

Crystal Deshaies

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Education

Bachelor of Music, University of British Columbia, 1980 Associate in Arts and Music, Douglas College, 1974

Awards

Senior British Columbia Cultural Fund Grant, 1988 Canada Council Touring Grant, 1980 Vancouver Community Arts Funds, 1981

Fine Art

My subjects have been urban scapes, and, more recently, I work exclusively on commission, creating Home and Garden Portraits. These works are highly personalized, becoming an illustration of your life and family. Several publications including the Vancouver Sun, TV and CBC radio have composed stories reflecting interest in the unique and colourful nature of my work. Although I work on commission, I work regularly for fund raisers, and exhibit my work upon request for this purpose.

Applied Art Projects

Owned and operated an illustration company since 1981. As a design consultant for architects I produce architectural renderings from plans which are used for design concepts and communication media for the client, as well as promotion. Further, I have produced illustration for varied applications, including several book jackets, and other projects for publishers.

Teaching and Workshops

I have taught art courses in post-secondary schools since 1987. Courses have included: Basic and Advanced Drawing Technique – graphite and mixed media; Applied Colour Theory – marker and pencil crayon and watercolour; The Illustrated Journal, for architectural and design students and beginners – mixed media; Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain and other courses. I have also created workshops in Creative Problem Solving using drawing as a catalyst. These were done at UBC, Douglas College and architectural firms. Additionally, I designed a course called English Through Art for a large English language school in Vancouver.



Fine Art

The study of music created a reverence of form and its innate beauty. The act of marrying personal content and form prompted me to realize the inseparability of the two: form can be as individual as the content it frames and serves. Composition requires mastery of the two. Execution of visual art requires the same attention — in its different form.

I am ever fascinated with the relationship between things living and inanimate, and my interest is reflected by imbuing the non-living with an alchemical sense of life. Those things we view as ordinary, utilitarian or man-made are an integral part of our city, home and environment. They have integrity and are therefore beautiful.

I endeavour to give spirit to that which might only be set apart by a mundane definition of what is alive or dead: any object becomes an *objet d'art* when given attention.



Eastside Pole
Original 22" x 24"



Pender & Carrall
Original 22" x 24"

Home and Garden Portraits

These paintings are very personalized. I include all the important things in a person's life and their family's. It can include the cat, dog, the favourite plant and flower, the radial arm-saw, the wheelbarrow, whatever your heart desires!



Pena Residence
Original 22" x 30"

Media Coverage for Home and Garden Portraits and studio fine art courses

Journal of Commerce cover September 1993

The Courier August 1994

CBC Radio Fall 1994

Kitsilano News Spring 1994

North Shore News
December 1995

UTV Fall 1995
BCTV Spring 1996

The Vancouver Sun, cover New Home
Section February 1998



Davis Residence
Original 22" x 30"

Teaching

Students come from a variety of experience, often in one class. Some are professional artists working in applied and fine art while others have no experience in a studio. The latter see a marked improvement very quickly when it comes to realistic drawing, while for the more experienced artist, the classes provide a series of checks allowing them to see exactly how they are perceiving their subject. I use many of the ideas of Betty Edwards, and the students are taken through a number of technical exercises, and in a longer course, taken back to drawing from life

I am providing two examples of what are very typical results. In the first sample, the student is a graduate from Emily Carr School of Art. As illustrated (below), one can appreciate the difference in the technique and expression from the first class, which is a drawing of a fellow student, to the self portrait followed by the drawing of the model. I place emphasis on the care and attention to detail, composition and quality of the line in the contour drawing. The tonal exercises help the student bring light and form later on in life drawing.



