



## “Branching Out”

Solo show of recent work by Sharon Helleman  
at St. Clair O'Connor Gallery (November- December 2024)

All living things seem to have a “secret place”; where we wish to be known, and yet can never fully know one another. I am fascinated by the revelation of something of these secrets where they seem to be neglected, and also by the perhaps contradictory need to protect those secrets.

Out of my interest in hiddenness, my imagery often focuses on the humble, the neglected, the overlooked. Cracks in the sidewalk, ruptures in the rock, darkened windows, naked trees, back alleys; all hold secrets revealing deeper patterns. My approach to painting: thin layer upon layer of paint or collage, adding, scraping away or peeling back, revealing and alternately hiding functions

as a visual correlation to my thematic concerns.

Trees have figured heavily in my work most of my career. I've been particularly drawn to the starkness of naked winter trees. The sharp contrasts made by winter branches against the sky, reaching for the sky, seeking the sun. Gentle giants, calling us also to lift up our eyes to the heavens.

I also love the way trees dance between sky and ground. For while we can see most of the life of these trees, there remains a life hidden to us. This life is one lived deeply in the earth. In a sense trees mediate between these two lives- one deeply rooted, hidden - and another, accessible to us, reaching for the sky.

“Branching Out” will be on display on the residential gallery wall (1st floor, just past the elevators), from November 2nd- December 31st, 2024. SCOC is located at the intersection of St Clair East and O'Connor Drive: 2701 St. Clair Ave East.

We will be holding an opening party on Nov. 16! On that date SCOC will be open to the public for their Christmas Arts and Crafts show, from 10am- 2pm.

I will be there for that show, and will be happy to give a tour of the gallery show during that time.

For visiting at other times, please let me know (email: [sharon.helleman@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.helleman@gmail.com)), or contact my mother (who lives at SCOC) and would also be happy to lead a tour: Wendy Helleman's email: [hellemanw@gmail.com](mailto:hellemanw@gmail.com).

I have created a website link with photos and other details of the show. Check it out at :[https://www.artworkarchive.com/private\\_rooms/4cd5fa](https://www.artworkarchive.com/private_rooms/4cd5fa)

All pieces at this show are for sale; for a price list, check with the receptionist: [reception@scoc.ca](mailto:reception@scoc.ca)

