

Velvet's touch on view in her studio

UNIQUE opportunities always present themselves in the art world.

This past Sunday artist Velvet Bailes held an art show and open house in the intimacy of her home, a lovely spot snuggled away, in Horseshoe Bay.

It is always interesting to visit an artist's lair, especially their studio. They are sanctuaries where individuality manifests and communication is translated onto a two dimensional surface.

Velvet like all artists started out with a desire to draw, sketch, and paint her surroundings as she saw them. Armed with tenacity she took some courses but mainly her craft has been self-taught with influences naturally from other artists, instructors and her students.

Her first solo show was in the home of some friends in Calgary in 1985, it was there that a woman viewing the show asked if she would be interested in doing a workshop. Another dimension of this artist's career unfolded.

After moving to Horseshoe Bay in 1986 Velvet continues to perfect her craft, intermittently teaching classes and workshops with the West Vancouver Parks and Recreation Board, and gives demonstrations for various sketch clubs. Her classes are extremely popular and she is considered a personal friend among many of her students.

It's really hard to separate out the passion of teaching from the passion of painting with Velvet Bailes. As she says, "all parts make up the whole. Teaching allows me to develop, continue and think about what I do, it allows me to contribute and pass it on". An artists journey never ends.



NEWS photo Cindy Goodman

HORSESHOE Bay artist Velvet Bailes held an open house last Sunday to exhibit her work.

— *Melanie Chursinoff*