

the Humm

free

Arts,
Entertainment
& Ideas



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LINDA STANDING

THE STORM



LINDA STANDING

Looking for More in 2024?

Since you're reading theHumm, I'll wager that you're always on the lookout for more. More vibrant and engaging performances. More personally curated and enticing local shops. More connection through community groups.

Here are a few of my favourites in the area:

The 2024 **Folkus Concert Series** <folkusalmonite.com>

Plays and concerts at **Studio Theatre Perth** <studiotheatreperth.com>

Concerts, workshops and art at **CP Gallery** <cpgallery.ca>

And if you're looking for more space (or less!) give me a call!



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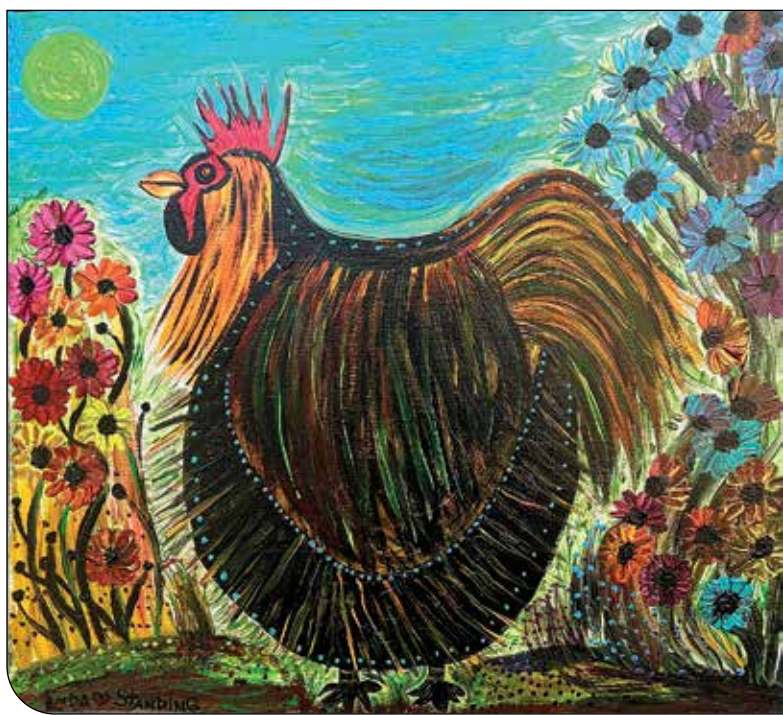
www.kellysuccess.com

Linda Standing – Canada’s Emerging Folk Artist

Linda Standing is truly outstanding in her field. She is a folk artist in the truest sense of the word. Her website says it best: “I am a traditional, self-taught folk artist. I paint everyday life of pioneer ancestors and country folk.” She paints straight from the heart, as she has done since she was a child living in tough circumstances, finding solace in imagining and portraying “the serenity and beauty of the countryside, with people and animals living harmoniously together.”

by Sally Hansen

Her paintings are genuine folk art, encompassing all the characteristics of the genre. She has never taken an art class. She doesn’t even own a computer. Her works display an artistic naivety that sets them apart



from “fine art,” eschewing formal rules of perspective, scale, shading, proportion, etc. But she gladdens your heart with her innocent scenes of everyday country life from an earlier era.

Close contemplation of one of her paintings is like snuggling under a warm, soothing down comforter on a chilly evening. When a passerby stops at her booth at the Bytown Antique and Vintage Show, or notices her cheerful, colourful scenes at Queens Crafters and Antique Market in Carleton Place, you can bet a smile will soon appear.

The Real McCoy

Authenticity is hard to fake. Linda doesn’t have to try. Her backstory is living testimony to the incredible power of artistic creativity to make life worth living. We humans are very creative, and when life gets too tough, we have come up with a panoply of antidotes. Art is one of the healthiest coping mechanisms, because it nourishes rather than depletes. Linda

explains: “Every painting tells a story; it is a story that comes from my creative visions and imagination. When I paint, I immerse myself in my paintings and imagine that I am part of the scene.” The more artists’ stories theHumm has explored, the more convinced we are that pursuing art is one of the, if not *the*, best ways to survive soul-crushing circumstances.

