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Local landscape artist Cheryl Bailey elected to Ontario Society of Artists

At its Jan. 20 general meeting, held in Toronto, the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA) elected local contemporary landscape artist Cheryl Bailey to its membership.

Founded in 1872, OSA has a long tradition and is Canada's oldest continuously operating artists' society. It was instrumental in establishing major art institutions, such as the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts, the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Ontario College of Art. Among its offshoots are the Canadian Society of Graphic Art, the Sculptors' Society of Canada and the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour.

Bailey joins an impressive membership roster, including many of Canada's best-known painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers. This is a professional association for visual artists living and working across Ontario with a mandate to promote the visual arts through exhibitions, special projects and arts advocacy. The active membership of over 200 artists come from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Dragonfly Arts on Broadway represents Bailey in the Orangeville area, and she is a member of Headwaters Arts.

Bailey's abstracted landscape paintings express simplified heartfelt ideas with complete authenticity. To convey, in imagery, her love of the Canadian landscape and native plants, she uses uncomplicated flattened shapes which are generally instantly recognizable and soul satisfying.

An interactive and playful textured surface and an unusual unifying black are used to support her creation of powerful, adventurous, often luminous interpretations of landscape with wonderful negative spaces.

Until the end of February, the award-winning artist has a painting hanging at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection as part of the group exhibition called Progressions VII. This painting is also part of a travelling group exhibition.