

# Going Places



Your  Magazine

**Read a great article about  
“studio-hopping” in Manitoba’s  
Interlake region...  
story and photography  
by Simone Hébert Allard  
starting on page 18.**

**AISLES AWAY**  
Tips for tying the  
knot abroad

**STUDIO SURFING**  
Interlake art driving tour





# Glass Dragonflies, Too

Studio-hopping in the Interlake region turns up the whimsical and the wacky

*story and photography by Simone Hébert Allard*

**"T**he imprint of a finger on a pot lasts forever." Master potter Alan Lacovsky is referring to a pivotal moment in his childhood when he noticed the thumbprints left by a potter on an old jug his father used to make wine. It may well have cast a spell upon him. "Each pot has an energy, an aura of life."

Inside Lacovsky's huge barn-like structure, which houses his studio and self-built wood-firing kiln, he activates the foot treadle of the potter's wheel, deftly carving a spinning bowl with a trimming tool. His studio, 20 minutes from the Perimeter Highway between Stonewall and Selkirk, is our first stop on the spring 2012 WAVE Interlake Artists' Studio Tour. It's the perfect excuse for my husband, Julien, and me to

join the throng of city dwellers on their early June exodus to Lake Winnipeg. With the WAVE brochure and signature blue and white flags to guide us, we'll drive from Winnipeg to Gimli, passing through Clan-deboye, Matlock, Ponemah, Winnipeg Beach and Sandy Hook along the way, alternating between Hwys. 8 and 9. We'll try to see as many studios as the tour's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. timeframe allows.

Credit for launching the tour goes to painter Helma Rogge Rehders. In 1997, the German immigrant opened her H. Rogue-Raiders Studio Gallery at Boundary Creek in Winnipeg Beach. "I wanted to make a living from my traditional fine art practice," says Rogge Rehders, "so I used my background in arts administration to promote my passion about art making and Lake Winnipeg." In 2001, Rogge Rehders spear-





(clockwise from bottom left) Angel Calnek's stained glass *Sacred Tree*; *Anchalee* by Thora Barnett in *Spruce Sands*; Alan Lacovetsky's stoneware pottery; Evelin Richter's clay studio buddy, *Not Jane Eyre*; WAVE initiator and painter Helma Rogge Rehders; friendly llama at Creature Comforts Cottage; Calnek in her St. Andrews home studio; Dianne Fitzmaurice spins wool at Creature Comforts Cottage; Veronica Green in her Steel Wheel Studio; *Say What?* by Richter; Heather Lair works on a quilt; Steel Wheel Studio; Rosemary Miguez's gesso and sand *Sisters I*; *Fallen* by Barnett.

headed a cooperative and invited a few other artists to join her in opening their studios to the public. A June 2002 weekend saw the first official WAVE Interlake Artists' Studio Tour draw some 200 visitors daily. The tour has since become so popular that a fall weekend tour was added. Indeed, in 2012 more than 30 artists welcomed 250 to 400 visitors per weekend in their individual studios. And the event has gone on to receive the 2012 Award of Distinction from the Interlake Tourism Association.

Minutes away from Lacovetsky's studio, an enchanting treed driveway in St. Andrews leads us to Angel Calnek's yard, a haven for hummingbirds and butterflies. The multi-disciplinary glass artist and singer has turned her house into a temporary gallery, called Angel's Garden,

to display her elegant and colourful glass-work pieces. After enjoying cookies and coffee with Calnek, we head east to Hwy. 9 and woodcarver Janet Cruse-Thompson's workshop on Wavey Creek Road. Here, intricate carvings harbour profound metaphors. *Into the Unknown*, a Viking ship, bears the faces of such great discoverers as Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking, Marie Curie and Rachel Carson.

Twenty minutes later, we're at Rosemary Miguez's Whytewold cottage where a chorus of frogs greets us. The door opens and the aroma of baking bread wafts outside. Highly textured works, white on white, depicting landscapes and trees, hang in the front porch windows and inside the cozy cottage. "It was a mistake actually," explains Miguez. "I discovered that by combining gesso and sand, I had invented a new medium."





(clockwise from right) Cheryl Tordon's *Pick Up Sticks* upholstered willow chair; Heidi Hunter's *Airy Prairie* quilt; Heather Lair's home studio in Gimli; *Islands* quilt by Lair.



The smell of bread has whetted our appetite. I have been dreaming about the Whytefold Emporium's signature wood-fired pizza for days, so we stop there. To my dismay, pizza is only served after 4 p.m. We settle for the savoury crêpes stuffed with "Drunken Whytefold chicken," ham, cheese, tomatoes, peppers and mushrooms, which turn out to be a close second.

Pressed for time, we head straight to Winnipeg Beach's Fishfly Gallery, enjoying views of an unusually calm Lake Winnipeg along the way. The decade-old, year-round gallery houses mosaics, acrylic, watercolour and oil paintings, ceramic art, pottery, jewellery, fabric art, metal sculptures and gallery manager Cheryl Tordon's original willow furniture. The place is packed. "It's always busy like this during the WAVE," says Tordon. Many local WAVE artists regularly display their work here. And the publicity works. *No Fixed Address*, a stunning stoneware sculpture of a street waif crafted by Evelin Richter, compels us to visit her Winnipeg Beach studio, *What? Clay Art and Curios*, next. Outside, an Inukshuk sporting a red clay hat and dreadlocks indicates the artist is in.



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A ceramic artist and self-described student of life, Richter's "studio buddies," large, hand-built clay figures with names like *Not Jane Eyre*, *Wallflower*, *Say What?* and *Prime Candidate*, bear uncannily human expressions.

