

Meaford artist on display at Tom Thomson

BY ERIKA ENGEL
STAFF

The Tom Thomson museum in Owen Sound is exhibiting a Meaford artists' work.

LauraLee K. Harris has spent her lifetime in fine art, and her most recent medium - acrylic on plywood - paints a picture of water and women.

Harris calls her work a "realistic, impressionistic explosion."

She started painting on plywood mostly because she was "tired of mainstream art that didn't say anything."

"I wanted something more meaningful in my art," she said, adding that she started painting on plywood around the same time she discovered



attended several art schools including Ontario College of Art and Design.

She moved to Meaford seeking out a quieter lifestyle. "I wanted some place that was non-pretentious and quiet," she said. "Meaford is beautiful ... it's an artist's dream."

She said that painting on plywood is a backward process from mainstream paint on canvas. She carefully selects the wood at the hardware store, choosing pieces that bear images. The water and women exhibit, according to Harris, is meant to honour the water and the places of creation that are under attack through mining projects and development. It is also about honouring the hundreds of women murdered and missing in the North over the past 30 years.

Harris also puts poetry with each painting. "It's quite complex," she said.

This is her first local show, and it will be on display from now to March 20. She will be giving an artist talk at the museum on February 20 at 2 p.m.

LauraLee K. Harris with one of her paintings on fir at the Tom Thomson Museum in Owen Sound.

her own aboriginal heritage.

Her first plywood painting was done on a piece of wood she found in her basement. She saw a strong woman reaching up and painted it in bright and flowing colours.

That piece is included in the Nibi-Anishinabe Kwewag: Water-The First People's Women exhibit at the Tom Thomson.

Harris said her family moved around a lot, and she

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