

EDUCATION ISSUE

art avenue

A Federation of Canadian Artists Publication Vol.9 - No.4 July/August 2009 \$5



Messages from BC

April 7 - 19

Lucy Collings, AFCA
Cheekamus River
oil 12 x 12 SOLD



June Harman, AFCA
Whistle Player II
acrylic 18 x 14 \$650



Bob Araki, AFCA
Okanagan Wineries #5, Hill Side, Naramata
oil 22 X 33 \$850



Rose-Marie Goodwin
Waiting for Summer
acrylic 24 x 30 SOLD



Don Hodgins, AFCA
Heavy Going at Hastings
oil 20 x 20 \$780



Jacque Dunn
Still Life with Chicken
oil 24 x 24 SOLD

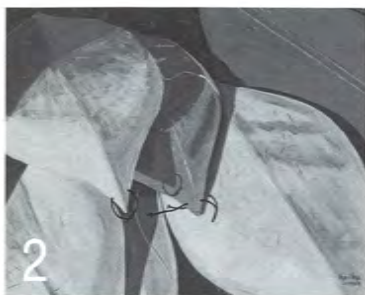
To see the entire show visit our website, www.artists.ca

artavenue

a Federation of Canadian Artists publication

exhibitions

JULY/AUGUST 2009
Volume 9, No.4



MESSAGES FROM BC
April 7 - 19



STILL LIFE SHOW
April 21 - May 3



ABSTRACT SHOW
May 3 -17



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& on the cover



June Harman graduated from the commercial art programme at Capilano College in 1984 and worked in the field for 10 years as an illustrator, graphic designer and art director. She left commercial art in 1995 to become a full-time painter. Dancers moving with abandon and musicians absorbed in playing are often the subjects of her work. Music plays a major role whether she's working with the human figure or using a landscape to express rhythm and melody.

June Harman, AFCA *Saturday Morning* 32 x 44 acrylic \$3500

artavenue

A Federation of Canadian Artists Publication

Editor: Kelli Kadokawa
Advertising: Kelli Kadokawa
Layout/Design: Graphics Garage
Proofreading: Susan Rivard
Printer: Fraser Valley Custom Printers

Volume 9, No.4 July/August 2009

Art Avenue is published 6 times per year
by the Federation of Canadian Artists.

Submission and advertising information are available on our
website www.artists.ca or by calling 604-681-2744

Next editorial submission deadline: July 27, 2009

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The Federation of Canadian Artists gratefully acknowledges
funding from the Province of British Columbia for the
production of *Art Avenue*

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art David Langevin

techniques

Dull Acrylics

David,
I have a question about acrylic paintings. Even though I use artist quality acrylic, the painting loses its initial vitality after a while. In oil painting you attribute this to the fact that oil is absorbed by the gesso and cotton canvas. But do you know why it happens in acrylic and how it can be avoided? I have found use of acrylic finishes unsatisfactory as it puts a misty layer on the painting. Use of varnish is a little better but it still darkens the painting and makes the possibility of making changes to the painting, if need be, somewhat cumbersome. Is there a better way?

Tony,
I do have a couple of ideas. Acrylic paints contain water which evaporates as they dry. The water makes the paint look shiny and more transparent. Once it is gone, the paint looks darker and a bit duller. This is unavoidable. While oils look the same after they dry, acrylics look less shiny and somewhat darker than when they are wet. They also shrink, because of the loss of the water, and the edges soften.

Using an acrylic GLOSS medium can compensate for the lack of shine. Thinning your acrylic paints with water also makes them look duller as it washes away too much shiny acrylic binder and leaves the surface more bumpy; bumpy = dull. Use the gloss medium instead to thin colors for transparent effects. Do not use a matte medium as this is designed to make the paint look duller.

Hi David,
I have been finishing my acrylic paintings with a watered-down gloss or matte polymer coat (or a mixture). I do it to have a uniform

application of medium over the whole painting. Originally, when I used a thicker (less water) mixture I found what looks like large brush strokes appeared when viewing the painting at oblique angles. Can you tell me what was happening? By experiment, I found that a watered down mixture eliminates the problem. I note your recommendation to use Golden MSA or Liquitex Soluvar and I will try them. Should they be watered down too?
Thanks, Charlie

Hey Charlie,
Acrylic polymer mediums can dry cloudy looking sometimes, especially the matte one. Adding a bit of water does help as it allows for a more even application. The mediums can quickly become sticky as they dry and this will cause the streaks in the brush strokes you refer to. You must apply acrylic mediums quickly and with minimal brushing. I do not recommend using a matte medium for the isolation varnish because it is not as durable and will not protect the paint as well as the gloss medium.

