

# MOVATO HOME PRESENTS MontrealHOME

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## THE SPRING ISSUE

### BIGGER AND BRIGHTER

*Makeover in a Beaconsfield bungalow*

### FIRST-CLASS CABIN

*Colin and Justin overhaul a log home*

### POWDER ROOMS

*Big design in a small space*

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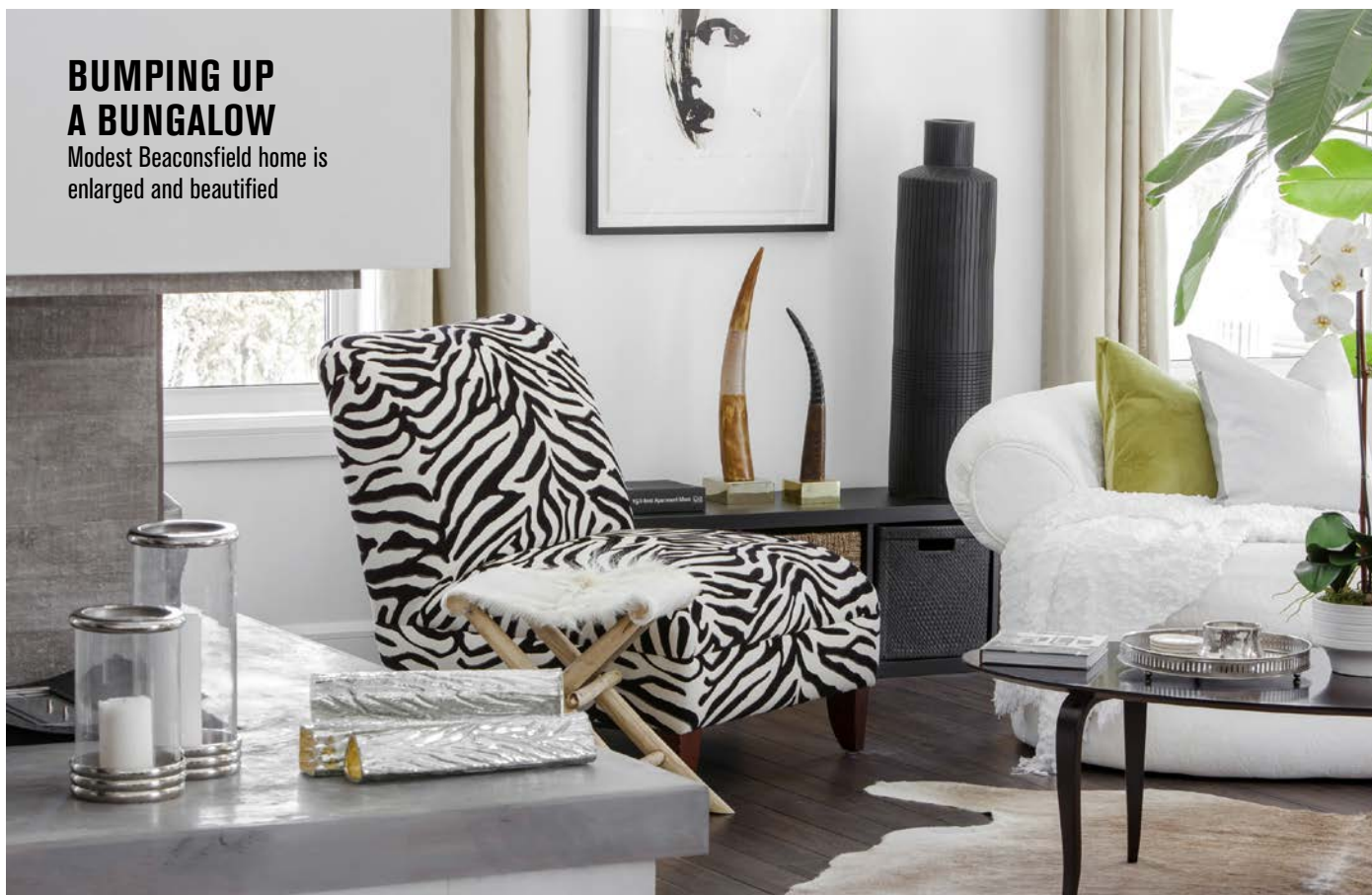
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## ON THE COVER

