



# Choleena DiTullio

774 McVeigh Rd., RR#7, Perth, ON K7H 3C9

Tel: (613) 390-0731

email: [choleena@gmail.com](mailto:choleena@gmail.com) • web: [www.choleena.com](http://www.choleena.com)

## Artist's Biography

Born in Ottawa, Ontario, Choleena DiTullio is a 1994 honours graduate of Mount Allison University's Fine Arts Bachelor Degree. Working under **Gemey Kelly, Rebecca Burke, Tom Henderson, and Thaddeus Holownia**, she pursued a mixed-media approach. Her work included some of the first digital artwork seen in the department, produced with the assistance of a **Crake Foundation Fellowship**.

After graduating, she focused on acrylic and watercolour, often incorporating found objects. In 2009, influenced by mosaic-style art, Choleena invented a brand-new medium in the art realm: paper-tile mosaic. Mimick-

ing the glossy look of traditional ceramic tile, her technique employs hand-made paper and acrylic gel to create a rich and lush surface. Unlike traditional ceramic, the paper-tile artworks are light-weight and easy to move.

Choleena is a full-time artist with awards in the fields of art and marketing. Her work is in corporate and private collections in Canada, USA, Japan, and Australia.

---

*Recently, Choleena moved back to the family farm in Perth, Ontario, and has set up her studio overlooking the old barns and wildlife. Her latest artworks show these inspirations. Learn more about her art, and 'the farm' at [www.choleena.com](http://www.choleena.com)*

## THE NATURE OF CANADA

Choleena DiTullio, inventor of the brand-new art medium, Paper-Tile Mosaic, is always experimenting with subject matter that suits the look of mosaic. In Canada's 150th year, she has set out on a path to create the wild plants and animals of its provinces and territories. The longer wall of this exhibit features those artworks.

## Artist's Statement

From 1990-2017, my art career has methodically developed. It began with a BFA from Mount Allison University. After graduating, I worked full-time as a graphic arts designer to pay off student loans, while I created art at night and showed my work regularly from 1994-2008. As life permitted, I reduced my 'day job' to part-time, and allowed my art practice to take the front burner. I worked almost exclusively in acrylic with mixed media. I focused on fish as a favourite theme. And, incorporating found objects was so alluring that it became standard practice.

In university, professors pointed out that my fish and style were reminiscent of historic mosaic such as that found in Mediterranean bathhouses. Upon researching, I found the medium fascinating, and a way to bring art to the masses. It is still used that way today in contemporary art practices — architecture and public art. This appealed to me greatly because

I have always loved the idea of art being pervasive in all aspects of life. But I had been hesitant to try ceramic tile because of its weight. I would not be able to lift it myself, it risked being cracked during transportation, and I would have to develop a wall system that could withstand the weight as I displayed at shows. Even with those prohibitive qualities, I could not stop thinking about the gorgeous look of ceramic tile. I found myself wondering if I could adopt its lush, glossy surface into my art without using ceramic. So, I took 2009-2010 to develop a method of recreating this classic art form. Using paper, I created a new mosaic process, eliminating some of the challenges presented by the classic form. The new medium is light-weight, and easy to hang and transport. I call this innovative medium Paper-Tile Mosaic.

With this new process perfected and mastered, I now work on developing subject matter that suits the look of mosaic.

Preserving the visual flow of colour and shadow, as depth and lighting change on a subject, is one of the most difficult aspects of it. Each tile is its own colour separated by a dark line. I find satisfaction in using this aspect to my advantage, and choose subjects that are complimented by a tiled approach to preserve artistic merit.

In working to connect to our everyday lives, I use hand-made paper, recycled materials, and often refer to or pay homage to popular culture in my art. I take pride in creating exceptional work that marries theme to the medium, and allows self-expression in the context of modern living and historical precedence. With ongoing commitment to my art practice, my art now fully focuses on my new art medium.

This show features two walls. The longest contains my wildlife works that are a nod to the nature found within Canada. The shorter wall shows the depth of theme that I have explored with this medium.

“*Paper-tile Mosaic is a brand-new art process invented by me. It is designed to make paper look like ceramic tile mosaic, but to be light-weight and portable. Touch it. You will not believe it is paper!*”

*- Choleena*

*If you're wondering, Choleena is pronounced "ko-lee-nah". The origin of her unique name: Acetylcholine. Her father was a bio-chemist.*