Here is an excerpt from a Q&A I did on varnishing acrylics:
1. Apply one or two coats of soft gel medium (gloss) mixed 1 part water to 2 parts soft gel medium. Use a wide soft brush. Allow to dry thoroughly (may take a couple of days). You can also use Acrylic Gloss Medium but I find that the above mixture brushes on better and doesn't foam or cloud up as easily. Be sure to only use gloss mediums for this layer, matte mediums are not durable enough. This layer is called the ISOLATION varnish because it isolates the painting from coming into direct contact with the final picture varnish which can now be cleaned or even removed with a solvent without affecting your painting. Acrylic paintings are sensitive to solvents.
2. Apply a coat of either the Golden MSA or Liquitex Soluvar with a soft brush. You can mix gloss and matte in any combination. I usually mix them 3-4 parts gloss to 1 part matte. Read the instructions for the Golden MSA varnish as it needs to be diluted with a solvent (mineral spirits or turpentine). Be sure to apply these varnishes in a well ventilated area.

Questions of a painterly nature can be asked via e-mail, david@davidlangevin.com
For an archive of past technical Q&A's go to davidlangevin.com

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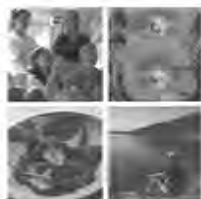
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Marianne Broome	Janice Robertson	Donna Jo Massie
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onboard

The FCA welcomes 5 new Board Members



Alfonso Tejada Public Relations

The honour bestowed on me, as Public Relations Chair, will allow me to reach the members of the FCA in all the various communities and try to develop an interactive participation among the membership to promote and expose their talent and works in the community at large. The FCA's participation with other groups will strengthen its identity and create interest for our members' work. Ensuring this path for the FCA is an important part of my role.

Andrew McDermott, SFCA 1st Vice President



I welcome this opportunity to be part of the Board of Directors as 1st Vice President. In such a short time on the board I have already seen how much work and time goes into the Federation; the board members are very dedicated and passionate individuals and it's a privilege to be counted among them. I will use my knowledge and experiences to give input and my own two cents, but mostly I will be a good listener, for listening leads to ideas and ideas to decisions. Times are changing and we all need to step up and give a pinch of salt, whether it's volunteering, paying your dues on time or even pushing oneself to create wondrous works of art. Let's lead the Federation into its next chapter one page at a time. We can all do it together, so lets go! www.mcdermottart.com



Angela Au Hemphill, SFCA Education Committee Chair

After graduating from the Alberta College of Art in 1980, I moved to Vancouver and worked as a graphic designer, Illustrator and desktop publisher for advertising agencies and printers for over fifteen years. Painting has always been my passion. I became a full time painter in 1995. Getting involved with the FCA keeps me balanced and current. As the Education Committee Chair, I will try my best to fill our Art Education Program with exciting and innovative opportunities and venues. We get excited when we receive feedback, so keep your ideas coming!

Gaye Adams, SFCA Standards Chair



Janice Robertson has served as Standards Chair for over 15 years, and I feel these are very large shoes to fill. It was Janice who first introduced me to the FCA when we met at a show in Fort Langley almost 20 years ago. I am grateful for the introduction; the FCA has provided me with a network of peers, mentors and students, many of whom I am privileged to call friends. I am pleased to serve on the board, and hope to do a job worthy of the trust given me.



Michael King Membership Chair

I own and operate an established industrial design firm by day and am an artist by night. To me, members are the most important aspect of the FCA. I believe in getting more out of your organization and I hope I can do that for everyone. My goal is to bring members together through recognition and with painting and social events. I will reach out to new established and emerging artists. I'll aim to bring members as much as the FCA can give. Please contact me with any and all ideas you might have, michael@artbymichaelking.com.

In an impressive ceremony held in Council Chambers at Richmond City Hall on April 17, 2009, Adrienne Moore, AFCA was awarded the first Richmond Art Education Award. Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie presented the awards, stating that this inaugural event was designed to recognize artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community.

Adrienne's teaching career spanned 35 years, 26 spent in Richmond elementary schools. She inspired countless students, integrated arts programs with Special Needs students and developed a curriculum to integrate art education in elementary school programs. For several years Adrienne was a key organizer of Artists Among Us, an important community outreach event for the Richmond Art Gallery. An accomplished painter and illustrator she has Signature member status with the Federation of Canadian Artists and Northwest Watercolor Society. She is also a member of the Richmond Artists' Guild. Adrienne shares her home studio to

the ability to inspire



Adrienne Moore, AFCA receives inaugural Art Education Award Tanya Bone, AFCA, Margreth Fry and Loraine Wellman

practice life drawing with a non-profit group where a sense of unity and support has developed among a group of local artists. As a mentor, many of her protégés have been pushed to higher levels of achievement than they ever thought possible.

Federation members Tanya Bone, AFCA Margreth Fry and Loraine Wellman nominated Adrienne with outstanding support from The Honorable Linda Reid, MLA, Nan Capogna, then acting Director of Richmond Art Gallery, Janice Barr, Executive Director of Richmond Society for Community Living, Richmond Artists' Guild and scores of former colleagues and fellow artists.

One of the contributors wrote, "Adrienne is an example of how generosity of spirit makes doors open, and people's minds open, both to their own potential and to the potential of others."

Her contribution continues today as she sits on the City of Richmond's Public Art advisory board and teaches adult painting classes and workshops. She is a worthy recipient as she retains the most important trait of an excellent educator - the ability to inspire.

