



## WCAS Gets set for their Spring Show

This week... an interview with artist Laurie Dechert

Laurie Dechert has had the opportunity to study painting with Stuart Beaty, Charlie Spratt, Roy Cote, Catherine Edmonds, Anne Forman, and Heather Gallup. Today we talk to Laurie in detail about her art and inspiration.

**Q: Laurie, describe for me what it is you are doing.**

*Laurie:* I do watercolours. I love to paint trees - mostly evergreens - as part of Canada's heritage. I also paint flowers because gardening is a passion of mine and to me it is so important to preserve those flowers I see and grow.

**Q: How did you get started?**

*Laurie:* I always doodled as a kid and when I was home raising my children, I decided to take some oil painting lessons. This was fine until my son got into my paints - I decided to change to watercolours because at least they would wash out! I loved doing watercolours because I'm an impatient person and you can't waste time with watercolours. Decisions must be made quickly.

**Q: What are you inspired by when you paint?**

*Laurie:* Canada's forests inspire me as well as gardens and anything I think others would enjoy looking at. I don't want people to say I paint well; I want them to say that what I paint makes them feel happy.

**Q: To whom do you think your work appeals?**

*Laurie:* Anyone who loves something beautiful, whether it be a certain colour or shape or group of shapes.

**Q: What price range does your work fall into?**

*Laurie:* Usually after framing, my paintings range in price from about \$95.00 to \$700.00

**Q: Do you use any interesting tools or materials?**

*Laurie:* I'm not a purist when it comes to my painting tools, I generally use watercolour brushes and good quality papers. I've been known to grab a palette knife when I think it will give me the affect I need. I have even dug out those old tiny oil brushes.

**Q: Do your paintings require any special care?**

*Laurie:* My buyers don't need to exercise any special care for my work. I take care of that with UV glass to prevent fading and no acid mats and framing which eliminates discolouring with age.

**Q: What tradition does your work come out of?**

*Laurie:* My work comes from inside me; it's simply what makes me happy. My entire life has been dedicated to family and career and now I want to pass on some of the treasures I have been storing inside for years.

**Q: Where can people get your work?**

*Laurie:* I show at the Gallery Gift Shop in Arnprior and in shows with the West Carleton Arts Society, the Kanata Art Club and the Arnprior League of Artists.

[www.geocities.com/lauriedech/](http://www.geocities.com/lauriedech/)

**Q: Do you do commissions?**

*Laurie:* I have just finished a commission of a family home in Peterborough. I don't necessarily like commissions because it limits my freedom but I will do them.

The **West Carleton Arts Society's** thirteenth annual Springtime Art Show and Sale,  
Kinburn Client Services Centre,  
5670 Carp Road in Kinburn at the corner of Carp and Kinburn roads,  
on Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10, from 10 am to 4 pm both days.