



Corrie DiManno/ Canmore Leader

Patricia Langevin describes the painting behind her, called Layers of the Mind, and the 10 others in her Abstract Paintings show at Botega Salon & Gallery in Banff on Saturday. This is Langevin's first show in Banff.

Bringing blue to Botega

By Corrie DiManno
Canmore Leader

Abstract painter Patricia Langevin has eyes the shade of a swimming pool in July.

The pigment circling her pupils are a pure aquamarine, and coincidentally, she doesn't have to think twice about her favourite colour — it's blue.

One of the themes throughout her show Abstract Paintings on display at Botega Salon & Gallery which consists of 11 acrylic artworks, is, that's right, that spectrum of sapphire, sweeping across canvas after canvas.

Whether it's cobalt, teal, turquoise, or azure, Langevin loves it, and it shows as this colour weaves its way through almost all of her paintings for example, one called Surrender that resembles a beach meeting the sky at the horizon, as well as another called Stepping Out which has a square of baby blue in the centre.

"Blue makes me feel calm, serene, and it depends on the blue, but sometimes it makes me feel really energized," Langevin said. "There is a sense of peace about blue."

Besides this hue of choice, she said imaginary landscapes are another trend in the body of work.

"The one in the back (A Point of

View) is kind of a beach scene, it reminds me of the Caribbean, but its sort of imaginary," she said.

In fact, that's what the self-taught painter of four years likes about abstract painting in general, that the painting changes in a sense for each person viewing it.

"I like that it's modern, it's innovative, and sometimes it's mysterious," she said of the genre. "Most people see different things in an abstract painting. Most people relate with memories or déjà vu and see something very specific. Then, someone else will see something totally different."

Langevin also demonstrates the use of textures, marks, and contrasts throughout Abstract Paintings. While making textures, she usually picks up a household tool like a spatula, ice scraper, or a nail to create patterns.

And although most of the collection does resemble scenes with sand and surf, there is one that

reminds her specifically of the Rockies — Layers of the Mind.

"This one I thought was a little more inspired by here, because it has texture that reminds me of the rock formation. With the different patterns and textures, it reminds me of the soil, and if you were to take a cross section of the soil and have a look at it, it would resemble this painting," Langevin said. "But on another level, it could represent the different layers in our mind; some are really deep and compact, and others are lighter and on the surface."

Langevin is a Canmore Artist and Artisans Guild member, and this is her first time showing her work in Banff.

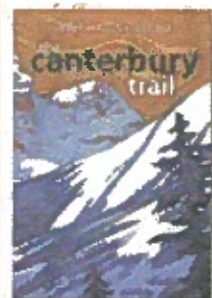
"It's exciting, Banff is the destination," she said. "I hope people get a sense of being fresh and modern, and that they like it because it adds colour to their environment."

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Week



The Canterbury Trail
Angie Abdou

It's the last big snowstorm of the ski season and a motley assortment of Coaltion's finest decides to put on their gear for one last time and head into the back country. Set in a fictional town in BC, Coaltion is the quintessential ski town fractured between its mining industry past and the push for developing tourism. Abdou has cleverly represented and smashed together in one tiny back country hut all of the classic ski town stereotypes: the hardcore, the stoner, the hippies, the new agers, the real estate developer, the immigrant, the redneck, the city kid, the newbie, the environmentalist, as well as a whole mess of huskies, mutts and purebreds. And what back country trip wouldn't be complete without a large consumption of drugs, wine, beer and hard liquor. As the snow continues to fall outside the hut doors, tempers and grudges between these groups reach the boiling point. The Canterbury Trail is a hilarious, honest and sometimes heartbreaking look at how these bigger than life personalities in a small ski town can coexist under the same snow covered peaks.

The Sunday List of Dreams
by Kris Radish

Connie Nixon, a nurse, has over the years found a small space in time from single parenting each Sunday and has made a list of dreams. She has rewritten the list 48 times! She is now in her 50s and decided to move and semi-retire. While packing, she discovers a box belonging to her straight-laced estranged daughter and discovers that the secret that has separated them is that her daughter is obviously not so straight-laced but is the owner and director of the biggest sex toy shop in America. Shocked, she impulsively books a flight to New York to find her daughter. In doing so, she marks off her biggest dream — renewing the relationship with her daughter. And along the way visiting New York, getting tipsy before dawn, being kissed with passion and suddenly finding she is actually living that list of dreams. Funny, beautifully written and a beautiful insight into the love between mothers and daughters. I cried in the first few pages just because I have a daughter and the description grabbed my heart and at other points I cried with laughter at what so many of us feel as we move along the chapters of our lives. Wonderful and uplifting!



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