

Arlene Murphy is a creator, a go-getter and an artist. If there is a storm, she is the rock, a strong, intelligent force of nature. Look closely and you'll see that emerge in her work.

She has 16 years behind her in financial services and business management, a unique skill set for a budding artist. As she considered her options after leaving financial services she recalled what she loved to do in her childhood, and that was creating art. She decided to fulfill a goal she set at the age of eight years old to obtain a university degree.

After raising three children and with the support of her husband, Arlene returned to school to pursue a post-secondary education as a mature student. Her chosen field of study was art and she graduated in 2014 with an Honours Fine Arts Advanced Diploma from Georgian College School of Design and Visual Arts, then went on to pursue a BFA degree and graduated with distinction from Thompson Rivers University in May 2016. Her career as a professional artist has begun and she is generous in her praise of the program at Georgian, which strongly informs her current professional practice.

Nature is a strong theme in her work. When travelling, or living in a particular place in Canada, she gets inspired based on how the landscape speaks to her. She paints what she sees and her memories are a kind of exquisite souvenir on canvas. To her, there is so much beauty outside, occurring in the natural world around her. Whether near her home on Lake Erie or along the Atlantic coastal shoreline and rugged cliffs of her summer home in Newfoundland, capturing beauty is the essence of her work. Water is a love of Arlene's and a common theme and just as the tide laps the shore, you'll see water repeating often, again and again in her subject matter.

Arlene has ambition. In her studio, works in various stages of completion are on easels; some are drying, lazing about leaning on walls waiting for the next layer of paint, usually several going at once. She will soon begin work on a wall-sized mural at a local spa, and she is working on a joint art collaboration titled "Co'llusion", set to exhibit June 2017. Arlene hosts Art Events, called Paint'n Palooza© for private or corporate functions and she can be commissioned for custom art work as well.