Written by Tanya Bone, AFCA, Margreth Fry and Loraine Wellman

behind the easel

Looking inside

Robert Genn, SFCA



Among the emails that came in for the launch of our new service, "The Painter's Post," there was a note from Pam Ryan. She attached a letter she received from an anonymous juror after one of her works was rejected from an exhibition. It was a thoughtful, tasteful, perhaps boilerplate letter that said in part:

"Whether or not your work was included in this show should not discourage you from continuing your artistic pursuits." The juror told how, in a similar situation, she had her photographs rejected by four different jurors for four different reasons.

The juror went on to say: "It's vital for any artist to nurture and protect that which makes their vision unique. One needs to go inward instead of outward and learn to trust your own inner guide."

"If you have one rule to follow," she wrote, "I suggest cultivating a dialogue with your inner voice, listening to the clues your own images offer." This is not unwarranted praise or gratuitous esteem building. It's an expression of one of the basic truths of art. It brings to mind the very real question of how much one really needs from anyone else. It seems to me that the act of art is at its best when the interaction simply takes place between the artist and the work itself--outside the world of criticism and inside the world of inner knowledge.

Among the emails that came in for the launch I compare each creative effort to the solo ascent of a steep mountain where the path is jagged and crossed with crevasses and fissures. Only a strong shot of personal desire gets you to the top. No tour guide or outrageous misfortune can spoil the hike--nor can gratuitous praise or commercial success. Art just is. Each work of art is its own mountain, its own beauty and reward.

"Listening to the clues your own images offer," is the key to the juror's wisdom. While knowledge of tools and the love of motif may be in your backpack, and all mountains may be measured by their previous heroes, art must exist for you in a place beyond the judgment of others.

Here's an exercise: Slow your breathing, review in your mind's eye your vision, glance at the clock and fixate the work at hand for an hour. Be deliberate, steady and patient. Be audacious, clever and generous. Let your strokes be sensitive and brave, as if you were participating in a mutual, loving act. Look, think, stroke. Leave your strokes alone. The circle will not be broken.

PS: "Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens." (Carl Jung) work itself--outside the world of criticism and inside the world of inner knowledge.

Robert Genn writes a free, twice-weekly letter that goes out to creative people all over the world. You can find out about it at www.painterskeys.com

Chapter events Calendar

July 2 - 30

Calgary Chapter

Journey in Art Juried Exhibition. The Station in Okotoks, 53 North Railway Street, Okotoks, AB
Monday to Thursday 10-5 pm
Friday - Saturday 12-5 pm
Opening Reception, Friday July 3 7pm- 9pm

July 24 - 26

Central Okanagan Chapter

Summer juried exhibition at the Music & Arts at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna, BC.

August 6

Nanaimo Chapter

Nanaimo Chapter deadline for the Fall Juried Show (September 23 - October 10 at the Nanaimo Art Gallery.)
Entry information at www.nanaimofca.com

September 5 - 13

Thompson Nicola Shuswap Chapter

5th Annual Juried Show at the Kamloops Historic Courthouse Centre for the Arts.
Opening reception, Friday, September 4, 7pm - 9pm

September 12

Nanaimo Chapter

Nanaimo Chapter meeting at Nanaimo Art Gallery Downtown and will feature the Success Slide Show.

October 1

Thompson Nicola Shuswap Chapter

Life drawing at the Old Kamloops Yacht Club, 140 River Street, 1pm - 4pm.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Over \$6,500 in Cash Awards!

The Central Okanagan Chapter is pleased to announce the **Art Visions 2009 FCA Open National Show**

Application is now available on-line at www.artvisions.ca, and we would be happy to receive your application. We look forward to hearing from all Active, AFCA and SFCA's as we plan another exciting show.

Event Date

Oct 9 - Oct 23 2009

Entry Fee

\$20.00 per entry (non-refundable)

Event Location

Hambleton Gallery
Turtle Island Gallery
421 Gallery
RCA Galleria
Kelowna, BC

Application Deadline

August 15, 2009

Reception and Cash Awards presented at a ceremony Friday October 7 - 9PM at the Rotary Centre for Arts, Kelowna BC

For more information & entry form go to
The Arts Visions 2009 Website www.artvisions.ca

Chapter Award Winners

Kathy Barnson
Nanaimo Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Reflections of a Scotsman
watercolour 12 x 13 \$500
Best in Show



Rich Williams
Nanaimo Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Nature's Paintbrush
acrylic 30 x 30 SOLD
Award of Excellence



Brian Buckrell
Comox Valley Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Radiant
acrylic 24 x 12 \$900
Best in Show

Chapter Award Winners



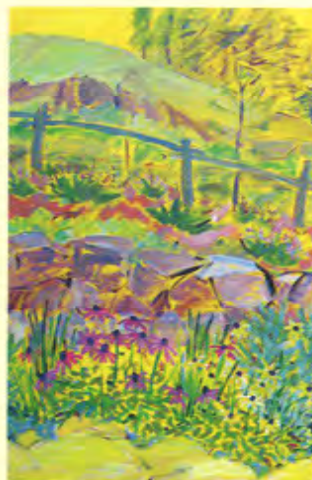
Betty Boyle
Comox Valley Chapter
Spring Juried Show
End of Millard St
oil 14 x 18 \$1100
Award of Excellence



