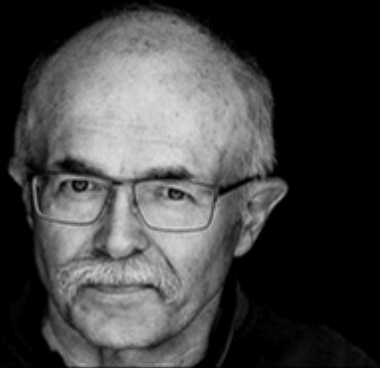
What role does technology play in your creative process?

I love digital programs available for pictures and movies, I can spend hours, even days working on a project trying to get it to match what i see in my mind's eye.



MoonScapes-1203©MikeBlackmore/2026

SEPTEMBER EVENTS SCHEDULE



Feature Presenter:
Art Connolly



Sarnia Photographic Club Presents

Humans of Sarnia Stories Behind the Photographs

*Tuesday, September 8th,
Lawrence House
127 Christina St.s
7 pm live and on Zoom.
Guests welcome*



*a behind-the-scenes look at Humans of Sarnia and a reflection
on how photography can help us see, understand and remember
the people in our community.*

OPEN STAGE

Monday, September 14 & 21 / 7PM / FREE
Performers and appreciative audience welcome.



Join us for a Fall photowalk!

Sign up today!



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL RIVERSPEAK

Meeting Times: Thursdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Phone: 519.466.2512

Location: Lawrence House Centre for the Arts
127 Christina St. South Sarnia, ON N7T 2M8

WELCOME TO THE LAWRENCE HOUSE LIBRARY

With a wide range of topics available, books can be enjoyed in The Heritage Room. All current Lawrence House members have generous sign-out privileges. This library has been developed with the generous donations of pre-loved books on art, technique, and many more relevant subjects. Of note, we are also growing our local interest/history section in order to offer these specialized books to people looking for Sarnia-Lambton historical information. Book donations are always welcome, thank you to all who've donated books over the years.

[Visit our Online Library](#) 

Looking Ahead: Our popular music program Open Stage returns in September! Keep an eye on your email inbox for official dates and updates on upcoming concerts.

CALL FOR ARTISTS & MUSICIANS

Interested in a 5 Questions segment? Artist Spotlight? Contact us for your spot in an upcoming issue!

This is a great way to introduce yourself to fellow artists & musicians, in addition to giving our readers an insight into you and your art!

[Contact Leann](#) 

SEPTEMBER EVENTS SCHEDULE

Join us for Sunday Gentle Yoga

at the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts
with Monica Gillis 200 HR RYT

Dates: September 13, 20, 27 & October 11th

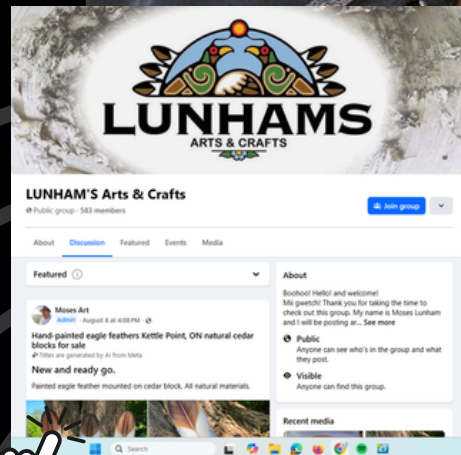
Times: 10 am OR 11:30 am

Cost: Early Bird \$50 for all 4 classes
with registration by August 13, 2026 **OR**
\$60 for all 4 classes with registration
after August 13, 2026.

Registration is required as space
is limited. Please email
butterflyrisingyogaandwellness
@gmail.com for more
information and to register.
Thank-you! 



NEW



Introducing our new Development & Networking Program

Tuesday September 22nd, the Lawrence House will host artist

Moses Lunham

Hosting and Leading Paint Nights

This will be the second session in our new Development and Networking program for Artists funded in part by the County of Lambton Creative County Grants Program.

The Lawrence House hosts these ongoing artist presentations the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:00-9:00 PM.