Nature in motion is the theme at Cat'ch Yer Eye Stained Glass studio on Willow Creek past Sandy Hook, off Hwy. 9. Glass dragonflies beat their wings soundlessly, sails are seized by the wind, seagulls are

perpetually in flight. Carol and Claude Hébert together create these original fused-glass and glass mosaic pieces. Minutes away, a munching llama greets us at Creature Comforts Cottage on Siglavik Road, where fibre artist Dianne Fitzmaurice spins wool in her tiny studio. Fitzmaurice farms her own fibre, raising rare breeds such as angora rabbits, Old English Southdown Babydoll Miniature Sheep and angora goats, to make clothing and collectibles.

I miss the next WAVE flag while scouting the sky for birds of prey flying over the fields. We head back to Ukrainian Park Road and Steel Wheel Studio, where pottery is piled on a trailer beside a rustic old building made of hewn logs weathered to a soft grey. "This is the original homestead," says potter Kirk Creed as he and painter Veronica Green usher us inside the roofless structure bursting with art. The two exude a Zen-like calmness.

## noshing notes

Where to eat when travelling the WAVE beat:

- **Matlock:** Janet's Place is a comfy, no-nonsense diner that serves good Ukrainian and Canadian home cooking. Where else can you get blueberry perogies? (Closed in winter.) 30 Gimli Rd.; 204-389-5303
- **Whytewold:** The Whytewold Emporium serves excellent crêpes (sweet or savoury), burgers and homemade fries for lunch; wood-fired gourmet pizzas after 4 p.m.; May-October (reservations required for dinner). 190 Gimli Rd.; 204-389-4567
- **Gimli:** Grab Icelandic goodies at Reykjavik Bakery on the way to the next studio (load up on vinarterta). J-41 Centre St.; 204-642-7598. • Kris' Fish & Chips for fresh pickerel. 78 A 1st Ave.; 204-642-8848. • Amma's Tearoom and Gift Shop serves up more than 30 tea selections, afternoon tea with scones, Icelandic specialties and homemade desserts. 94 1st Ave.; 204-642-7232 □ -S.H.A.



Gimli's Reykjavik Bakery.

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(clockwise from bottom left) Runs with Scissors Studio owner Heidi Hunter; Fred Casey of C.F. Casey Guitars; Whytewold pier.

It's time for a snack. We drive back towards Gimli to Amma's Tearoom and its vinarterta (a traditional Icelandic torte), homemade desserts and myriad tea selections. While my husband goes for the vinarterta, I bet on chocolate cake and a stiff cup of Orange Pekoe to energize me. Afterwards, Julien ambles off towards the Gimli wharf, where luxury yachts, recreational boats, sailboats and commercial fishing yawls

vie for space. I head over to Heather Lair Designs, festooned with handmade art quilts and wall hangings. "I grew up in Atlantic Canada and my colours are in me; the maritime greens and browns of the Atlantic Ocean," confides Lair. Still, she is learning how to capture the luminosity and vegetation-hued palette of Lake Winnipeg and the prairies.

A few blocks away, Mermaid's Kiss Gallery is home to an eclectic collection of various artists' works. The handcrafted glass and silver jewellery of manager and artist Linda



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Vermeulen catches my eye with its nod to the traditional Venetian art of lamp-working. I find it hard to leave the soothing gallery, bathed in natural light and the sound of soft jazz.

Before returning to the wharf, I drop into the Gimli Art Club where president Barbara Gluck welcomes me. We tour the gallery, dodging the many visitors, while she informs me that 37 of the club's 70 members are exhibiting today in a variety of mediums. The club's pride and joy, though, is the Gimli Seawall Gallery, a 300-metre-long wall lined with 138 murals painted exclusively by club members, beginning in 1997.

We backtrack towards Winnipeg Beach and turn west down Hwy. 229, taking a left on Prout Road to our last two studios. I pop into C.F. Casey Guitars to pick up a mandolin that Fred Casey has repaired for me. Ukuleles, dulcimers, guitars and banjos handcrafted by the master luthier line the walls. And just next door an explosion of colour greets me as I enter Heidi Hunter's Runs with Scissors Studio. Bright silk scarves, gypsy pants, sarongs, vests, wall hangings and quilts end my day of studio-hopping with a bang. On the way

out, I notice a hand-dyed purple scarf pinned to a clothesline floating in the breeze, a fitting expression of Hunter's motto "I live to dye."

Saying goodbye to the lake is a long-held tradition for me, a childhood ritual left over from when my family had a cottage here. A long wooden pier straddles the water on its spindly poplar legs, one of many that dot the shoreline from Whyte-wold to Winnipeg Beach. Lake Winnipeg is indeed a worthy muse as is the surrounding prairie landscape. Homeward bound, I close my eyes and let the soothing hum of our tires lull me into a dreamlike trance, while the burnt sienna sun paints the sky. ☒

 [watchthewave.ca](http://watchthewave.ca)

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## art to know

Artist studio tours are catching on in Manitoba, with six annual events now slated across the province. Here is the 2013 calendar:

■ **JUNE 8-9:**

The WAVE Interlake Artists' Studio Tour (annual spring event).

■ **JUNE 22-23:**

Cypress Art Studio Tour (Carberry and Neepawa areas).

■ **AUGUST 24-25:**

Prairie Ripples (Portage la Prairie area).

■ **AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1:**

The WAVE Interlake Artists' Studio Tour (annual fall event).

■ **SEPTEMBER 14-15:**

Pembina Valley Artists' Studio Tour (Morden, Winkler and Altona areas).

■ **SEPTEMBER 21-22:**

South of the Lakes Art Tour (Stonewall area and south/southwest of the Interlake). ☐ -S.H.A.