

Celebrating Mary Kendrick



She's Still full of joy at 97 yrs May 2025

Thank you Mary
for your
55+ years in art,
inspiring others,
for your friendship
& kindness.

We couldn't have done
it without you!
Mary & Paul meet
here as the first
exhibitors in 1970





Celebrating 55 Years of an Enduring Bond Between Two Artists

Renowned palette knife artist Mary Kendrick, now 97 of Essex, has spent a lifetime bringing landscapes to life with vivid colors and dynamic textures. Mary's unique style brought her canvases alive with vivid colors, the 4 seasons of Muskoka's, and the Smokie Mountains have found homes in prestigious galleries and private collections worldwide.. Her skills of creating a sense of the breeze blowing in the pasture grasses or of storms brewing in the clouds, or the cold of the winter brings collectors from all over the world, and collections in astute galleries across the province.

Beyond her artistic achievements, she's played a pivotal role in inspiring a young prodigy—Paul Murray.

Both Kendrick and Murray exhibited at the first *Art in the Park* at Willistead Park in 1970. Kendrick, then a young mother of three, had already begun making waves with her unique style, while 12-year-old Murray was just starting to realize his passion. Seeing Mary's success and sold-out exhibitions proved to Paul that making a living as an artist was possible.

By age 13 of St. Clair Beach, Murray dedicated himself entirely to his art, a decision that raised concerns among those around him. Some sought Mary's opinion, to which she confidently responded, *"Paul is doing just fine. He knows what he's doing—leave him be."*

As the years passed, the two artists frequently exhibited at festivals and malls, forming a deep friendship. While Mary's work flourished in elite circles, including prestigious events like the Buckhorn Wildlife Festival, Paul took a different path—capturing the lives and traditions of people often overlooked. His portraits of the Ouellette family of Belle River and the resilient mountain folk of the Southern Appalachians initially placed him outside the mainstream art scene. However, his impact was immediate when he was finally accepted into major exhibitions. Winning numerous awards in national and international shows, his work became the subject of documentaries and global publications, including features in Paris, France.

Reflecting on Mary Kendrick's influence, Murray shares, *"Seeing her paintings pass by my booth and feeling her belief in my work gave me the courage to start so young. Her friendship and support meant everything. I love Mary like a sister—she's humble, kind, and full of laughter. Even today, we cherish the memories and special times we've shared."*

Mary, Thank You for your friendship, your belief in my talent, and for giving me the strength to follow my dreams. You are like a sister to both Kathy and me. Thank you for all your love and laughter. Keep on painting!..... I did get us back in Art in the Park again, where it all began! Love you, dear friend.

Paul Murray & Kathy too!.....

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..... now you know who set this page us.....she even advertises in your books! LOL!!