Each evening an artists will give an hour long presentation on an aspect of their professional practice. Topics may include artistic technique, studio practice, obtaining commissions, developing a portfolio, obtaining gallery representation, participating in art festivals and other aspects of the artist's career. There will be time for discussion, questions and answers, and also time for informal networking.

All artists are invited to attend these free sessions to learn, to meet and to network together.



Monthly Competitions

Members are encouraged to enter their best photograph each month, one for each of two categories. Please refer to the club website for rules and instructions for each theme and enter images for competitions in the members' area.

Due Dates & Themes

August 15	Nature - Wildlife (CAPA) / Golden Hour
September 15	Open / People
October 15	Nature / Monochrome (CAPA)
November 15	Open - Ontario (CAPA)/Double Exposure
December 15	Nature / Fine Arts (CAPA)
January 15	Macro / Inspiration Colour (CAPA)
February 15	Nature/Canada my Country (CAPA)
March 15	Open/Night Photography
April 15	Nature/Minimalism

May 15 Annual Award Submissions

Club Members may submit two images to the following Annual Award Competitions:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Carrier	Marine
Carman's Foto Source	Travel
Paisley	Open
Lvall Smith	People

Annual Competition Awards

Each month the winning images are assigned points, these Annual Competition Awards are presented to the photographer with the highest number of points:

<u>Award</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Sorensen	Open
Harold Kinart	Nature
Sarnia Photographic Club	Monthly Theme

Activities Include:

Presentations by club members and guests
Field trips and outings
Participation in CAPA competitions
Workshops and Education • Monthly competitions
Annual award certificates

The Canadian Association for Photographic Art (CAPA) is a national organization of Canadian Camera clubs and individual members from Canada and around the world who have a common interest in photography.

2026 - 2027 Executive

President: Evelyn Buchner

Secretary:	Paul Beaudet
Treasurer:	Anne Garreaux
Program Coordinator:	Vacant
Website:	Allan Aylard
Judging/CAPA:	Claire Therrien
AV Director:	Pierre Houle
Publicity:	Margie Kenedy
Outings:	Paul Mantle
Membership:	Suzanne Kinart
Events:	Vacant



Tulip by Evelyn Buchner



The Sarnia Photographic Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in photography. We come together to share our work, listen to speakers, and go on outings, all with the goal of making impactful images.

Come Join Us!

Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings to find out more about the club and its activities before joining.

✉ sarnia.photographic.club@gmail.com



www.sarniaphotoclub.com

SPC is proud to support the
Lambton College Photography Program

Main Meeting

We meet in the Turret Room of the Lawrence House on the first Tuesday of each month, September through June at 7:00 PM
127 Christina Street South, Sarnia, ON N7T 2M8
Note: Some meetings are on Zoom only.

Mid-Month Meeting

A second meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month excepting December and June. These meetings are less formal and more interactive in nature. Content of the meetings is decided as the year progresses based on members' interests and suggestions. Mid-month meetings may consist of technique demonstrations, photo show-and-tell, narrated audiovisual shows, and more.

Competitions

Competitions are an integral part of the Sarnia Photographic Club each month. Competitions not only give an incentive for members to shoot new pictures, but also allow members to learn from one another's photos, by discussing the strengths and opportunities for improvement of each entry.

Come Learn With Us!

Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings to find out more about the club and its activities before joining.

2026 - 2027 Membership Dues

- \$30 for fulltime students
- \$60 for returning members who pay by September 30th
- \$65 for new members
- \$65 for returning members who pay after September 30th

Sarnia Photographic Club accepts
Interac e-Transfers for payments at
sarnia.photo.finance@gmail.com.
Visit our website for more
information.

Program: September - December 2026

September 8th at the Lawrence House **Art Connolly**

Humans of Sarnia: A photographic journey

September 22nd Workshop at the Lawrence House
TBA

October 6th Zoom Only

Dave Chidley

"Getting Better" tips, exercises, ideas, critique etc. to improve your shooting regardless of your "expertise"

October 20th Workshop at the Lawrence House
TBA

November 3rd at the Lawrence House – No Zoom

Kieron Nelson

Fading Echoes- A Thirty Year Odyssey- Portraits of Vanishing Cultures

November 17th Workshop at the Lawrence house
TBA

December 1st at the Lawrence House

Alexa Coupland

Newfoundland: Birds, Bergs and Boats

Photography is a chance to recapture the profound sense of excitement, the magic of living, which we felt so strongly as children. Photography is a way to yell "Whoopee!" again and really mean it. It offers us opportunities to be creative in ways we like, and a chance to let go.

