

Arts & Travel

Sculpting nature's beauty an inspiration

By CYNTHIA GASNER

Special to The CJN

Canadian sculptor and teacher Ruth Devor, who has exhibited at numerous group and one-woman shows throughout North America, recently opened her own gallery, The Sculpture House Gallery and Studio in Thornhill.

Devor's sensuous stone and bronze miniatures and large-scale sculptures are displayed in the attractive setting, where she also holds sculpting classes.

"My love affair with sculpting began over 35 years ago and has spanned several continents," she said.

"I've gained a tremendous sense of fulfillment and self-expression through carving and sharing my passion for this exciting medium with students."

Devor said sculpting nature's raw beauty continues to be both an inspiration and a very spiritual and humbling experience.

"I've carved in magnificent exotic stone from around the world, each unique in their colouration, veining, deposits and density, and each is a challenge."

Born and raised in St. Catharines, Ont., she moved to Toronto in the early 1960s and began taking art classes at the Artists' Workshop and the Toronto School of Art. In 1980, she worked at the Art Institute in San Miguel, Mexico, and for two summers in Pietrasanta, Italy, where she worked on a commission.

Her works have been exhibited in many Canadian cities, as well as in Florida, New York and Pennsylvania. Many are also in private and corporate collections.

She has tried many different mediums, including drawing and working with clay and plaster.

"I love working three dimensionally. When I was introduced to stone, I fell in love with the medium."

Devor, who works with marble, alabaster, limestone and granite, has taught at libraries, schools and the Royal Ontario Museum.

She said the comments from students "encourage me to continue to introduce others to this wonderful art form."

Devor also enjoys speaking to groups and organizations, and demonstrating the carving process. "It fascinates people," she said.

"I seem to have this great need to create beauty in spite of the fact that my journey through life has often been very difficult. I've come a long way from that shy, small town girl from St. Catharines and I am profoundly grateful for the talent the universe has bestowed upon me."

Devor's work ranges in price from \$45 to \$18,000. The hours of The Sculpture House Gallery, located at 23 Thornheights Rd. in Thornhill, are Wednesday, 5-9 p.m., and Sunday, 2-6 p.m., or by appointment.

For information on classes or to make an appointment, call 905 889 4587.