


Joseph Schneider Haus

Folk Artist-In-Residence 2012

The Folk Artist-in-Residence programme is sponsored annually by the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus.

Nominations for the position of Folk Artist-in-Residence are welcomed from the general public for consideration by the committee.

Call 519-742-7752.

or check us out on Facebook! 



The Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus welcome new members.

We recruit annually for our board and working committees and are sure to have a place for your special talents. For more information on the work of the Friends, please contact the Museum.

The work of the Friends is financed through the museum Gift Shop which we operate and other fund-raising initiatives. The Friends administer an endowment, a portion of which was donated by Edna Staebler in the support of the Edna Staebler Research Fellowship. Inquiries about our endowment should be directed to the President of the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus.



**Joseph
Schneider
Haus**

National Historic Site

466 Queen Street South
Kitchener, Ont. N2G 1W7
TEL 519-742-7752 FAX 519-742-0089
www.region.waterloo.on.ca/jsh

HOURS

Wednesday to Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.
Other times by appointment

The historic house is closed Christmas to mid-February and is open seven days a week in July and August.



Wilson 2011

Debbie Thompson Wilson



Miniature Painter / Linner

The Folk Artist-in-Residence Programme

Sponsored annually since 1990 by the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus, the Folk Artist-in-Residence Programme was designed to support the efforts of local artists and artisans working in traditional crafts and trades. Each year, the Museum showcases the work of one such folk artist, promotes his/her trade and raises public awareness and appreciation for skills and hand-crafted items which might otherwise be lost to our heritage.

During the course of the year, the folk artist contributes to the ongoing programmes of the Museum in a variety of ways, which may include guest-curating an exhibition, hosting workshops, presenting lectures and demonstrations, or authoring a booklet or catalogue.

Past residencies have included cabinetmaker Philippe Elsworth, *Fraktur* artist Elizabeth Eby, quilter Kathy Bissett, musician Ian Bell, spinner/dyer Chicki Mair, chip carver Peter Findlay, blacksmith David Robertson, straw worker Daniel Kramer, painter/sculptor Barbara Fauth-Lange, artist/writer Nancy-Lou Patterson, cross-stitch artist Ingrid Steiner, wood engraver Wesley Bates, storyteller Mary-Eileen McClear, knitter Sally Melville, decorative wildfowl carver Al Forler, master baker Karen Wadsworth, jeweller Marilyn Gardiner, urban repurposer Lori Norwood, ceramic artist Rosemary Aicher, basket maker Wendy Durfey and contemporary book artist Marlene Pomeroy.

Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus

The Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus is an independent group of heritage-minded volunteers which supports and raises funds for projects and programmes of the Museum. Special projects include the museum and research wing of the Haus, constructed in 1987/88; the Folk Artist-in-Residence programme; the annual Quilt Block Contest and the Edna Staebler Research Fellowship Award.

Two major areas of interest are acquisitions for the permanent collections and publications. In 1995 the Friends were instrumental in securing *The Spirit of the West Collection*, consisting of Western Mennonite and Doukhobor furniture and decorative arts which has been declared a national treasure by the federal government. Publications include: *From Pennsylvania to Waterloo*; a reprint edition of Edna Staebler's *Sauerkraut and Enterprise*; a cassette tape, *Singing in a Strange Land* by Ian Bell, FAIR 1993; *The Tramp Room* by Nancy-Lou Patterson, co-published with Wilfrid Laurier University Press; and *This Old Haus: A Place in Time*, (Burke, McLaughlin & Walker, 2008)



Born in Listowel, Ontario, Debbie graduated from the University of Guelph with an Honours BA in Fine Art, focusing on the Medieval and Renaissance periods in western art. She worked at the University of Guelph for a number of years in the Fine Art slide library, as a cartographer and as an illustrator and graphic designer. She became a freelance graphic designer/artist/cartoonist and calligrapher in the early 1990's.

Originally Debbie produced large high realism watercolours and egg temperas but as her freelance business grew, she had less time to spend on her paintings. Her solution was to go small and create paintings that could be executed in a day or two. Medieval miniature paintings in manuscripts had always held a special attraction for her; she had studied them in depth on several trips to the British Library and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England. Debbie had also practised calligraphy from her teens and she realized that the resulting love of lettering blended well with this form of painting. She researched and tried out medieval techniques of miniature painting and gilding on calfskin vellum and on paper, largely working from images in books and library digital collections. She uses medieval imagery as a springboard, adapting and making it her own. She has had several successful shows in Guelph, participates in the Guelph Studio Tour and is a member of the Royal City Calligraphy Guild.

She has taken courses across Canada, the U.S. and Italy in calligraphy, illumination and gilding, manuscript study and decorative painting and has been teaching the techniques of medieval illumination and gilding for a number of years in Elora, Guelph, Ancaster and one lucky year, in Florence, Italy. Debbie enjoys the challenge of interpreting different styles and methods of miniature painting. She is fascinated with painting miniature portraits and to keep life interesting, she also works as a freelance labour cartoonist.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2012

♥ EXHIBITIONS ♥

THE ILLUSTRATED ALPHABET: EVERYMAN'S A, B, C

February 18 to June 10

Meet the Artist Reception

Sunday, February 19, 1 to 4 p.m.

THE MEDIEVAL WORLD ILLUMINATED

September to November 11

♥ SPRING LECTURE SERIES ♥

April 4 - **Methods & Makers of Medieval Manuscripts**,
Debbie Thompson Wilson

April 11 - **Early Medieval Manuscripts at Durham**,
Dominic Marnier, University of Guelph

April 18 - **Working Women in the Middle Ages**,
Mary Rogers, University of Guelph

April 25 - **Fashions of the Medieval Period**
Speaker TBA

All lectures are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

♥ WORKSHOPS ♥

March 14 – **A B C Pencil Box**
Intergenerational ½ day workshop

March 31 - **Paint a Medieval Illuminated Letter**
Full day workshop

April 28 - **Flora & Fauna: Paint a Medieval Miniature**
Full day workshop

June 16/17 – **A Medieval Sampler: Gilding & Illumination**
2 day workshop

October 27 – **A Medieval Herbal: Fruits & Flowers**
Full day workshop

November 3/4 – **Things with Wings: Paint and Gild Angels, Birds and Butterflies**
2 day workshop

♥ DEMONSTRATIONS ♥

February 18 & Family Day February 20 – **Fraktur Calligraphy and Painting**

March 10 – **Gilding on Paper**

September 22 – **Heart & Hand Festival - Calligraphy and Miniature Painting**

November 17 – **Butchering Bee Painting and Writing on Vellum (calfskin)**