

# Lights, colours, action! Maye brings spring in March

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Arrow Lakes News

According to the calendar, the doldrums of winter are here, but with the temperature and dwindling snow, it feels like spring is trying to push its way in. Still, it's only the second week of February, and the seasonal palette is still mostly shades of grey.

Many people in Nakusp would welcome an opportunity to play with colour and composition, and start their spring early. Lucky for them, local artist and teacher Barbara Maye is offering an abstract painting class this March that will introduce different abstract art movements and techniques over one weekend.

For this class, Maye will again be bringing the sense of play that is part of all her classes like her popular "Drawing More Than a Stickman" course. This time she will be introducing different movements in abstract painting to students who will be encouraged to choose a source of inspiration for their colourful exploration. Classes are rewarding for both students and teacher. Maye loves teaching, and told the Arrow Lakes News that it's even more rewarding than making her own art at the moment.

"Classes get people together and get people motivated," the multi-



Artist Barbara Maye is launching a series of art classes that will bring colour to your winter blahs.

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media artist said. Teaching has been fruitful for Maye for more than just empowering people to create and explore. Offering classes has also been a way for Maye to travel and discover people and places close to home (and the wonders of having GPS technology in her iPhone).

"I've met a lot of interesting people through traveling, I've had to get out of town and expand my world," she revealed. Driving to and from Revelstoke and Nelson has kept Maye appreciative of the surrounding natural splendour: "It's so beau-

tiful here any time of year."

And in these economic times, on a purely practical level, teaching has also been a great way to pay the bills when the art market is sluggish too. But Maye has not shied away from taking risks and leaping into the adventure of her own business venture.

This is the first time that Maye is pursuing what she loves to do, teaching (and she also practises Tibetan acupressure therapy), without having a back up job just in case.

"It's great, but scary though," she

revealed, relating that a recent class cancelled in Nelson now meant bread and butter gone. Gulp. The shift to self-employment has meant Maye isn't focusing on her own art at the moment. Still, Maye is very happy to be doing what she loves in a place that she loves.

"I'm not creating, not painting, right now," she said, "My energy is going into building my business right now." Maye has been able to bring knowledge about marketing she learned during her last stint as an employee to the experience of

running her own business, something she is very grateful for.

Creating her own business is more than a full-time job, it's a passion she loves to give her time to.

"I'm always busy," said Maye, who enjoys the flexibility of self-employment. "I love being able to make my own schedule."

Working with Selkirk College and the Revelstoke Visual Arts Centre has been a real joy for the entrepreneurial art teacher and therapist.

"Selkirk's been really opening and welcoming," said Maye, who really appreciates the fact they are able to take care of details like registration and payment, allowing her to focus on promotion and class development.

With her background in multimedia, Maye is expanding her educational repertoire, and hopes to be offering new classes – like stone carving – this summer. For the moment, her painting and drawing classes are coming to Nakusp, Revelstoke and Nelson, with the Abstract Painting class coming up here on March 16 and 17. Maye is also offering a mentoring class in Nakusp May 4 and 5 for people who have an idea or a project that they may need some help realizing. For more information about Nakusp courses, contact Selkirk College at 250-265-4077.