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# Painter Doris McCarthy passes away at 100

Famed Toronto painter Doris McCarthy remembered

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*McCarthy's rendition of her Fool's Paradise.*

Painter **Doris McCarthy** died on November 25 at the age of 100 at her beloved Scarborough Bluffs home, Fool's Paradise. Typical of her commitment to the artist's life, she's made sure that the studio will become an artist studio/sanctuary under the Ontario Heritage Trust.

A pioneering artist who brought an intense vitality to her work and life, she was a great role model to women working in the arts.

Best known for her clear-coloured, simplified landscapes and geometric renderings of icebergs in the High Arctic, McCarthy in her long career also did some hard-edged abstractions and kept abreast of current art trends. Nevertheless, she mostly stuck stubbornly to her direct, cheerful style of depicting the Canadian landscape paying little heed to the vicissitudes of fashion in the art world.

McCarthy studied with J.E.H. Macdonald and Arthur Lismer at the Ontario College of Art in the 1920s, taught for 40 years at Central Tech art school, where Joyce Weiland and Harold Klunder were among her students, and was the first woman president of the Ontario Society of Artists.

At 62, she retired to devote herself to painting, travel and penning three autobiographies, *A Fool In Paradise*, *The Good Wine* and *Ninety Years Wise*.

A retrospective at University of Toronto, *Roughing It In The Bush*, this past summer celebrated her long career. A trail named for her runs through Bellamy Ravine in her Bluffs neighbourhood to Marlene Hilton Moore's lakeside sculpture *Passages*, and U of T Scarborough, where she received a BA in English in 1999, named its art gallery in her honour.

There has been no one like her - she will be missed.

**A visitation takes place at Humphrey's Funeral Home (1403 Bayview) on Wednesday (December 1) from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 pm, and a funeral at St. Aidan's Church (70 Silver Birch) on December 2 at 10:30 am.**

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