Gail deCaux
Nanaimo Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Joy
collage 18 x 18 \$435
Award of Excellence



Sandra Henry
Comox Valley Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Street Dancers
mixed media 48 x 36 \$1000
Award of Excellence



Christina Munk
Comox Valley Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Yellow Garden
acrylic 24 x 18 \$800
Award of Excellence



Leona Petrak
Nanaimo Chapter
Spring Juried Show
Madrigal
oil 39.5 x 33.5 \$1,300
Award of Excellence

continued on page 23

new members

April 3 - May 25

British Columbia

Lower Mainland

Lenora Cairns, Vancouver

Catherine Craig, Vancouver

Susanne Cruickshank, Vancouver

David Denson, Vancouver

Denise Dupre, Coquitlam

Murray Huehn, Vancouver

Kyuny Kim, Surrey

Anthony Leung, Burnaby

Chun Chun Liao, Vancouver

Mariel Lopa, Richmond

Judy McKinnon, Richmond

John McRae, Vancouver

Steve Rayner, North Vancouver

Darlene Tordiffe, Surrey

Central BC

Wanda Doyle, Furry Creek

Kathryn Steen, Williams Lake

Northern BC

Alice Belford, Smithers

Brian Rivers, Kitimat

Fraser Valley

Elaine Booth-Kallweit, Maple Ridge

Sue Daris, Chilliwack

Christine Oelker-Smith, Langley

The Kootenays

Sharon Lough, Fruitvale

in the news

current exhibitions

July 1 - 31 **Enda Bardell** has 9 paintings in the *Summer in the City* group exhibition at the Leighdon Studio Gallery, 190 W 3rd Avenue in Vancouver, BC. Opening reception: July 10, 6pm - 8pm.



Edna Bardell, *On the Lookout*

July 1 - 31 **Bortolo Marola** has a solo exhibition of his new European and West Coast works, *Landscapes of Inspiration*, at the Delta Arts Council's Firehall Centre for the Arts, 11489-84th Avenue, North Delta, Opening reception: July 9, 7pm - 9pm.

July - August **Zsuzsa Vitalis** has an exhibition of recent oil, watercolour and mixed media paintings at Carmelo's Pizzeria Ristorante Trattoria, 1448 Marine Drive in West Vancouver, BC.



Zsuzsa Vitalis, *Amaryllis*

July 9 - 31 **Perry Haddock, AFCA** has a solo exhibition, *Everywhere I Wander*, at the White Rock Community Arts Council Gallery, 1959 - 152nd Street in South Surrey, BC. Opening reception: July 9, 7pm - 9pm.



Perry Haddock, AFCA
Autumn Along the Boundary



Roger Watt, *Speculum*

July 24 - August 29 **Roger Watt** has work in *The Art of Realism* at the North Vancouver Community Arts Council Cityscape Gallery in North Vancouver, BC.

August 13 - September 5 **Enda Bardell** has a solo exhibition, *Sticks and Stones*, at Place des Arts Mezzanine Gallery, 1120 Brunette Avenue in Coquitlam, BC. Opening reception: August 13, 7pm - 9pm.

through August 16 **Tracey Cotescu** has work in a Suite E group exhibit, *Not Just Faces*, at the Leigh Square Community Arts Village.

recent exhibitions

- June 5 - 30 **Marney-Rose Edge** had work in a group show at the Leighdon Studio Gallery in Vancouver, BC.
- June 1 - 30 **Natalie Kurzuk** had an exhibition of her work at the Lougheed House in Calgary, AB.
- May 9 - 23 **Renato Muccillo, AFCA** had a solo exhibition, *The Apparitions of the Narrows*, at the Avenue Gallery in Victoria, BC.
- May 17 - June 27 **Sandrine Pelissier's** painting, *Day Off*, was selected for the National Watercolor Society's *All Member Show* in San Pedro, CA.
- May 4 - 29 **Sandrine Pelissier's** paintings, *Skate Board Park* and *Wedding*, and **Marney-Rose Edge's** painting, *Passion*, were selected for the ArtSpacific 2009 Exhibition at the Firehall Center for the Arts in North Delta, BC.