Colin and Justin transform a neglected log home into a postcard-perfect nest

## BUMPING UP A BUNGALOW

Modest Beaconsfield home is enlarged and beautified



## THE JEWEL IN THE TOWN

Gloria Bass celebrates 40 years as a renowned jewelry designer

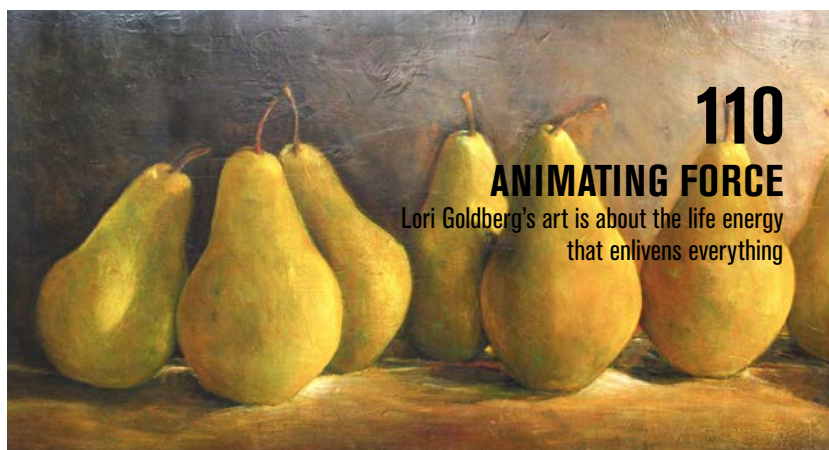


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## ANIMATING FORCE

Lori Goldberg's art is about the life energy that enlivens everything





# LIFE FORCE

*The paintings of artist Lori Goldberg portray the animating essence of everyday objects*

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BY PHILLIPA RISPIN






**SOME PEOPLE CAST AROUND** and try out various occupations before they find their métiers. Not so Vancouver-born Lori Goldberg, who knew from the age of 10 that she was meant to be an artist.

"I stumbled onto making art at Woodward's department store downtown," she says. "They had a children's contest, with easels set up, and they wanted you to do an expression around what you thought spring was all about. I had never experienced anything so incredible, so inspiring, and I had so much passion behind it. It was such fun. My piece was very expressionistic."

Goldberg was launched into her life's work. There followed the years of learning, and doing, and a trip to New York City where she realized that the abstract expressionists of the New York School were "my family: bold, expressive. I thought 'Finally, I've come home.'"

But perhaps her most formative experience was a trip to Bali when she was a young woman. "I met these amazing people who thought they were under divine obligation to make beautiful things," she recounts. "They don't have a word in their language called

'artist'; they just are. And I felt like I was coming home again. It made a lot of sense to me, and it put things in perspective for my art.

"[The Balinese] also believe in animism, that everything has a life force. I thought 'Why not?' Every time you make a painting, it's like you're breathing life into it and then you put it up on the wall in someone's home or a corporation or a museum and bring life into that space. That made a lot of sense to me too. So I was on my way. I didn't turn back." 



(From left)

Eclectic Forest

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 24" x 1.5"

Bambi Meets Big Bad Wolf

Acrylic on canvas

24" x 30" x 1.5"

ARTIST PROFILE

ART

Spring 2015





Goldberg was academically trained at Langara College and the Ontario College of Art and Design, where she won top awards, and at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design. She describes her work in the ensuing years, mostly in Vancouver, as being “more about the museum” until she became a single parent. That experience made her rethink her ambitions and style. One day, while packing her children’s lunchboxes, “I was holding some fruit and I thought that everything I love about art – even though I went into abstraction – is in this fruit.

There’s line, shape, texture, colour, form, and it nourishes my children. My children are like my biggest pieces of art, so why not paint about that?”

