
Short Biography of the artist

Shirley Van Dusen

Shirley Van Dusen is a celebrated Canadian artist renowned for her evocative paintings of Ottawa's iconic landmarks, including Parliament Hill and the Rideau Canal. Born in Ottawa, Ontario, she pursued formal art education at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto and further honed her portraiture skills under the mentorship of Robert Hyndman in Ottawa.

Throughout her career, Van Dusen has gained international recognition for her sensitively rendered portraits and evocative depictions of scenes from Ottawa and Prince Edward Island. Her works have been showcased in numerous juried exhibitions, such as the Visual Arts Survey 1 and the Tom Thomson Gallery. Her art is part of esteemed private and corporate collections worldwide, including the National Press Clubs of Canada and the USA.

In 1998, her painting "Skaters on the Rideau Canal" was selected by the National Capital Commission to represent Winterlude, Ottawa's annual winter festival. Additionally, her portrait of The Honourable John Bosley is part of the Canadian House of Commons' official collection. Beyond painting, Van Dusen has expressed her creativity through writing. She has been published by the Poetry Institute of Canada and received recognition from the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Authors Association for her short story "Mary John and Weirido."

As of 2024, Shirley Van Dusen was 98 years old and continued to paint, reflecting her enduring passion for art.