Standing’s childhood was characterized by neglect and trauma. One of seven children, her learning difficulties were not accommodated either at home or in a one-room school housing eight different grades. She jumped the schoolyard fence and ran away regularly. Fortunately, she had two special gifts: she was musical and she loved to paint. Her maternal grandfather, James Ireland, was her biggest fan. He owned the first restaurant in Carp, where young Linda entertained guests by tap dancing and singing. When she was only eleven years old, she was offered a singing contract after winning a series of CJOH “Take a Bow” talent contests. Her parents declined on her behalf. Decades later her singing voice is intact, and her art just keeps flowing.

Her grandfather collected art and antiques as he peddled his wares around the countryside, and he nurtured Linda’s love of artmaking with enthusiastic encouragement and by providing her with house paints. An instinctive folk artist, she painted on anything she could get her hands on — walls, boards, even sheets. She has Amish roots on her mother’s side, and has worked baling hay, driving a tractor and baking pies; all of which inform and inspire her idyllic visual stories. Life, however, remained painfully challenging over several decades.

Discovered Again

This time it wasn’t a talent show. About five years ago, Dorothy Waterman spotted Linda’s distinctive folk art when she went to Linda’s home to pick up some antiques. Dorothy was an antique dealer in Almonte; Linda had been supplying her with antiques she had collected in her forays around the countryside and in Ottawa, following in her grandfather’s footsteps as a peddler/recycler/discriminating garbage picker. Waterman recognized Standing’s exceptional talent and became a patron, providing her with real acrylic paints and buying planks from Home Depot and old cupboard doors from the Restore in Ottawa to use as canvases. Most importantly, she convinced Linda that she was a true artist.

Dorothy is to Linda what his brother was to Van Gogh. Three years ago Dorothy rented a space at the Queens Crafters and Antique Market in Carleton Place to showcase Linda’s distinctive paintings, and they started to sell. A lot. Two years ago Irene



Chahley joined Linda’s fan club, creating a website and promoting her work through social media. Irene had majored in art history, and like Dorothy, recognized the exceptional natural talent that nurtures Linda’s soul and brings her peace. Creating art is an exceptionally effective mode of therapy.

Last year Linda became a member of the Merrickville Arts Guild and participated in the collective’s past four shows. She also participated in the Arnprior Tarts and Arts Festival in ’22 and ’23, and in the Bytown Antique and Vintage Show. Encouraged by the sales of her paintings, she has become more confident in her abilities and more prolific, creating more than 300 paintings over the past three years.

Dorothy and Irene are convinced that Linda Standing is an undiscovered folk artist of importance and are committed to promoting her work. As humanity lurches into an AI-threatened existence, Standing’s nostalgic scenes of a simpler, more human existence may well grow in appeal to a wider audience. A recent article at <news.artnet.com> predicting the impact of AI on the art world mentioned that the Industrial Revolution had sparked a renewal of interest for “the handmade, for craft production — and for the imagined romance of pre-modern times.” It also suggested that the value of antiques might go up as a result of AI.


Canada’s most famous folk artist was Maud Lewis, who shared many of the obstacles that Linda has faced. If Maudie’s commercial trajectory is prophetic, we should all dash in and treat ourselves to a Linda Standing folk art painting. A Lewis painting found in 2016 at an Ontario thrift store sold in an online auction for C\$45,000. Right now Linda Standing’s cheerful, heartwarming depictions of a kinder, gentler, less technologically-suffused world are deliciously affordable. Her coordinates appear on the back of her Artist Trading Card at the top of this page.

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MARINA RAIKE

Rising Sky

February 9 - March 15, 2024

Artist Reception: Saturday February 10, 2pm-4pm





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