

## Exhibit showcases silk painting

*Brampton Guardian*

BRAMPTON – It's an art form as delicate as its medium, and one that produces stunning results – which is why a group of 12 artists from Ontario gather annually at Beaux-Arts Brampton (BAB) to work together to paint on silk.

They are the Silk Painters of Ontario – a modest group of 12 that began several years ago with artists from BAB. Now spread out over the province – some from Brampton and Caledon, others from Sauble Beach, Kingston and GTA-area cities – the group convenes annually to create works of art on silk.

This year, their work will be on exhibit at the Rose Theatre gallery (second floor) from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31.

“Eight of the group's members will display their recent work, with a winter theme being prominent,” said group member Dianne Sutter.

Some members of group met recently at BAB for a working session, where they focused on the Indonesian-born art form.

“The process comes from Indonesia, and other Asian countries,” said Sutter. “Dyes, either natural or manufactured, are used on stretched silk.”

The silk is stretched on a frame, and they dyes are applied using various methods. Some of the artists paint with a freeflow manor that uses a wet surface to control the flow – in south east Asia this is described as ‘batik’; others use what's called a gutta, which is a ‘resist’ that helps control the flow of the dye.

“Once painted, the piece is steamed to set it, which prevents the dye from running and allows it to be washed without running,” said Sutter. “Painting on silk produces very vivid art pieces due to the pureness of the dyes. The colour is amazing.”

Sutter said that artists interested in silk painting are welcome to join the group.