recent news

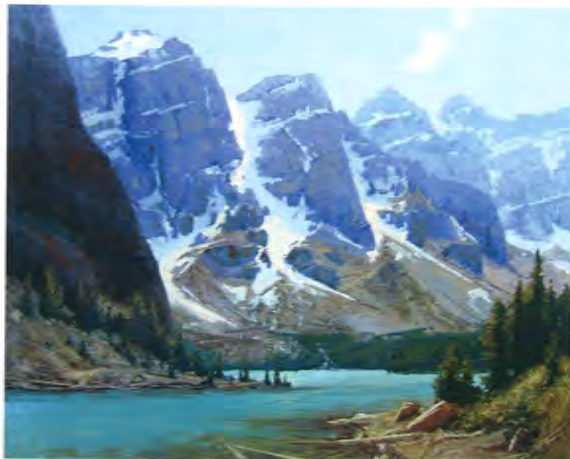
Bob McMurray, AFCA recently finished painting one of the eagles for the BC Lions Society for Disabled Children. They can be seen around the city. Bob's eagle, *Soaring Sights*, was sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants and is on display at the corner of Burrard and Dunsmuir Streets (outside Park Place) until after the Olympics in February 2010. The back of the eagle is a birds eye view of the landscape, with various animals, looking down and the underside is our view of the sky, with various birds, looking up. The eagles are made of fiberglass and stand seven feet tall. They will all be auctioned off with the proceeds going to benefit the Disabled Children.



Bob McMurray, AFCA *Soaring Sights*

Tricia Syz's painting, *Garden Party*, was chosen for the May/June cover of *Rising Women* magazine, published in Calgary, AB.

Jerry Markham's painting, *Moraine Lake*, was chosen as a finalist in the May/June 2009 issue of *Canadian Brushstroke Magazine's* Landscapes Competition.



Jerry Markham, *Moraine Lake*

new members

April 3 - May 25

Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands

- Mie Akatsu, Victoria
 Joan Bishop, Nanaimo
 Sandra Boehner, Brentwood Bay
 Nancyanne Cowell, Victoria
 Kitty James, Nanaimo
 Uli Osternamm, Courtenay
 Patricia-Marie Spence, Lantzville
 Bonnie Stebbings, Nanaimo
 Deirdre Tessmann, Salt Spring Island

Thompson-Okanagan

- Lynden Beesley, Kelowna
 Lynda Grealish, Kelowna
 Sandra Henderson, Kelowna
 Beve Hietala, Salmon Arm
 Gordon Manson, Westwold
 Ken Schamuhn, Blind Bay

Alberta

- Caren Heine, Ft. McMurray
 Ngawang Kheyap, Calgary
 Samar Metwali, Calgary
 Hilda Lockley, Calgary
 Pascale Ouellet, Canmore
 Bonnie Scott, Calgary
 Randall Talbot, Edmonton

Quebec

- Louise Gauthier, Jonquiere

Taiwan

- Lin Show-Chang, Hsin-Chu City

Still Life

April 21 - May 3



Simon Andrews

Persimmons
oil 24 x 48 \$3000

FCA 1st Prize, Alan Wylie Award

Simon Andrews works from his home in Vancouver, BC. He gets his inspiration from nature and other artist's work. Simon recently received the FCA 1st Prize for his painting, *Alien Activity*, in the Human Figure Show.



Colleen Dyson

Cantata
oil 14 x 11 \$375

FCA 3rd Prize

Colleen J Dyson, SCA joined the FCA in 1997 and was one of the founding members of the Central Okanagan Chapter. She paints from her home studio in Kelowna, BC. This winter, Colleen was awarded Elected Membership status with the Society of Canadian Artists.

Bob Araki, AFCA

Basket and Fruits 2
oil 22 x 22 \$500

FCA 2nd Prize

Bob Yoshisuke Araki, AFCA lives and works in the deep forest of North Vancouver, BC. Inspiration often comes from his travels abroad, including trips close to home to the Okanagan and as far away as Scotland. He received his Associate member status with the FCA this year.



James Koll

Radio Flyer
watercolour 6 x 6 SOLD
Award of Excellence



Ali Sepahi

Red Kettle
oil 12 x 12 \$380



Dawn Heinemeyer

Arabesque
acrylic 11 x 15 \$495

Tanya Bone
Valencias & Vase
oil 12 x 16 SOLD



Evalynne McDougall
Mornings
pastel 11 x 14 \$395



Jack Turpin, AFCA
Under the Redwood Tree
acrylic 28 x 22 \$1,200



Jennifer Olson
Winter Cactus
watercolour 20 x 28 \$2,400
Award of Excellence



Hazel Breitzkreutz
Friendship's Table
acrylic 20 x 16 \$1500



Larry Tillyer, AFCA
Flowers and Things
acrylic 14 x 11 \$475



Mary Stewart, AFCA
Bloom
mixed media 24 x 24 \$1,200



Theresa Lee
White Tablecloth with Rosie Flower
acrylic 24 x 30 \$750

To see the entire show visit our website, www.artists.ca

Abstract Show

May 5 - 17

Barry Rafuse

Solar Swirl

acrylic 36 x 36 \$1,500

FCA 1st Prize, Robert Coulter Award

Barry Rafuse lives in Vernon, BC and works from his home studio. He finds inspiration in nature's colors and patterns, particularly abstract designs. He recently received the Bronze Medal in the Thompson Nicola Shuswap Chapters' Artist Choice juried show for his painting, *Sand Dollars*.



Carol Little

Concepts in Light

mixed media 18 x 14 \$500

FCA 2nd Prize

Carol E. Little has been a member of the Calgary Chapter since 2001. She has a studio and classroom in her home in Calgary AB, teaching and painting where creativity is more spontaneous. She recently received the Fasken, Martineau, Dumoulin Award for her painting, *Off Key*, in the FCA's Mixed Messages Show.



