



# Al Bergin

A mainly self-taught artist, Al Bergin finds inspiration every day in his routine rural surroundings. His paintings, done in acrylics, are hauntingly real and seem to reveal the soul of the subject matter. His art reaches out and invites the viewer to engage and participate in the scene.

Bergin began his artistic career in the late 1980s as a high-relief wood carver and several years later turned his focus solely on painting. His first paintings were done on hard river stone, but he now paints exclusively on masonite and has received local, national and international recognition for his work.

Bergin's *Stepping Stones* was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's 2009 National Art Portfolio. This limited edition series is available only through DUC fundraising initiatives. The money raised through this program supports DUC's on-the-ground wetland conservation work, scientific research and education programs.



## The Inspiration for *Stepping Stones*

This painting depicts a Nova Scotia seaside fishing inlet located about five kilometres from the world-famous Peggy's Cove.

"I have visited this area many times," says Bergin. "It is actually quite vast beyond the wharf. However, when the fog rolls in, so does the magic for me. This beautiful expansive inlet transforms into a cosy secluded haven where large stepping stones, a fishing shack, wharf and dory become the only focus, and I feel somehow protected from the great North Atlantic."

