

Local artist part of Aurora show

By Mark Pavilons
& Brock Weir

Filled with firsts, building on past successes, and responding to requests from the community, the fall season at the Aurora Cultural Centre offers something for everyone.

According to Jane Taylor, Program Coordinator for the Aurora Cultural Centre, the season showcases both vibrancy and what people want to see from the Church Street landmark.

“We want people to feel this shared space reflects their interest, but beyond that, that it feeds their curiosity,” she said.

One of the visual highlights of the season is already installed in the Red and Blue Gallery. Abstract paintings from Miiko are illuminated in the galleries by natural light tinted by the glass art of Schomberg’s Greg Locke. The exhibition of glass art is a first for the Cultural Centre and a brainstorm of curator Clare Bolton that these two very different artists and their very different works would complement each other well.

Encaustic work is on display in the Great Hall Gallery featuring work

from artists Michelle van Nie and Robin Burnett. They will be on hand to talk about their works this Thursday from 1-3 p.m., as well as on Oct 3 and 10.

“It is four artists working at a very high professional level,” she said. It is having glass for the first time, and it is rare and unusual to have the opportunity to see a glass artist. To showcase a glass artist from York Region is truly a bonus for us. Greg’s glassworks have really come together in a way that is really like an experience.”

“You will find this show very bright, vibrant and highly stimulating. My work looks wonderful in this large, spacy venue. And Miiko’s abstract paintings do work very well in the same space,” Locke said. The duo presented a special talk on the creative processes they use.

The piece used for the show poster is called “Inspired” and Locke chose it for the show because quite simply it is the most dramatic, experimental and abstract piece he has made to date.

“It is simple stunning and I get lost looking at it, particularly illuminated

in a brightly lit window.”

It was fired for no less than 15 times in his kiln to create the unique fissures, craters blending and maturation of colours as well as the unique slumping that give the piece its shape. It’s also large: nearly 3 feet by 2 feet.

He called it “Inspired” because it’s just that.

“I discovered with fellow King artist Ernestine Tahedl in a triptych sculpture we collaborated on two years ago (also on display at the show). In essence, we learned to purposefully stress the glass to accentuate and mold the resulting destruction of the work. This takes time and a lot of patience! I compare this process to growing bonsai in its demand of patience and thoughtful shaping.”

The show is ongoing until Oct. 10.

Locke will be in attendance at the gallery’s official reception on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m.

For further information, including tickets, to any of these events, contact the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroracultural-centre.ca.



Artist Greg Locke at work in his Schomberg studio.