



Sheila Ballantyne

Having over 35 years of experience, Sheila Ballantyne is an artist with incredible skill and versatility. Throughout her artistic career, she has captured the strength and beauty found in nature. Painting in a soft life-like quality, Sheila draws the viewer into each piece with her dramatic compositions.

Sheila is deeply passionate about nature and is inspired by its light. Having an instinctive sense of balancing colour, Sheila has dedicated a career to preserving these natural images with a delicate and pleasing appeal. Her paintings are found hanging in many private and corporate collections around the world.

Sheila's original paintings are displayed at her studio and at The Coach House Gallery in Ivy Lea, Ont., where she is one of four resident gallery artists.

Sheila's painting, *Thrill Seekers*, was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's 2008 National Art Portfolio. This limited edition series is only available through Ducks Unlimited Canada fundraising initiatives. The money



raised through this program supports Ducks Unlimited Canada's on-the-ground wetland conservation work, scientific research and education programs.

The Inspiration for *Thrill Seekers*

While the original *Thrill Seekers* was on display, I had several inquires about the location featured in the painting. After many people asked me if the painting was "this place" or "that," it became apparent many of us have our own childhood memories of a jump rock.

In painting *Thrill Seekers*, it was my intent to take the viewer back to the joy of being a child and the thrill of taking the plunge. This rock is in fact on a lake where I spent all of my summers as a child. The girl jumping is my niece Kelsey, and my nephew Kyle is the third child waiting in line. I wonder how many generations have done the same and how many more will be so fortunate to experience the thrill in the future.

Additional work by Sheila Ballantyne

Several pieces of Sheila's dramatic collection have been recognized by Ducks Unlimited Canada. Her paintings *Freedom of Flight* and *Free Spirits* were selected to be part of previous National Art Portfolios.

