

## **INGERSOLL CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE**

### **ARCHITECTURE: LOST, FOUND, AND ALTERED ROBERTA CORY**

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

I am a three dimensional mixed media artist who has been making wall hung constructions based upon architecture since 2000. I have a BA degree and secondary teaching credential from the University of California, Davis. I have a Masters, with distinction, in Philosophy of Art from California State University, Chico. I have taught art at the intermediate, secondary, and university levels.

I came to Canada from northern California in 1999 for love, marrying my husband Rory in 2000. Immediately I was struck by the yellow brick buildings of downtown London and I spent hours wandering the back alleys and lane ways with my camera, recording the mystery and strangeness of my new environment. The low relief constructions I made, based upon collages of my photos, were very popular on the London Open Studio Tours, and were seen and sold in many shows in the early 2000s.

In 2004 I became a grandmother three times in seven months and all three babies lived in California with my daughters. So in 2005 we moved to Victoria in order to be able to take the ferry to Washington and drive to California to see family. While in Victoria I was one of the founders of the Vic West Art Quest, our studio tour. A newspaper article warned me that the famous 1920s Tudor revival Oak Bay Beach Hotel was going to be demolished so I took photos of it immediately and did a series of six pieces. The site has since been rebuilt as a hotel/ condo complex in a mediterranean style.

From the moment I saw the Thamesford Mill in 2003, I knew I wanted to do some pieces about it. The silos and the stark geometry of the buildings in the clarity of full sunlight were abstract pure sculpture to me. The mill was familiar because of my agricultural background in the Central Valley of California where grain silos dot the landscape. I was not able to do the Thamesford Mill series until we returned to London in 2010. One piece of this series toured as part of the Thamesford Mill Travelling Exhibition which opened at Elm Hurst Inn in December of 2012 and concluded at the Thamesford Library on April 19, 2013. At that time the owner of the mill told all of us that he hoped to repurpose and save the historic mill building at least. Unfortunately for Thamesford, and for all of us who loved the landmark, that was not possible. What remains is a pile of rubble and a new view of the Thames River. Thamesford Mill #4 was the last piece to be completed, and was renamed "Absence of the Mill" to address the new relationship we have to the site.