She embarked upon a series of still lifes, keeping it all in the family circle by painting them on materials found in her home. She took that focus to its sharpest at times by using rag paper she made herself from that quintessential domestic substance: dryer lint.

In subsequent years, Goldberg has again expanded her focus with several series of paintings and mixed-media works. One series

that resonates particularly in local consciousness is *Urban Forest*, a group of paintings of forests... and so much more.

“I like the relationship that living here in Vancouver offers you,” she says. “The forest is so close. You shift from the urban concrete jungle into the forest jungle that is so alive, and you feel alive too. The forest is wild and can be dangerous, beautiful, uplifting, incredible, powerful. I’m painting about the concept of what happens when you leave the city and move into the forest, and what you’re shedding as you go along.”





*(Counter clockwise from left)*

**Tempest**

*Acrylic on Canvas*

24" x 48" x 1.5"

**Enchanted Forest**

*Acrylic on canvas*


24" x 48" x 1.5"

**Whispering-of-the-Branches**

*Acrylic on canvas*

24" x 48" x 1.5"

Within the series, Goldberg takes two approaches. One is straightforward representation. "With the realistic ones, I'm exploring and studying and trying to understand the language that the forest offers me," she says.

The other approach, with trees lit up in fluorescent colours, is a reflection of herself in the forest. "There's that electric kind of feeling that you have, and different states of being, when you're in the forest. I'm exploring all the different states of existence, from conflict to excitement and celebration and joy." 



Artist Lori Goldberg

— “ —  
*I never stop thinking about the Balinese belief that everything has a life force.*

In one painting of a forest, the iconic cartoon character, Bambi, walks along a branch chatting with a butterfly, unaware that the Big Bad Wolf, with its sharp teeth, is lurking behind a tree.

“There is that in all my work, that essence of ‘behind it,’ even in the fruit. I never stop thinking about the Balinese belief that everything has a life force. I believe it. Everything moves. I’ve never really stopped painting about that in my work even if the subject changes.”

Another series of works that reflects the nation’s psyche is True Canadian, portraits of canoes and kayaks. Goldberg recounts her inspiration: “I saw a concert once out in the park. This band – I can’t even remember the name of it – were really a happy band, and people were dancing all over the place, and all of a sudden they pulled out this red canoe and they started passing it around the audience. From one person to the other they






were moving this canoe around, and the backdrop was the ocean and the mountains, and I had this epiphany about being Canadian and how the canoe is such an icon for us.

"I started painting about them, and what came out was not just about the canoe itself but more about the canoe becoming like a vessel. It's in the environment of nature, and nature changes, but there's a sense of stillness. The canoe is a vessel, so

it can be empty or full. I don't want to put people in them because I want the viewers to be able to put themselves into them."

Inspiration also comes from other people. Goldberg has been teaching for the past 15 years at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, and she continues to teach at such places as Hollyhock, a lifelong learning and leadership institute. She also took a group of women on a spiritual art journey to Bali this March. 



*(From left)*

Plum Melody

Acrylic on wooden support

24" x 36" x 1.5"

Sunset Peaches

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 48" x 1.5"







"I don't see my teaching as separate from what I do in my studio," she says. "They actually help each other out. I'm inspired by ideas that I come home with from my students, or else I'm inspired by my ideas and share them with my students for them to explore in their own way."

Despite the two-way inspiration and the personal fulfillment, Goldberg says that being an artist is a challenging métier in this society, but "I think that it's a valid job like anything else. It needs to get done. Someone has to be

the observer and create work that gives people perspective on their world.

"It's not a profession that you retire from—at least, I don't believe I'll retire. The practice is something that will continue on in my life until I can no longer do it. It's something that's just part of me." ✎

— “ —

*It's in the environment of nature, and nature changes, but there's a sense of stillness.*



(From left)

Lakeview

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 48" x 1.5"

Making Love in a Canoe

Acrylic on canvas

36" x 48" x 1.5"

ARTIST PROFILE

ART  
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