

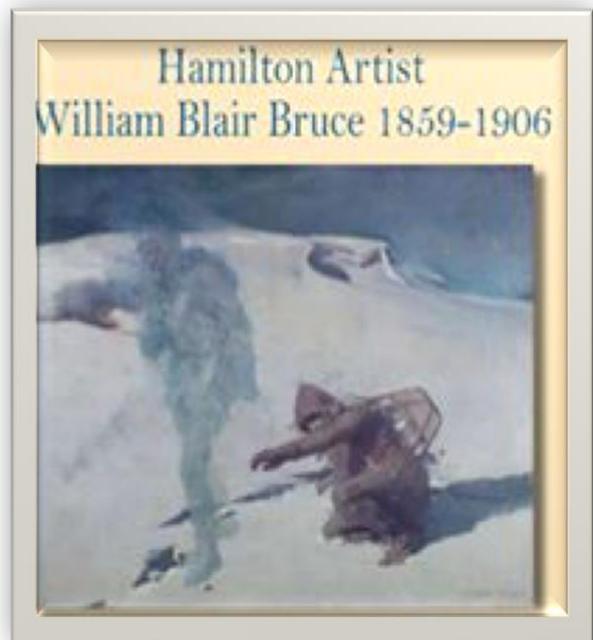
## SUSAN COLLACOTT the ARTIST'S STORY



My First Memory of making art is at my grandmother's attic apartment in a huge church where my grandfather was the maintenance man. My grandmother, once a seamstress and a dancer, was in a wheel chair after several strokes. I made things with materials that my grandmother gave me. You see it here. There is a huge captivating, story here, that creates the vision of this little girl who falls in love with the painting.

My mind is layered with wonderful memories of the smell of oil paint and turpentine on wood, a cozy studio of the craftsman style, at the Willistead Art Gallery, on the Hiram Walker Estate where I learned to paint in Oils. I remember watching an artist of the Group of Seven vintage paint a portrait of a man. My eyes were riveted to that canvas. My mother took me to see an Art exhibition there which showed a painting from the Hamilton Art Gallery by William Blair Bruce called 'the Phantom Hunter'. I was just amazed that someone could paint a dying man in snow, reaching out to his own spirit that had gone before him.

I loved drawing classes at the University of Windsor, 'hummmmm' compressed charcoal and so many wonderful memories that I surprise myself. One thing I always told my students was that if you study art history your life will be so enhanced wherever you go and when you see architectural forms from all ages, you will look at them and know when they were built. You will have a discriminating eye and know that you can change things around you.



## My Purpose

My purpose is to share my vision and the pleasure of living on this planet, through my artwork and teaching. What I express visually, both as BEAUTY and as reflection of the world we live in creates an awareness in others that is like opening a door. Even if my art expresses it abstractly, there are those people who will understand universal visual marks and be moved. Teaching others to look at what is around them and how to look at a painting is an important role in society and one that I have chosen to take on.



Burgess Flora Acrylic 36 x 36". S.COLLACOTT

Here I am helping my father restore his MG-TC that he was rebuilding for my Mom. I am 16 in this photo. My father was a clever man with tools. He liked building and fixing things. I learned from him how to build things with my hands.



## My MOST PROFOUND MEMORY OF ART

was realizing that I was in a 'FLOW' of creative energy that was thrilling, engaging, my whole being almost as though I did not need to think; I just had to trust my artistic abilities, instincts, who I am and what I had to express. I had been working diligently painting every day for about 5 weeks. I had confidence in my skills and what I wanted to achieve. It was phenomenal and really led me to believe in myself. Life got in the way. I still had to go back to teaching full time in September and it was like hitting a brick wall. I loved teaching the students as it was my field. It has been great to be an artist as I worked with materials that I loved from kindergarten to MFA at university and through my life. I was learning through teaching and from the students too, whose work was often so gratifying.

That background was added to a deeper experience of traveling and living. Time well spent.



Shimada Sea Mount.

Oil on Canvas

S.Collacott