

THE LITTLE ART GALLERY
of the North Canton Public Library
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“From Down Under and Above”

The Little Art Gallery announces its exhibit featuring Aboriginal inspired art by Barbara Harwell Francois

NORTH CANTON, Ohio, June 17, 2015 – Beginning July 23, 2015, the Little Art Gallery of the North Canton Public Library will host “From Down Under and Above” featuring the Aboriginal inspired work of artist, Barbara Harwell Francois. The exhibit will be on display through August 23, 2015.

The Friends of the Little Art Gallery will host an opening reception for the show Thursday, July 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres will be served. All are welcome to attend this public reception.

Barbara Harwell Francois was raised in North Canton, Ohio and has lived in various places throughout the United States and two small islands in the Eastern Caribbean. She has reinvented herself many times with many careers including massage therapy, yoga instruction, college professor and now artist. Her love of the brilliant colors of nature and her connection to Australian Aboriginal Art informs her work. Barbara currently paints from her tree house home on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Artist Statement:

I first started painting in July of 2013 after being inspired by an exhibit of Australian Aboriginal art at the Toledo, Ohio Museum of Art. I felt an immediate kinship to the expression of their connection to the land and the spiritual realm, and felt it moving and emotional. I felt like I had insight into the spirit of each artist and that they had tapped into, and were expressing, Universal Energy. The simplicity of the paintings and the intentional placement of each dot on the canvas felt like a meditation and a capturing of divine energy itself. I stood in front of their art with tears streaming down my face, the kinship so strong that I actually felt they were my paintings. Within weeks, I started painting in the dot style and I cannot stop! My work is all about the energetic connection to spirit and depicts energy flowing through matter, energy flowing through color and various energies playing together. This energy around us is palpable; it is playful and it is important. It tells us who we are, where we are headed and about our connection to nature and to others. It is life affirming and life giving and connects us in our common feeling of divinity.

I am delighted to be showing my art in the Little Art Gallery, as it holds a special place in my heart. When I was a child, I spent a great deal of time at the library and every time I was there I visited the Little Art Gallery. I was particularly interested in all the school art from local children, some of whom I knew. It is an honor and a privilege to join the ranks of the many talented artists who have shown their art in the Little Art Gallery, and to come full circle to where I first started my journey of art appreciation.

For additional information regarding this show, please contact Christina Weyrick at 330.499.4712 x331 or ccooper@northcantonlibrary.org or Elizabeth Blakemore at 330.499.4712 x312 or galler@northcantonlibrary.org.

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