

A Nod to Aunt Marion Art Exhibit

Those who influence one's life in a positive manner are never forgotten. The impact of their legacy lives on and touches the lives of others in known and unknown ways. Such a person for Bill and Catherine Callbeck was their aunt, Marion Campbell Hinton.

Hinton, who grew up in Summerside, was a stylish, fun-loving, creative woman for whom an early death in 1973, cut short her artistic endeavors. However, her niece and nephew, Catherine and Bill Callbeck, have determined now is the time to give their Aunt Marion her very first solo art show, and to invite artists to create new works that take inspiration from her paintings. "It is to Marion that I owe my interest in and love of art, and Bill and I want to honour her with a showing of her work," says Catherine.

Hinton was a well-loved school teacher in Summerside and Tyne Valley, who later devoted herself to serving her community of Summerside through volunteer organizations such as the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) and the Y's Menettes. Hinton's artistic side was brought to life when she became a member of the Barton Art Club organized by fellow Islander, Georgie Read Barton, who achieved the status of internationally-acclaimed artist over her 75-year career.

Barton, listed in the *Who's Who in American Art*, painted realistic landscapes in oil. Barton's students visited Island locations and captured on canvas the scene as they saw it. Other instruction time involved transposing still life to canvas.

Barton's influence is apparent in Hinton's work. But, unlike her teacher and mentor, Hinton did not achieve confidence in her own talent and left most of her works unsigned and unnamed. Those paintings have been greatly loved by her family over the decades. In the *Nod to Aunt Marion* exhibit, a limited number of her works will be publicly shown for the first time in the Eptek Art & Culture Centre lobby during the month of May.

The small exhibition will be the launch for an Island-wide visual art call. Island artists will be invited to be inspired by the works of Marion in the creation of a landscape or still life painting. Those works will be part of a future exhibition, *The Voice of Marion*, at Eptek Art & Culture Centre, on display in the main gallery from January to March 2027. Catherine and Bill have donated monetary awards to go along with the juried recognition for various categories of paintings in the show. "We want to honour our Aunt Marion in this way, and celebrate other Island artists in the process," says Bill Callbeck.

Artists can visit *A Nod to Aunt Marion* during May to become acquainted with Marion Campbell Hinton, and determine how they would give her voice through their own work. Entry forms will be available at Eptek Centre from May 1st until November 1st. Interested artists can receive a submission package by emailing eptek@gov.pe.ca or by calling (902) 888-8373. "We're really looking forward to seeing what Island artists come up with for these submissions," says Site Director Nikkie Gallant, "There's so much to be inspired by in Marion Campbell Hinton's work."

Eptek Art & Culture Centre is a site of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation and is located at 130 Heather Moyse Drive on the Summerside waterfront, adjacent to the Harbourfront Theatre. Exhibit admission is by donation (suggested donation \$5). For more information call 902-888-8373 or visit us online at www.peimuseum.ca, facebook.com/Eptek.Centre, and instagram.com/eptek.centre.