



Paintings from *Self-Reflections*, acrylic on canvas, 40.5 x 30.5 cm each. Photos: André Beneteau.

Self-Reflections

Presented in Partnership with the Elizabeth Fry Society

March 8 to 31, 2016

MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie, ON

In celebration of *International Women's Day*, the MacLaren Art Centre is pleased to present *Self-Reflections*, an exhibition of portraits created by staff and clients of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County, exploring personal narrative, identity and thoughtful reflection.

Led by regional artist Teresa Moore, nine women participated in a painting workshop at the Joyce Kope House in Barrie. Inspired by a variety of Modern Art portrait styles, Moore demonstrated the materials and techniques of acrylic painting on canvas along with basic concepts of facial proportions. For many of these women, opportunities for artistic expression are few and far between.

The resulting portraits are testaments to the lived experience of these women—how they see themselves, their hopes and self-reflections. As Joy Thompson, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, states, "Living experience of homelessness, violence and criminalization should not mean that women's lives are not valued; even though the women we serve here are too often invisible to most people in our communities. So, what better way to be visible than to paint your own portrait! The self-portraits painted by women are such a strong assertion of the right to be noticed, to be respected and to be included."

GENERAL INFORMATION

About the MacLaren Art Centre

The MacLaren Art Centre is the regional art gallery serving the residents of Barrie, the County of Simcoe and the surrounding area. The Gallery has a permanent collection of over 27,400 works of art and presents a year-round programme of innovative world-class exhibitions, education activities and special events. The MacLaren is committed to building a vibrant, healthy and creative community. Our award-winning education department offers art appreciation and hands-on programmes for all ages, interests and abilities including lectures, panels, artist talks, publications and gallery tours; art classes and camps; after-school youth workshops; artist-led programmes in the schools; and Sunday art-making activities for families. In 2015, we reached 46,162 people through our programmes at the Gallery, in the schools and in the community, including 20,057 children and youth. Last year, we presented 28 exhibitions and offered 538 arts education activities. Through *VanGo* we delivered 255 studio programmes to 6,006 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 in Simcoe County.

About the Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County has been providing critical services across Simcoe County and in the Muskokas since 1991. We are guided by our mission to support, advocate and empower individuals at risk to enrich their lives and to inspire positive change in our community. Since humble beginnings 25 years ago we have grown into a vibrant, relevant and greatly needed organization that last year provided 5,146 safe bed-nights to 546 homeless women, facilitated alternatives and diversion from the criminal justice system for 384 youth and 728 adults and were the Trustee for 60 youth. 470 adults were provided with parole support, jail visitation and community and institutional programming to assist in building stable and hopeful lives. Our vision is healthy, hopeful and empowered individuals, supported by a community that understands the challenges, stigmas and systemic barriers faced by those we service.

Acknowledgements

The MacLaren Art Centre gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of its Friends, Patrons, Donors, Sponsors, Partners, the City of Barrie, the Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Ontario, the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

Gallery Location

37 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3M2, 705-721-9696 www.maclarenart.com

From Toronto: From highway 400 north, 90K north of Toronto, take the Dunlop Street East exit to Mulcaster Street and turn left. The MacLaren is one block north on the right hand at the intersection of Collier Street and Mulcaster Street.

Gallery Admission

Suggested admission \$5

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Wheelchair accessible

