

# CANTON NEWS UPDATE

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## The Village Arts Factory to Exhibit Works By Elena Adam, Sylvia Bandyke, and Sharlene Welton

**(Canton, MI – August 29, 2025)** The Village Arts Factory is proud to present, “The Magic of Trees”, a captivating art exhibit featuring the works of Michigan-based artists: Elena Adam, Sylvia Bandyke, and Sharlene Welton from September 5-28, 2025. Though each artist works in a different medium, including colored pencil, acrylics, mixed media, photography, and collage, their artistic journeys intertwine around one shared subject: the mystery, resilience, and beauty of trees. An opening art reception will be held on Friday, September 5, from 6-8 p.m., where guests will have the opportunity to explore the artwork, meet the artists, and enjoy a variety of light refreshments. This reception is free and open to the public.

For Elena Adam, a self-taught artist born in the Soviet Union, trees are living magicians, quietly shaping the world around us. Her vibrant works in acrylics and colored pencil reflect their silent strength and dreamlike presence, inviting viewers to see trees as guardians and storytellers. After moving to the United States in 2001 to pursue her dream of becoming a professional artist, Adam has built a diverse portfolio that spans children’s book illustration, acrylic painting, colored pencil work, and mixed media. Her artwork has earned awards at various Michigan exhibitions and continues to evolve as she blends storytelling with bold, expressive visuals.

A photographer and collage artist, Sylvia Bandyke finds symbols of continuity and healing in trees. With roots reaching deep into the Earth and branches stretching skyward, trees remind us of balance, grounding, and endurance. Bandyke approaches visual art as a form of communication, using structure and composition to create meaning. Her pieces often layer stories and perspectives, offering viewers a thoughtful and layered visual experience. After beginning her career with ArtPrize in Grand Rapids from 2014-2018, Bandyke has since been juried into more than 100 exhibitions across 23 states.

Trees are deeply personal for artist Sharlene Welton, since they evoke symbols of memory, nurture, and growth rooted in her family’s traditions and childhood. Through her acrylic and mixed media work, Welton explores trees as protectors and givers, their presence tied to both tender and bittersweet stories that connect people, place, and time. At the heart of her artistry is memory, personal, collective, and cultural. While studying early childhood education at Eastern Michigan University, Welton’s passion for drawing and painting was reignited, eventually leading her to pursue a career in the arts. Since 2015, Sharlene has exhibited extensively throughout the Detroit area, receiving numerous honors, as well as being selected for public display.

Together, these three artists, longtime friends and collaborators through the Dearborn Art Club, have created an exhibit that reflects not only their individual voices but also the bond between them. Their combined works celebrate the magnificence of trees: their mystery, their magic, their strength, and their enduring presence in our lives.

This art exhibit at the Fine Art Gallery at the Village Arts Factory is free and open to the public during gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; during all public events; or by special appointment arranged via email to [kevin.ryan@cantonmi.gov](mailto:kevin.ryan@cantonmi.gov).

The unique and expansive Fine Art Gallery at The Village Arts Factory, located at 50755 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, MI, 48188, welcomes visitors to experience art in an up-close and captivating environment. Serving a dual purpose as a bustling point of connection to many of the artist studios, as well as an immersive art display space, the Fine Art Gallery is truly the heart of the Village Arts Factory, where art is created, displayed, and appreciated.

For more information about this latest exhibition, please call 734/386-0650 or visit <https://villageartsfactory.com/artgallery>.

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