

KEVIN BICE



BIOGRAPHY

I work in a variety of media, primarily oil paint but as well in charcoal, India ink, watercolour, and soft pastel. I used to say that I was a self-taught artist, but I think that it is more accurate to say that my development as an artist has been self-directed though strongly influenced by many people. The most notable influence is my father Clare Bice who, as well as being a painter, was a writer, an illustrator and for over 30 years the director of what is now Museum London. I admire and draw inspiration from the Canadian tradition of landscape painting seen in artists such as Maurice Cullen, Clarence Gagnon, Marc-Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté, David Milne and J.E.H. MacDonald.

I work at home in my studio and outdoors on location across Canada, mainly in Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec. In Europe, I have worked extensively throughout Italy as well as in France, Scotland, Spain and Austria. My first real understanding of the wonders and difficulties of painting on location came from a sketching trip to Newfoundland with my father in 1973.

After a 30 year teaching career in Ontario secondary schools in London and Sault Ste. Marie, I continue to give teach and give visual art workshops for local and area art groups.

In 1993, with fibre artist Lorraine Roy, I initiated the North London Artists' Studio Tour which expanded the following year to become the London Artists' Studio Tour. In 2008, I was involved in initiating and organizing "The River Project", an effort by 19 local artists and writers to draw awareness to the rich history and beauty of the Thames River within the boundaries of the city of London. That project resulted in two exhibitions and a book that was given free to over 30 local organizations to use as a fundraiser.

Other passions are travel, music and theatre. Over the years, I have lead groups on tours, primarily to France and Italy. Favourite destinations include Cortona, Florence, Rome, Assisi, Cassis, St. Remy, St. Ives, Vienna but most especially Venice which I have visited 20 times. In Canada, I find myself returning over and over to Newfoundland to paint. As well as travel, I have been interested for many years and over many productions in theatrical stage direction and set design. In 2003 (for "The Drawer Boy") and 2004 (for "K2"), I was honoured with Brickenden Awards for set design. For over 40 years, my wife Daphne and I have been members of the St. John the Evangelist Senior Choir.

