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Kelowna hotel allows artist to pursue her passion

By Holly Miyasaki Capital News Contributor

Mayumi Hatano made a big life change to pursue her love of art.

I came over for the freedom of choice for my life," said Hatano, originally from Hokaido, Japan.

I wanted to pursue something creative for myself, but in Japan there was a lot of resistance for a young woman to pursue what she wanted to."

Eighteen years ago, Hatano moved to Vancouver so she could become an artist.

She said while Japan appears very modernized with technology, it is old-fashioned when it comes to gender roles in society.

Now, her choice has paid off as Kelowna's Grand Hotel has purchased 300 limited edition prints of View of Okanagan Lake-North" and View of Okanagan Lake-South" for 150 of its rooms.

I would like to emphasize the significance of this," she said of the sale.

You see many large hotels purchase their artwork from elsewhere.

The Grand really demonstrated the support of the local artist. It would be nice to see other local business support local artists."

Since the purchase, Hatano has been busy learning business lessons, as well as getting her prints ready for the hotel.

Dealing with the hotel was the first time for me," she said.

Through this experience I have learned a lot-for that experience I'm very thankful."

Hatano said she is responsible for the printing and framing of her pictures, so she'll be very busy.

Still, she's proud of being able to use all local businesses to help her efforts.

Living in the Okanagan for 12 years, Hatano said she's influenced by the beauty of the valley in her acrylic and watercolour paintings as well as reaching back to her roots to add some Asian inspiration to her work. The first 10 years I was strictly working on the Western style landscape," she said, explaining why she resisted using Asian influences in her art.

I also felt just because I'm from Japan and going into the Asian kind of art is just a kind of easy given. I resisted it for 10 years."

But more recently, she's started to re-connect with her culture and background to add more to her painting themes.

This summer she'll be really busy getting her big sale ready to hand over to the hotel.

This summer I will be really sweating with the physical work," she said with a laugh in reference to gathering her frames and prints together. This will probably make up my exercise."



danya kirby / capital news

Mayumi Hatano stands beside one of her two paintings that caught the eye of The Grand Hotel. Limited edition prints of the two paintings will be hung in 150 renovated rooms at the Kelowna hotel. Hatano's works are on display at the Central Okanagan Regional District headquarters on KLO Road this summer.