Laura Zerebeski

These Fragments

mixed media 24 x 48 \$1,400

FCA 3rd Prize

Laura Zerebeski is a full-time artist working out of the Beaumont Studios in Vancouver, BC. Her abstract work is inspired by literature and music; inspiration for *These Fragments* came from a line in T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*.



Bonnie Kramer

Interlocking Reflections

acrylic 36 x 36 \$1,200

Award of Excellence



Shirley Thomas

Lower Street

mixed media 12 x 9 \$350

Award of Excellence



Brandy Saturley
Cellophane Boats Blue
acrylic 36 x 36 \$3,600



Trudy Austin
Sky View
acrylic 30 x 20 \$600



Annette Labeledzki
untitled 8
mixed media 21 x 28 \$1,250



Linda Kalman
Full Bloom
watercolour 20 x 20 \$700



Lois Bauman
Bowing Tulips
oil 24 x 30 \$2,995



Jennifer Harwood
In Between
acrylic 16 x 16 \$450

To view the entire show, visit our website, www.artists.ca



A message from the Education Committee Chair

Angela Au Hemphill, SFCA

I must admit that when I was approached to consider the position of Chair of the Education Committee I said yes for a slightly selfish reason. I wanted to have an influence in choosing the finest instructors for our members, including myself. I have taken many courses taught by many different instructors from the FCA's Education Program, and they have always been a wonderful way to refresh my inner muse. It's too much fun to stop, especially when trying new mediums or techniques.

I am very grateful for these opportunities of excellent instruction. Mingling with painting masters enhances my skills, boosts my confidence, and inspires my creativity. FCA instructors are among the finest not only in Canada, but also around the world. It is our goal to provide excellent instructors and fabulous course offerings for our current and future art programs. We have been reading your education feedback responses with great interest. Thank you and please keep them coming!

For the 2009 Fall Art Education Program we've invited one of our country's finest painters, David Goatley, SFCA. He will join us from Victoria for a two-day workshop in November, *Oils: Painting People in their own Environment*. I recently caught David in action and I was completely blown away by his craftsmanship and skill. He is truly one of Canada's treasures. Although David is well known for his portraits and figurative paintings, his landscapes are just as exquisite. Who should take his course? Figurative painters, landscape painters, abstract painters, even sculptors. Why? Because you will learn excellent painting skills regardless of the subject matter.

The fall roster also includes Robert Genn, SFCA, Kiff Holland, SFCA, David Langevin, Andrew McDermott, SFCA, Suzanne Northcott, SFCA, Dianna Ponting, SFCA, Mike Svob, SFCA, Alfonso Tejada, Alan Wylie, SFCA, Teresa Bernard, SFCA, Lalita Hamill, AFCA, Rick McDiarmid, SFCA, Janice Robertson, SFCA.

Before you rush off to Google our instructors, remember that class space is limited. You can find expanded instructor profiles and detailed course descriptions on our website, www.artists.ca.



Have we got a
fall line up
for you.

- Membership discounts
- Early bird discount *
- Weekend workshops as well as weekday/weekend combos
- Daytime classes plus an additional evening class
- Select hotel discounts for out-of-towners
- On-line registration at www.artists.ca or by calling the Federation Gallery at 604-681-8534
- Four separate locations to choose from:
 - Centre for Peace – Vancouver
 - Evergreen Centre – Coquitlam
 - Ocean Park Hall – White Rock
 - Harrison Galleries – Vancouver

O ur fabulous instructors

“ Every course I take inspires me and makes me want to reach for higher artistic goals. ”

FCA student

workshop instructors



ROBERT GENN, SFCA

www.robertgenn.com

Robert's formal training includes the University of Victoria, the University of British Columbia and the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, California. He is one of Canada's most celebrated painters. Having gained international recognition for his genre subjects on Canada's West Coast he is represented and collected the world over.



DAVID GOATLEY, SFCA

www.davidgoatley.com

David is renowned as one of the Northwest's leading portrait painters with over 200 commissioned portraits to his name. He trained at Camberwell School of Art in London, England. He has been featured in *International Artist* five times and was a finalist in *Artist Magazine's* Portrait of the Year competition.



KIFF HOLLAND, SFCA

Kiff trained formally at the University of the Witwatersrand and at the Johannesburg School of Art. Celebrated for his fine watercolours, oil and acrylic paintings, he has garnered many awards in North America including first prize at the *Société canadienne de l'aquarelle*. His work is shown in galleries across Canada and he is a highly regarded instructor at Capilano College.



DAVID LANGEVIN

www.davidlangevin.com

David received his BFA from the University of Ottawa and a Masters in Art Education from McGill University. He is widely recognized for his distinctive style and dramatic renditions of the Canadian wilderness. David gives lectures, writes a regular technical column for painters and conducts workshops on painting materials and techniques. His paintings are sold in galleries across Canada.



