

# Monica Reekie: Living the Dream

by Susan Simosko

*This is part of a rotating series of articles on members of Sidney Meet Up Women's Networking Group, featuring women in business on the Saanich Peninsula.*

Monica Reekie may be a dreamer but as an artist, she is grounded firmly in reality. The Manitoba-born photographer and painter draws inspiration from animals, nature, landscapes, and cars!

That's right, cars, not a typical subject for most artists. "Ever since I was a child," Monica says, "I've been fascinated by cars. When I was young, I wanted to be a mechanic or racecar driver. That was my dream. Needless to say, my parents didn't think too much of those aspirations," she adds with a laugh.

So instead, Monica became a full-time nurse, caring for people of all ages – from pediatrics to geriatrics. She enjoyed nursing but when a dear friend urged her and her husband to move to Victoria, she recalls that something touched her and she knew they had to move. "It was that dream thing again," she says. "Honestly, I didn't understand the pull at first but as we settled here, my dreams began to take shape."

When Monica was young, she loved drawing and painting, and often stayed after school to learn as much as possible. However, the idea of earning money as an artist did not seem possible until after she retired, not just from nursing but from running a successful B&B too. "There was something about being here in B.C. that opened my heart and enabled me to throw myself into my artwork," she says. She acknowledges her husband's assistance too. "Every artist needs someone to help pay the bills, set up shows, and so much more," she explains earnestly.

Although she describes herself as a realistic artist, many of her pictures have an almost mystical beauty bordering on the abstract. Much of Monica's work focuses on details or unexpected elements of a subject. Even her photographs of cars draw the viewer to see light reflections, colour and form, not necessarily a car, per se. As she puts it: "The more I see, the more I see. I look for opportunities – in life and photographs!"

Monica pays tribute to Robert and Birgit Bateman, not just because of the inspiration she draws from their artwork but because of their commitment to conservation and the environment. Not surprisingly, Monica is also strongly committed to the concept of giving back to the community. She donates a portion of every sale to a variety of local and international charities, and she plans to raise more money for charities close to her heart in the coming year.

She currently works part-time at the Bateman Centre, continues to take pleasure in creating and showing her work across the Island, and, in her own inimitable way, follow her dreams.

To view some of Monica's fascinating work, check out [www.theartofmonicareekie.com](http://www.theartofmonicareekie.com). ✨

*The Art of Monica J Reekie*




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in time and the  
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