

Cheryl Radford ~ Media

"The art of fifty" July 10, The Londoner by Shobhita Sharma

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The art of fifty

By [Shobhita Sharma](#), Londoner

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Cheryl Radford says she doesn't like celebrating birthdays. But when it was time for her big 5-0, she gave herself a present in the form of a decision: Inspired by a friend and fellow artist, she decided to embark on an artistic project to mark the occasion.

"I didn't tell anybody I turned 50 and I just started doing this. Only a couple people knew I was doing it," she says. "Everybody had big parties (for their 50th) and I basically stayed home by myself. But I thought it was a good way to do something special."

A trip to France further inspired her and led to the birth of a collection of streetscape sketches. Now, pieces from that collection, *Streetscapes: 50 in 50*, are on display at the Art Rental and Sales Gallery at Museum London.

In 50 in 50, Radford has captured street corners, buildings and façades to showcase the essence of the location. She started the project last year and completed it this May and began posting one sketch a day on her blog.

“On my 51st birthday I started posting them,” she says.

The collection consists of 50 pieces that Radford sketched over a year long period– including some that were sketched on-location in Europe.

“I did eight (sketches) on location when I was in Italy,” Radford says.

Mostly done in ink and graphite, the pieces vary in sizes from 3 X 4 inches to 8 X 13 pieces.

Radford says she enjoys the simplicity of the medium.

“Everything is so complicated with computers...when I get to draw, it’s just a piece of paper and a pen (for me),” she says. “It’s just the simplest thing I can do and I like that simplicity.”

The majority of the collection features the local London streetscape. The idea, Radford says, was to capture the spirit of local architecture. She also wants Londoners to see the beauty of the city that we call home.

“I don’t think I should have had to go all the way to France to find out that downtown London is beautiful,” Radford says. “It would be nice if people would appreciate London’s history. (We should) appreciate what we have.”

Streetscapes: 50 in 50 hangs at Museum London during the months of July and August. For more information visit Radford’s blog at <http://radfordart.blogspot.ca/>

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