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Melody Wren, Special to the Mercury | Tue May 24 2011 | Be the first to Comment | 0 Recommend

Guelph dream home also an art expo site

GUELPH — The Rotary Dream house this year might be considered something of an art house.

The residence's elegant interior décor is enhanced by 43 works by local artists.

Joanne Poluch, art coordinator for the project, spent five months seeking out and meeting with artists in building the dream home collection.

She said she connected with the local artist community on a deeper level through the "community project" and was "blown away with the wealth of artistic talent in Guelph."

She chose the art before the house was furnished. But the décor and artwork integrate seamlessly.

According to Poluch, the most talked about work in the house is *Clearwaters*, a unique piece by Susan Strachan Johnson. It hangs over the main floor fireplace. The stitched painting incorporates three pairs of Ken Danby's blue jeans.

Poluch said it shows the sun as it: "glints on clean-looking river water rippling over rocks that are centuries old. But also revealed are decades of carelessness—a discarded fishing permit, pop can clips, and other garbage."

Each room has a theme. One of the three bedrooms has been decorated in 'glam rock' and is a magnet for young females touring the house. The bubblegum pink walls provide the perfect backdrop for a striking block print by Guelph artist, Maria Pezzano. Her *Zinnias and Bleeding Hearts* is complemented by the hand printed fabric on the duvet cover, roman shade and pillows.

The piano room is filled with innovative pieces. They blend with its musical theme. One piece is Susan Lapp's *Resonance Waltz*. It's a triptych using mixed media, and canvas incorporating piano and guitar strings.

In the Games room or 'man pit,' several unique masculine pieces are featured. Among them is a dramatic piece by David Caesar: *Tower*. There is also an incredibly detailed portrait of a crow named *Po*.

Silence, an enormous piece at the base of the stairs begs the question why, as it is busy, noisy and vibrantly colorful. Its creator is Scott Pattinson.

All works are by city or area artists. Each artist contributed one offering; 40 of the artists are Guelph residents.

Poluch has a business assisting people select art for their homes. She said she delights in sharing her view that collecting art is affordable, and there is an abundance of high caliber affordable artwork in Guelph.

The Dream Home is further proof of this, she said.

The home is open for visits until the draw for it on Canada Day. All the art is for sale. The price of the pieces range from \$250 to \$9,000. Two have sold since the Rotary open houses at the site began on April 10. All proceeds go to the artists.

The 2,800-square-foot home is valued at \$682,000. It offers eco-features such as a greywater recovery system and in-ground lawn irrigation system.

The house draw takes place at Riverside Park. The tickets are \$100 each or three for \$250 available at the house or through members of Rotary. 8,500 tickets are to be sold. Call: 1-877-675-2399, www.guelphdreamhome.com

You will find this year's Dream Home by following Kestrikt Road East until it ends at Sweeney, where you



Art House Susan Strachan Johnson has perhaps the most talked about piece among the local art creations on display and for sale at the Guelph Rotary Dream Home Her *Clearwaters* piece is a stitched painting that incorporates three pairs of Ken Danby's blue jeans. *Melody Wren*

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