First Class



Self Portrait



From the Model

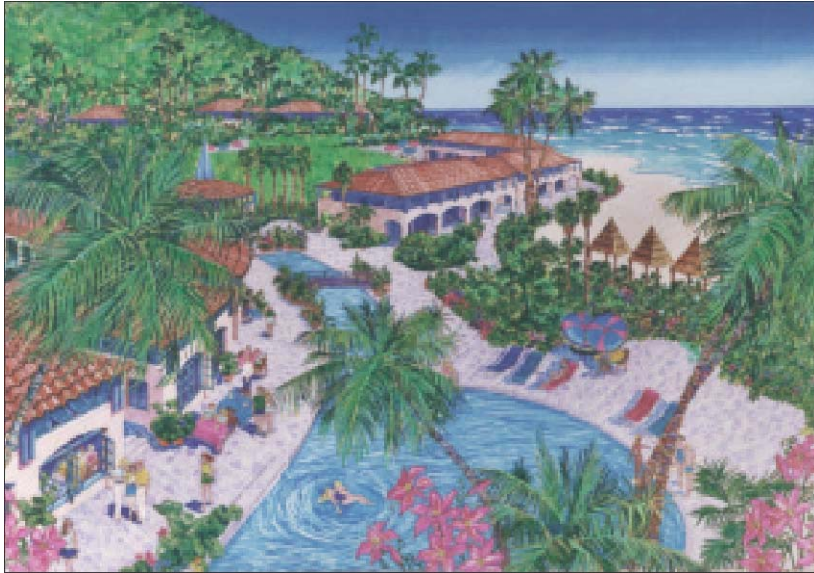


First Class



Tonal Drawing Exercise

I show these examples because they are typical of the kind of progress made. I regard drawing technique as a form of literacy as opposed to an endowed talent, and the students are encouraged to use the technical knowledge for personal expression, not as an end in itself. I am an encouraging and playful teacher, and I endeavour to create a warm and safe environment. I find teaching sometimes very exciting and quite often extremely satisfying.



Applied Art Projects

Architectural Illustration is created from the plan and elevation, creating a two point perspective view. A rough drawing is developed to include all architectural details as well as entourage to create an attractive painting or drawing which can be used for the city Design Panel, the client, or other promotional materials including brochures and ads. The media can be marker and pencil crayon, watercolour or pen and ink.



This is a sample of a book jacket I have designed and illustrated.

CLIENT LIST Partial	CLIENT	APPLICATION	CONTACT	DATES
Fine Arts	Various Clients	Commissioned & On-going Projects		1985 - Present
Home & Garden Portraits	Over sixty Home and Garden Portraits and other commissions for various clients and their families			1993- Present
Teaching	International Language School of Canada	English Through Art	Linda Moore	1995-1998
	Royal Oak College	Art 100	Carol Estell	1993-1995
	University of British Columbia	Applied Colour Theory	Marcie Powell	1990-1992
	Kwantlen College Interior Design	Basic drawing and rendering		Sept. 92
	Capilano College	Basic Drawing	Bob Morris	1989-2001
	Richmond Arts Centre	Drawing	Jane Wheeler	1988-90
	Vancouver Vocational Institute	Art and Drawing	David Lim	1987-1990
Management Consultant Facilitation	University of British Columbia	Creative Problem Solving	Jane Hutton	1994 -1995
	Douglas College	Creative Problem Solving: finding a job in the new market place		Fall 1993
	AWA Architects	Creativity Workshop	Sally Emmerson	Jan. 1994
	Baker McGarva Hart Architects	Creativity Workshop	Graham McGarva	Spring 1995
Architects Projects	Baker McGarva Hart Architectural	Residential and Commercial Projects	Susan Baker	1986-1990
	Canada Place (Expo 1986)	Theatre & Amphitheatre	John Cricton	1986
	Peter Wardle Architect	Residential and Commercial	Rob Grant	1987, 1991
	Spectrum Architecture	Commercial & Residential	Wolfgang Geisler	1988-1989
	Boullard Illustration	Commercial & Residential	Alain Boullard	1982-1989
	Macdonald Realty	1997 Calendar-over 100,000 in distribution	Stewart Kirkpatrick	1996

Illustration Projects

Open Learning Agency	Illustrating for courses	Dean Mitchell	1987-1992
Talon Books	Book Jacket Illustrations	Karl Siegler	1986-89
UBC Press Book	Jacket Illustrations	Brian Scrivner	1986-89
Douglas & McIntyre	Childrens book Illustration	Scott McIntyre	1987
Canada Place (Expo 1986)	Exhibit: Footnotes	Tom Graff	1985

Exhibitions

Presentation House Gallery	Two Person Show		1980
Contemporary Artist's Gallery	One Person Moveable Show		1982
Keenlyside Gallery Group			1984
Mido Gallery Group			1985
