



Arlene Collins

When she was a child growing up in the country, Arlene Collins' love for art was fostered while watching wildlife and admiring the landscapes around her.

After more than a decade of painting, her first passion continues to be wildlife and nature scenes. Using her preferred medium of oils, she captures her subjects with precise control and true, bold colour. Much of her inspiration stems from watching wildlife in her area. With a camera in hand, Collins usually finds her subjects close to home.

Now, with eight small grandchildren in her life, Collins is inspired in new and refreshing ways. Capturing the innocence and joy of childhood has become a focus in her work and is an important element of personal expression.

Collins' painting *Big Brother* was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's 2009 National Art Portfolio. This limited edition series is only available 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 *Big Brother*

"I painted this silhouette of a little girl riding a horse led by an older boy with a fishing rod in his hand. It reminded me of when my own daughters went fishing and did many other boyish things with their older brother," Collins says. "He didn't seem to mind, and to this day he likes to watch over his little sisters."

Additional work by Arlene Collins

Along with *Big Brother*, another painting by Arlene Collins entitled *Through the Mist* was selected to join DUC's 2009 National Art Portfolio. Additionally, her painting *Maple Nell* was chosen in a previous year's collection.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

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The Inspiration for *Through the Mist*

"A bull moose such as this one I painted is a common sight in the highlands of Cape Breton or on the mainland of Newfoundland, thanks to the importation of moose pairs brought from northern New Brunswick," says Collins.

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