ANDREW MCDERMOTT, SFCA, PSC

www.mcdermottart.com

Andrew has a diploma in graphic design & illustration from Capilano College. He is known for his unique, award-winning work in pastel and is highly accomplished in oils. Andrew has been featured in multiple international articles including *The Artist's Magazine's* "25 under 40". He is represented by galleries in Canada and the U.S.



SUZANNE NORTHCOTT, SFCA

www.suzannenorthcott.ca

A celebrated painter for over twenty years, Suzanne is recognized as an interdisciplinary artist working with installation, video, painting and drawing. Her inspiring passion for life drawing and painting makes her a sought after lecturer, and painting, drawing and creative process instructor. Suzanne's work is collected and published internationally.



DIANNA PONTING, SFCA, PPC, MPAC, PSA, SCA

www.ponting.com

Dianna has designations as both Premier and Master Pastellist of Canada. Her distinctive style is renowned for the realism and detail used in expressing it. She is recognized as an international artist and pastel instructor with students and patrons in both North America and Europe.



MIKE SVOB, SFCA, CIPA, NWWS

www.mikesvob.com

Mike studied at the University of Western Ontario and is celebrating his 27th year as a professional artist. He is a master impressionist in watercolours, acrylics and oils and a leading teacher and workshop instructor. He believes sharing knowledge with fellow artists and students provides only positive results for all. Mike has had over 65 exhibitions and produced over 25 large scale murals throughout North America.



ALFONSO TEJADA

alfonsotejada.com

Alfonso has a Master of Architecture and Urban Planning degree from UBC. He also studied drawing, watercolour and metal etching. He is an architect and urban planner by trade but also a prolific painter, teaching plein air workshops in Canada and abroad. He has participated in numerous international solo and group exhibitions.



ALAN WYLIE, SFCA, CIPA, NWWS

www.alan-wylie.ca

Alan graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 1960 with a degree in Mural Design and Mosaics. He is an important Canadian artist with more than 40 years experience teaching and painting. He boasts over 65 solo and innumerable group exhibitions, and has won many prestigious awards in Canada and the United States. Alan is also a noted muralist. He is represented in galleries and collected around the world.

class instructors



TERESSA L. BERNARD, SFCA

www.teressalbernard.com

An accomplished painter for over 25 years, Teresa is primarily self-taught and known for her work in watercolour and acrylics. She has evolved from being a pure watercolourist to layering watercolour or acrylic with other media for amazing results. Her work is widely collected locally and internationally, and she is the recipient of many awards.



LALITA HAMILL, AFCA, BA

www.hamillstudios.ca

Lalita is primarily self-taught, and has trained with Glenn Howarth as well as the Vancouver Academy of Art. She is acknowledged as a highly skilled and innovative artist specializing in portraiture, landscapes and architectural renderings. Lalita has taught a variety of subjects for over seventeen years and has won numerous awards for her community contributions and academic achievements.



RICHARD MCDIARMID, SFCA, NWWS

www.richardsmcdiarmid.com

A prolific painter primarily self-taught, Richard is an accomplished artist highly regarded as an instructor and mentor to emerging as well as established artists. His award-winning paintings are developed with a focus on light, rhythm and colour. His work can be found in commercial galleries and corporate and private collections worldwide.



JANICE ROBERTSON, SFCA, NWWS

www.janicerobertson.ca

As a professional artist for over 20 years, Janice works in watercolour, acrylics and oil. She has received a number of awards in her career and is represented by galleries throughout British Columbia. Janice is a popular workshop instructor and has a straightforward, supportive approach that has been well-received by her many students.



art workshops & classes

fall 2009

presented by
the Federation of Canadian Artists

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

SKETCHING & PAINTING *en plein air*

Alfonso Tejada

September 12 & 13 (Saturday & Sunday)

10:00am - 2:00pm with a lunch break

Level: beginner-intermediate

Federation Gallery

Cost: \$175



Alfonso takes it outdoors with this new exciting workshop. The focus is on identifying the values of light, contrast and colours from the location, the development of thumbnail sketches as a tool for composition and subject selection, the use of sketching as fast out-

lines for painting and more! Note: Enjoy inspired demos, individual guidance and general critics. Must have own easel or support board.

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

PAINTING THE FIGURE

Suzanne Northcott, SFCA

September 26 & 27 (Saturday & Sunday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate

Evergreen Centre in Coquitlam



A passionate and devoted teacher, Suzanne shares her expertise gained over twenty years of painting the human figure. Bring your drawings or photos as inspiration as you are guided through ways to

begin, technical methods and discussion about choices that enhance the power of your work. Note: Suzanne makes time for individual attention and is well versed in many mediums. Demos are in acrylic and/or mixed media but students may work in the medium of their choice.

2-DAY WORKSHOP

ADVANCED ACRYLICS with Robert Genn, SFCA

October 2 & 3 (Friday & Saturday)

optional half day on October 4

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate - advanced

Ocean Park Hall in Surrey

Cost: \$325



Robert's current plays and techniques are in acrylic. Demonstration by example, but painters are encouraged in the direction they are already going. Note: This is a hands-on and interactive workshop-seminar, both indoors and out, with light-hearted contests, fun exercises, ideas, inspiration, information, critiques and cigars. A workshop like no other.