Freeman Patterson

Program: January - June 2027

January 5th Zoom Only

Rob Stimpson

Seeing beyond Seeing

January 19th Workshop Zoom Only
TBA

February 2nd Zoom Only

Lori Metcalfe

The Power of Photography
and the Art of Storytelling

February 16th Workshop Zoom Only
TBA

March 2nd at the Lawrence House

Vicky Langford

Exploring Yellowknife,
Canada's True North

March 16th Workshop at the Lawrence House
TBA

April 6th at the Lawrence House

Christine Roenspiess

Techniques for Underwater Photography

April 20th Workshop at the Lawrence House
TBA

May 4th at the Lawrence House

Marty Cogswell

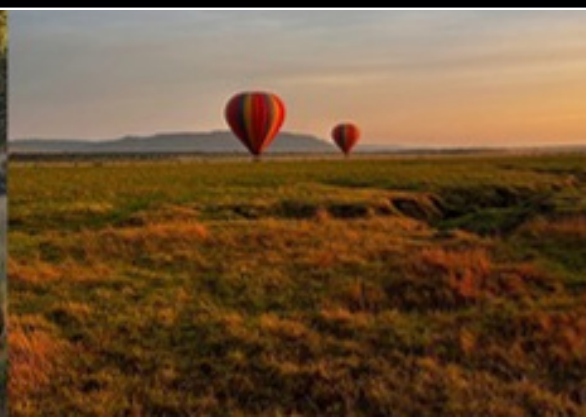
Roasted, Remote & Rugged:
A Journey Across Chile

May 18th Workshop at the Lawrence House
TBA

June 1st at the Lawrence House

Jale Fancey

TBA



You may renew it in person at the House Wednesday to Sunday 11:00–4:00 or you may renew online at the link below. The memberships run from December to December.

The Lawrence House is an all volunteer run Art Centre. Membership fees help with the cost of running the House, covering office supplies, computers, security, First Friday Events, concerts and so much more.

The benefits of being a Member are many regardless of which Membership level you purchase.

Join or Renew for 2026



We are looking for a volunteer coordinator! If interested, please contact – The Lawrence House
Attn: Karen Schaw for details!

2026 MEMBERSHIP

BASIC

As a Basic Member you are included in our mailing list which keeps you up to date on our House Concerts, First Friday events and our Exhibitions. You are able to rent a room at the House if you are having a special event and you have access to our online library.

PRICE: \$17.70 PLUS TAX

BRONZE

The Bronze Membership is for artists who wish to show and sell their art at the Lawrence House either in the Gift Shop or in one of our five Member Shows through the year. Bronze members also may apply to have a solo exhibition. All the benefits of being a Friend Member also applies to the Bronze Members.

PRICE: \$44.25 PLUS TAX

SILVER

The Silver Membership is for artists or anyone who wishes to volunteer their time at the House. It is a great way to meet other artists and art lovers and to keep in touch with local art events. If we didn't have Volunteers, the Lawrence House would not be able to stay open. There are many different ways to volunteer; the day to day running of the gift shop, special events, hanging exhibitions, computer work, Shopify updating, greeting customers and giving them information on the House, the Library and more. *Requirement for the Silver is that you commit to 3 shifts a month - especially if you are in the Gift Shop so that you are comfortable with sales and the Shopify system.

PRICE: \$17.70 PLUS TAX

2026 MEMBER SERVICES

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts (LHCA) invites submissions to exhibit in the Turret Room (Gallery) to its members.

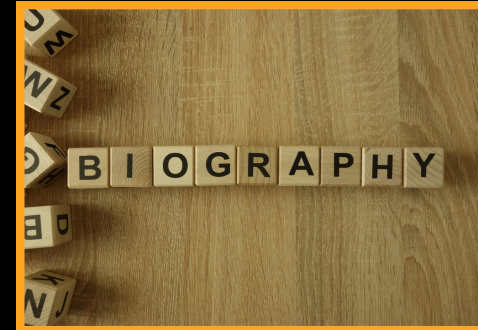
Exhibition opportunities of one month in duration are available. The LHCA welcomes proposals from artists of all disciplines and career levels. The call is open to all LHCA members who reside or work in Lambton County and who have not had a solo show at the gallery in the past 3 years.

