

London gallery showing unique McDougall works



Fish for Sale - Port Stanley by Clark McDougall
Oil on Masonite, 1958; 24 x 32 in.

The work of celebrated regional artist Clark McDougall will be shown in London for the first time in many years.

The Michael Gibson Gallery is now representing the estate of Clark McDougall, a St. Thomas artist who painted watercolours directly from nature and used library books to learn techniques.

An exhibition of his work between 1952 and 1964 opens on Saturday.

McDougall was known for his for his black enamel abstract paintings.

"He started usual black enamel which dried very quickly. He would outline things and then colour them in. He switched to black enamel car paint which went on and dried and he could keep going," said Michael Gibson.

While the black enamel paintings are what many people remember about McDougall's work, people in the London region will also remember his oil paintings prior to 1963, when he first started using the black enamel.

There are colourful local scenes using oil on masonite, which are in this exhibit.

"He has a religious following as far as this area goes," said Gibson.

McDougall especially loved to paint Yarmouth Township and would ride his bike from St. Thomas into the countryside.

McDougall left high school at 16 and was determined to succeed as a painter, which he did.

"I think it's just God-given talent. There's just something to his work that is unique but also conveys the region," Gibson said.

The opening reception for this exhibition is on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

— Kathy Rumleski