

Subscriber profile: Donna Millar

As told by her husband, David . . .

My wife, Donna, travelled a long journey to become an artist.

It wasn't until she was in her early sixties and recently retired from a stressful career, when she took up art. This was in spite of being told as a child that she couldn't possibly be an artist, because "no one in our family is good at art."

She believed that, no matter what she painted, it would be better than a blank canvas. An artist friend offered to help her get started and creating abstract paintings soon became her passion. While mainly self-taught, she also took some art classes at Langara College and at Emily Carr University.

She connected with other artists, including Eve Lees, who publishes *The Artist's Journal*. This online publication has played an important role in Donna's artistic journey. In one issue, she read about a request for submissions for an exhibition of emerging artists at the Beaumont Gallery in Vancouver. After much soul searching, she decided to make her submission. To her delight, she was one of five artists selected. The opening reception in July 2016 was memorable, as family, friends, and total strangers viewed her masterpieces.

Being the spouse of an artist isn't all the glamour and excitement of opening receptions. I also get to see the day-to-day struggles being an artist brings.

And now, once again through *The Artist's Journal*, Donna is preparing a submission with the theme, *From Life to Death*, sponsored by the local Arts Council and the Hospice Society. The exhibition will take place in New Westminster, where she and I make our home.



For more information about Donna:

Website: www.artbydonnamillar.ca E-mail: donna@artbydonnamillar.ca