

Hesp shows reflected perspectives through new photography exhibit

Kingston Heritage

Artist Elizabeth Hesp has always had a connection to water. Though she has lived in Kingston for nearly two decades, Hesp is originally from India and also spent a few years in the Netherlands. In both places, Hesp lived close to bodies of water and for her, water has always been an inspiring force.

"I was influenced by the monsoons and the banks of the Ganges River in India and then in the Netherlands I lived on a canal and then on a boat in the canal," explained Hesp. "My connection with water continued and is still happening here in Kingston, surrounded by the waters of Lake Ontario."

All of these aquatic connections led to Hesp's new photographic exhibition at Taylor Studios Gallery entitled 'Water, A Reflective Perspective'. Through the exhibition, Hesp looks at her connection to water through a different lens, literally.



Elizabeth Hesp launches her new exhibition 'Water, A Reflective Perspective' at Taylor Studios Gallery on May 23 as part of Art After Dark.

"The purpose of this body of work, which has been shot in Kingston over the past few years and some in Brazil last year, is to see if I could paint water and if I could paint water with photographic images by using specific camera techniques, a little bit of editing and by waiting for those specific moments to capture."

The result is 24 images that look like paintings but are in fact photographs. There are different perspectives of ripples in waves and shots of boats on the shore and in the water. All of the images have a serene and calming feeling to them and Hesp hopes that they will connect with viewers.

"Water is not just around me in terms of subject matter, it's part of me and it is a reflective perspective. I am not just freezing random frames based on aesthetics, it is more of a photographic journey within me," added Hesp. "It is also a journey for my viewer because art is life and art happens when you have the connection between what is on the wall and that environment with the viewer."

The new exhibition, which was made possible by an Ontario Arts Council grant, will launch as part of the Art After Dark event in downtown Kingston on May 23. Hesp couldn't be happier about launching and celebrating with the rest of the artists and galleries in the city.

"If you care to look and if you care to pause you will find inspiration in our city and that creates art," added Hesp. "Of course, the collective years of my life and all of my experiences have contributed, but Kingston has definitely promoted my art. The environment here is very conducive and receptive to artists and their growth." Hesp's pieces will be available for purchase at the gallery and a limited number of reproductions will also be available, but for those that can't decide on which piece they like best, Hesp will also be launching a photography book. The book, also entitled *Water, A Reflective Perspective*, will be available at Chapters and Novel Idea. Hesp hopes that people will pick it up, but more importantly she hopes people will come out and see the show.

"I hope people will come and check it out. It should be a great night for the Kingston art scene."

Hesp's exhibition at Taylor Studios Gallery runs from May 21 to June 14. For more information go to www.taylorstudiosgallery.ca and for more information about Elizabeth Hesp and her work go to <http://lensglowcreations.com>

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