Consideration is extended to both solo or two-person proposals.

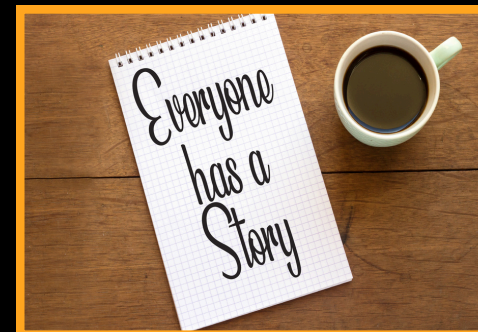
Artist's creations are juried for their workmanship and creativity. We accept only high quality items that we feel will be received well by the public.

It is important to us that your items sell.

Gallery Standards for The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts – The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts



Check out our Artist Bio page here!



Upload your Artist Bio today!



Upload your product submission form here!



Submission to Exhibit at The Lawrence House

RENTALS

EVENT & WORKSHOP SPACES



Hi Everyone!

I'm Wilma Mehl, a pastel artist from the Sarnia area.

The Lambton County region is full of creative and artistic talent, and we're here to help showcase your art, and connect you with art-centric businesses.

I'm pleased to announce this newly-launched Instagram account, dedicated to supporting local artists, art-allied businesses, and art galleries. Featured artists will enjoy increased exposure and gallery opportunities.

We welcome all 2D media, including digital art and photography.

Feel free to reach out to us - simply click on our logo above to join our artistic community!

Don't forget to share, so we can give local artists a bigger platform!

ARTISTS OF LAMBTON COUNTY



STUDIO A



\$25.00 (3 hour block)

THE TURRET ROOM



\$25.00 (3 hour block)



Room Rental After Hours



Room Rental Entire House

THE LAWRENCE HOUSE AMENITIES INCLUDE:



- Accessible access with elevator
- Kitchenette
- Special Event Permits
- Wi-Fi/AV Equipment

The Lawrence House has a wide range of options for event rental.
Please contact us for all the details!





lawrencehousesarnia



TODAY, AUGUST 29TH THE PAINTED HISTORY OF POLAND

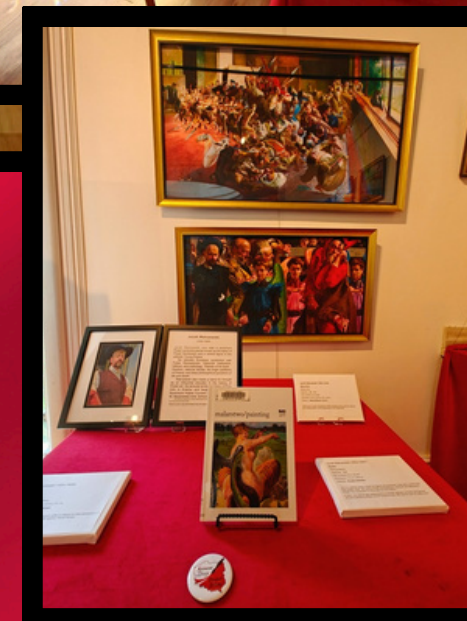
AN AFTERNOON OF POLISH ART UPSTAIRS IN
THE TURRET ROOM AT THE LAWRENCE HOUSE
OVER 20 HISTORICAL PAINTINGS
FROM 1:30 - 3:30 PM



THE EVENT IS ORGANIZED BY THE POLISH BOOK CLUB
"CZYTELNIK"



lawrencehousesarnia Today only! We are proudly hosting The Painted History of Poland from 1:30 - 3:30 PM. Come and see over 20 historic Polish paintings.



next month...



Sarnia Artists Workshop Show



Solo Show - Peg Kivi



intake dates: September 25-26th

Artists: Please upload your info and .jpeg before you drop off your work at the Lawrence House.

