

Iwonka Balcerowska

I was born to create. For me, an art work is the final manifestation of the creative process and an exploit of the soul. The painting process gives me the opportunity to grow spiritually and emotionally.

I am a visual artist of Polish origin who came to Quebec in 1981. The creative process has always been a big part of my life. I come from an artistic background rooted in theater and the visual arts.

In Poland, I really enjoyed working with mosaics. Here in Canada, after a 20 year career in the clothing industry as a stylist and designer, followed by a short stint in the 90's as host of Polonica TV broadcast on a community channel, I ventured into abstract creations, free of all meaning. I began the process with oil painting and then experimented with acrylics. In the last few years I have been working with small formats using alcohol inks on smooth paper and large formats with spray paint on Plexiglas. I am one of the co-founders of AAVNM (Artistes en Arts Visuels du Nord de Montréal) and an active member for the past 12 years. As an active member, I served as treasurer and vice-president. I am also an active member of the CAPSQ (Cercle des Artistes Peintres et Sculpteurs du Québec).

As a visual artist I not only paint but experiment with mosaics, sculpture and three dimensional installations. I also give painting classes and organize art workshops.

The highlight of my career, as a visual artist, has been my contribution in the design concept, execution and coordination of the project "Mon Vélo Raconte", part of the 375th Anniversary of Montreal in 2017. For this project, we received the Governor General's History Award in Ottawa on January 28, 2019. During the same year in an exhibition organized by the CAPSQ, I was awarded a gold medal in the "whimsical category" for my painting "Elle et Lui" executed with spray paint on Plexiglas. This work is currently on display at the "Palais des Congrès de Montréal".

Because of COVID-19 the beginning of 2020 was difficult for everyone, especially for artists. To move beyond my confinement and to continue to create, I with two fellow artists launched a Covid'ART project by inviting other artists to exhibit their works in the windows or on the steps of their residence to give passers-by the chance to get to know the artists of the community.