



Barb Anderson

As a child in the Ottawa Valley in the 1960's, Barb Anderson loved doing crafts, miniatures, and drawing. She took art through Grade 13 and continued to follow creative pursuits, including desktop publishing. In university, she took Human Ecology, and went on to high-level employment in the marketing and research arm of a leading national hardware firm. Her thorough and attractive work led to recognition for herself and for the company. Barb now works with pencil on paper; acrylic paints, gels and pastes on board; and mixed media, including metallic paints and ink sprays. Her subjects include portraits (such as her multi-media "Blue Lady"), close-ups on eyes, and realistic nature close-ups. She still makes miniatures, such as room boxes. Barb's father, a geologist, had pioneered the use of satellite imagery and remote sensing; Barb herself used mapping software and geological information systems as part of her work. This is reflected in mixed-media geological cross-section images that now feature in another group of her paintings; she says these constitute a new challenge to herself to explore abstraction more deeply, despite an ingrained habit of focusing on realistic details. "I bring a realistic eye to the world of abstraction," she says. "I want to make my art more expressive, but delicately," Barb adds. She says she values her privacy, but to avoid isolation it needs to be balanced by community with other artists. Artbeat and Studio Central – where she plans to volunteer in future – offer promising opportunities in this direction, she believes.