

Mar/Apr 2023 featured artist

Deborah Strong

I'm a lifelong artist. Art influences everything I do, including how I think and move through the world. My own art-making has run the gamut from miniature to mural-sized and culminated recently in my grandest project: designing and then guiding the construction of a house. Nestled in a wooded half-acre on Mayne Island, it was completed last year, and I'm happy to call it home. So now I'm back in my studio, creating on a smaller scale.

I love to draw. Coloured pencil is my favoured medium, but I'm also accomplished at working with dyes on silk. In addition to making art, I sometimes teach art and sit on the *Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council* board. I have spent my life in southwestern BC and benefitted from some excellent foundational instruction while completing a *Fine Arts Diploma* at the *University of the Fraser Valley*. In 2018 I earned senior signature status (SFCA) with the *Federation of Canadian Artists*.

I'm best known for depictions of animals and I accepted my first animal portrait commissions as a teenager. A bird-watcher from an early age, in recent years they captured my artistic attention and are now firmly perched as my primary source of inspiration. My studio is littered with found feathers, bits of bone, and abandoned nests.

A famous quote goes, "*The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work,*" and I have worked hard. My art has been featured in juried exhibitions, arts festivals, solo shows, books, magazines and more places than I can recall. However, you're most likely to find me in my home studio these days. I hope you'll visit!



Deborah Strong, SFCA

Yellow Bird Art Studio

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