



# LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

EDITOR: LISA MONFORTON 403-235-7428 FAX: 403-235-7379

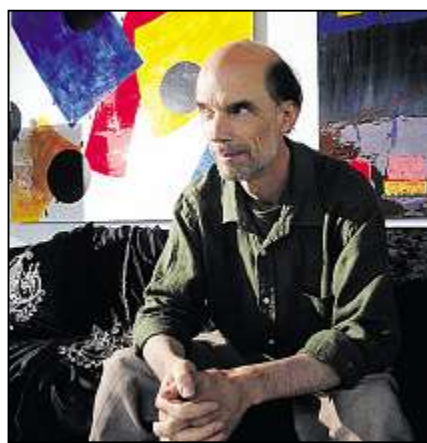
WWW.CALGARYHERALD.COM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2008



Photos, Leah Hennel,  
Calgary Herald

Jay Roma Lamb shows his artwork at Willow Studio. He once focused on mixed media wall pieces, but lately has been experimenting with glass as a canvas for colour and texture.



## The art of peace

Jay Roma Lamb's work originates in the still, silent world of meditation

YVONNE JEFFERY  
CALGARY HERALD

### ARTISANS

An occasional series celebrating the work of Calgary's innovative artists and tradespeople

There's a timeless quality to the art of Jay Roma Lamb. Whether it's the glass Waterlight series, with its flowing pale blue hues, or the brighter, bolder Koan series, the work seems to unfold a little more with each viewing. Perhaps the light strikes the art in a different way, casting new shadows, or perhaps you stand a little closer, seeing details instead of a grand scheme.

Yet, this largely self-taught artist has been creating art for just 10 years.

"It was strictly intuition," he says of the switch from the music that he'd been playing since childhood to the medium of art. Also a Calgary hairdresser, Roma Lamb says that he grew up in a family of artists, but it wasn't until relatively recently that he chose to follow that path.

"Being a meditator, I had been influenced by Asian art — by the art of Taoism and Buddhism, with the dark woods and the metals, like copper. One day, I just went to the scrap metal yard and got a trunk full of metal," he says.

Indeed, he credits meditation with the genesis of much of his work. For the first six to seven years, he focused on mixed media wall pieces, predominantly wood and copper, but the painting gradually became more important.

And then, two years ago, a creative accident led him to experiment with glass. He was using epoxy to glue a mirror to a piece of glass for his hair

salon, and — again, by intuition — he spread the epoxy on the glass beyond the mirror's borders. When he came back the next day, he saw the shadows cast on the wall by the textured epoxy, and, in his words, "from that moment on, that was it."

That was the catalyst for his Waterlight series, which uses glass as a canvas for colour and texture. Taking its cue from water, the glass seems to flow, creating movement and depth that's echoed on the wall surface behind it.

"Glass has its own wonder and loveliness," he says. "Like fire or water, it draws you in, captures you. So my job is at least half done before I arrive. It's like arranging flowers or creating a small waterfall in your yard — if you can appreciate the beauty inherent in the medium, you'll be less likely to overwork it."

Many pieces incorporate clear glass balls — look closely, and they reveal Roma Lamb's poetry, a few words at a time: spare, simple, but packed with emotion, like the one that reads "love is to peace as water to the sea."

"Along with the initial impact of the piece, there's also this secret little world in there that people can explore," he says.

SEE ART, PAGE G2

## AROUND THE HOUSE

### Stop the guesswork

**TOOLS** • There's a new stud sensor in the tool crib, and it's well worth taking home. The Stanley FatMax Stud Sensor 400 comes with tons of features, but one of the best is the OnePass stud centre detection. It accurately locates the centre of a wood or metal stud in just one pass — and it's easy to visualize the stud behind the wall, because the sensor has been designed so its width is the same as a standard two by four. Other features include two types of AC wire detection (ideal for avoiding trouble if you're demolishing a wall — always test for electrical wires before you start hammering) and an automatic depth selection that "sees" through concrete, lattice, drywall and other materials up to 3.75 cm (1.5 inches) thick.

The FatMax Stud Sensor 400 retails for \$39.99 at hardware and home stores that carry Stanley tools. There's more information at stanleytools.com.

— Calgary Herald



### Can we do something about that smell?

**PRODUCT** • Want an easy way to kill the millions of germs and odour-causing bacteria in your home? The new UV-C Pluggable Air Sanitizer, by Germ Guardian ([www.germguardian.com/](http://www.germguardian.com/)) can be used at your home, office, hotel, doctor's office or anywhere indoors where there is a desire to sanitize germs and eliminate odours from the air.

How does it work? A powerful fan draws air into the product.

Next, the ultraviolet light technology kills 99 per cent of targeted germs, as well as allergens and odours. The fan returns fresh air back into the room.

The air sanitizer plugs into a wall socket.

It's effective on odours from smoke, cooking, mildew, pets, diapers and more.

Cool to the touch and safe around children and pets, the new device uses less energy than a standard light bulb.

The UV-C bulb will last between 4,000 and 5,000 hours.

The UV-C Pluggable Air Sanitizer retails for \$54.99 and is available at The Bay, Zellers, Home Hardware and Canadian Tire.

— Pamela Fieber, Calgary Herald

## Calgary's ugliest home — no longer

When Nicole Bacsalmasi's colleagues read that College Pro Painters and ICI Paints were offering a free exterior makeover for the winner of the city's ugliest house contest, they knew that she and fiancé Raymond Bastedo had to enter.

With a whole-house interior renovation almost complete and a wedding on the way, Bacsalmasi says there simply wasn't any money in the budget to paint the exterior.

"I would bet my life savings that it's the greenest house in the world," she wrote in her contest entry. "This would be the best wedding present ever. My neighbours will be ever so grateful."

And so, on July 26, teams from College Pro Painters (which donated contest proceeds to Habitat for Humanity Calgary) and ICI Paints descended on the inner city home, scraping, sanding and painting the house, the trim and even the fence (it was green, too).

The result couldn't be better for the young couple.

"They did an amazing job," Bacsalmasi says. "The paint job made it feel like our home now instead of just some house that we bought."

Not to mention earning them heartfelt thanks from the neighbourhood.

— Yvonne Jeffery, Calgary Herald



Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald  
The "greenest house in the world" was due for a serious makeover.



Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald  
The finished paint job in a soothing taupe is a much classier look.

samcorea

Marketing your home  
for all it's worth™

403-870-8811

[www.samluxuryhomes.com](http://www.samluxuryhomes.com)

RE/MAX  
HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE



Elbow Park, \$2,195,000  
130 Garden Crescent, SW

Architecturally designed, an exquisite renovation. Fabulous downtown retreat in tranquil location backing ravine, steps to Elbow River & Glencoe Club. Features dual master suites, amazing kitchen, beautifully appointed wine cellar & media room. Top-of-the-line finishings throughout!

