

Living the dream in Horseshoe Bay

BY Lindy Pfeil

Born and raised in Toronto, Lil Chrzan was always artistic and musical. Her aunt used to say she was the easiest kid to babysit – she would sit at the kitchen table for hours with her coloured pencils and drawing pad. Lil never liked colouring books. She just didn't see the point in filling in lines.

In high school one of her teachers told her parents that she was talented enough to get a scholarship to the Ontario College of Art. But her parents, hard-working immigrants who had lived through World War II, wanted her to have a 'real' career and 'secure' job. So she went to nursing school in Toronto, and after graduating, moved to Vancouver in 1979.

Lil tells of the day she walked into the

Louvre gallery in Paris, France, where artists had their easels set up, copying the masterpieces surrounding them. Her recollection of the smell of paints, the thrill and excitement of knowing that this was what she was meant to do, makes her passion for painting palpable.

In 1983, "one of the happiest days of my life was being accepted at Emily Carr." For the next four years, she worked 12-hour shifts at Vancouver General Hospital every Saturday and Sunday to support herself, attending school Monday to Friday.

"I loved every moment at Emily Carr," she smiles. After graduating with Honors in 1987, she worked part-time at VGH Emergency, painting on her days off. In 1991, she and her partner bought their home in beautiful Horseshoe Bay, with a loft space that became her studio. And five years ago she took early retirement, finally realizing her dream of painting fulltime.

Lil's eyes light up as she describes her daily routine. She says she can't wait to get up in the morning, smell the oils, stand in front of the canvas and start painting. "My work has really grown by practicing what I love to do daily," she says humbly. She feels very fortunate to live on the North Shore and after successful solo shows at the Ferry Building and the Seymour Art gallery in Deep Cove, she is looking forward to her next exhibition at Visual Space Gallery from November 9 to 14 at 3352 Dunbar Street in Vancouver. Her paintings will also be on display at the new West Vancouver Municipal Hall from November 22 until January 19, 2018. And there's another solo show at the Gibson's Public Art Gallery from January 19 to February 12, 2018. You can also keep up with Lil and her creations at www.lilchrzan.com. 🍷

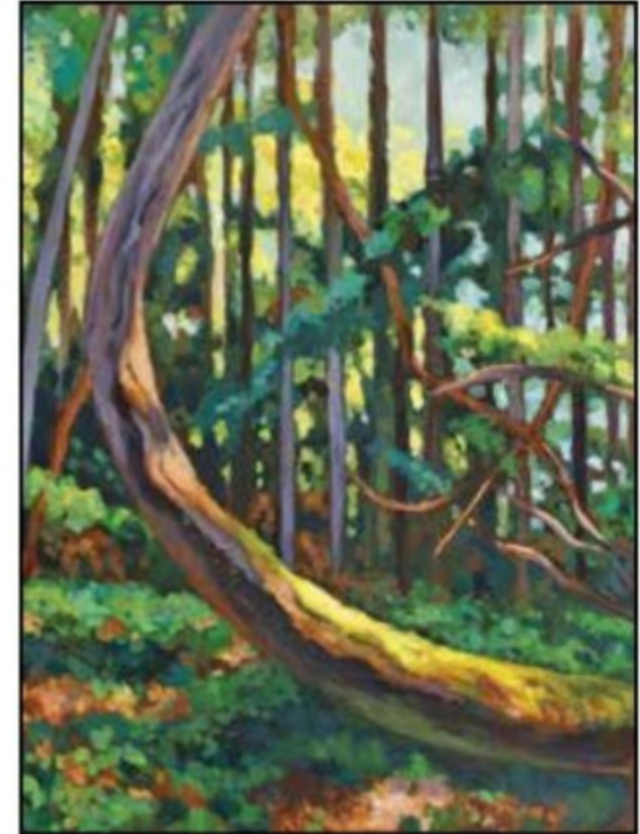


Photo provided

On The 1st of July, 24x24 oil on canvas.