

Cathrine Greene

ARTIST PROFILE...

Sometimes inspiration comes from surprising places, and the best thing an artist can do is let it happen.

Cathrine Greene, who teaches painting to adults at the North Mount Pleasant Arts Centre, tries to teach her students when to go with the flow. It's one of the most difficult things to learn, but it's something that Greene says makes all the difference to her students' paintings.

"The part that develops the most beautifully is the part they don't think about," says Greene, who taught at the University of Calgary and the Alberta College of Art and Design. "The part they think about a lot and struggle and struggle with doesn't work out the way they want."

Greene often recommends her students take a drawing class in addition to painting.

"Drawing is such an easy way to learn basic visual language," she says.

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— CATHRINE GREENE

Greene started out as a printmaker, and still incorporates elements of printmaking in her drawings. "I use watercolour and graphite and chinks, whatever feels right. Sometimes I'll use printmaking techniques like rubbing, or stencils and stamps." In 2006, Image 54 held a one-woman retrospective of Greene's work, showcasing 30 years of work.

Greene originally found inspiration in the ordinary objects around her. "I did a lot of still-life," she says, "like a chair, or a broom, or situational things." Since she has made a shift to drawing, "It's sort of odd. The images appear — I can't explain it, but they sort of just come to me, and I don't really have a lot to say about it."

This new source of inspiration started with a drawing of a horse, which quickly spawned a whole series of drawings of horses.

"I didn't know why I was doing them, or what they were about. I just knew what they needed to look like, and how they needed to feel," says Greene, who later discovered that in Native mythology, a horse is a symbol of personal power.

Of her drawings she says, "There's a lot of intention, doing something and waiting for the media to co-operate."

And does it?

"If you get out of the way, it does."

Title: Saturns Ride



CONTACT

Public Art Program

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Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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Calgary, AB
Canada T2P 2M5
www.calgary.ca/arts

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