2-DAY WORKSHOP

MASTERING ACRYLICS

David Langevin

October 16 & 17 (Friday & Saturday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



Learn everything you need to master acrylics. This workshop is designed for artists with some painting experience in oils, acrylics, or even watercolors. Techniques that are successful when using oil paints or watercolors do not often yield good results when applied to acrylic paints. In this workshop the focus will be on learning the specific properties of acrylics and how you can use them to achieve fantastic results. Note: Be prepared to take notes, ask questions, and paint.

* **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!** 10% off all classes and workshops if you register by midnight, July 31, 2009.



Please note some dates and venues may be subject to change. To confirm course information and Refund/Cancellation policies please visit www.artists.ca or contact the Federation of Canadian Artists, 1241 Cartwright St., Vancouver, BC 604.681.8534

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

PASTEL PASSION

Andrew McDermott, SFCA

October 24 & 25 (Saturday & Sunday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: all levels

Harrison Gallery in Vancouver



A solid understanding of the value scale is key to creating a valuable painting. Upon reviewing the basics of the value chart, students start with black and white pastels. A final piece will be created through sketching, blocking and adding colour. Provided reference materials include a water scene and city scene. Andrew provides

on-going feedback plus individual critiques.

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

WATERCOLOURS: ANYTHING BUT LANDSCAPES

Kiff Holland, SFCA

November 14 & 15 (Saturday & Sunday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate - advanced

Evergreen Centre in Coquitlam



Discover the skills and strategies for creating personal and inventive paintings that are expressive of any given subject's 3-D form. Explore the essentials of a good painting; light reveals and defines, colour creates mood,

and shadows harmonize and connect. Note: Kiff is there to take you beyond your boundaries to explore "anything but landscapes".

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

PAINTING WITH PASTELS: the Chocolate of the Painting Mediums

Dianna Ponting, SFCA

November 28 & 29 (Saturday & Sunday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: beginner - intermediate

Evergreen Centre in Coquitlam



Dianna masterfully touches on all aspects of working with pastel, from the elements required to create an exciting still life through to protecting and framing a pastel. The focus is on how to manipulate this luscious medium to get the desired results; how and when to blend, depicting various textures, the tools to use and which papers and pastels work for varying styles. Note: The class includes a demo and individual instruction on projects of your own choosing.

2-DAY WORKSHOP

CREATIVE TEXTURE IN WATERCOLOUR

Alan Wylie, SFCA

November 13 & 14 (Friday & Saturday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate - advanced

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



Alan is a master open to sharing with his students. His workshop focuses on basic skills, working with watercolour and gesso on illustration board. Students will use photographic reference of subject matter of their choice. Note: Alan provides demonstration each day plus one on one personal instruction.

2-DAY WORKSHOP

OILS: PAINTING PEOPLE IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTS

David Goatley, SFCA

November 20 & 21 (Friday & Saturday)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: advanced

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



Painting a portrait that tells a story can be about so much more than painting a head. How do you compose such a picture, what to include what to leave out, how much detail should be in those background objects - how do you handle all

this in oils? Using examples from his own work plus working with a model, David expertly explores the unique techniques and challenges of making people pictures that tell stories.

2-DAY WORKSHOP

ACRYLICS ADVANCED: DESIGNING WITH COLOUR

Mike Svob, SFCA

Weekend in December to be determined

Time: to be determined

Level: advanced

Location to be determined

Please check our website for confirmed times and details.



Advance your understanding of acrylics techniques and ideas. Mike's workshop provides experienced painters with different ways of approaching acrylic painting methods while developing their own design, conception and execution as it relates to their personal technique. Demos and individual critiquing

will be provided to help you develop your own ideas into paintings.

WEEKLY CLASS

EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES WITH ACRYLIC

Teressa Bernard, SFCA

September 22 - October 13 (4 Tuesdays)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate - advanced

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



Participants will be guided through the complexities of layering and adding a variety of media, such as collage papers, metallic paint, and odds and ends. Texturing with acrylic gels plus discussion and demos about other texturing methods for more realistic art or adding abstract elements into your

paintings. Note: Teressa offers plenty of one-on-one guidance, personal development and genuine fun.

WEEKLY CLASS

BASIC ACRYLICS

Janice Robertson, SFCA

September 23 - November 4 (7 Wednesdays)

5:30pm - 8:30pm

Level: beginner

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



With Janice's generous step by step demos, students will learn to build a painting from the ground up. The class covers composition, under painting, blocking in, positive and negative painting, color mixing, brushwork and glazing. Demos will include landscape and

still-life subjects. Reference photos are provided or students may work from their own images. Note: Set in the evening, Janice's class is ideal for those busy through the day.

WEEKLY CLASS

ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Lalita Hamill, AFCA

October 20 - November 10 (4 Tuesdays)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: beginner - intermediate

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



A prominent juror once stated, "If a painting succeeds it is usually because of two things: composition and values." Lalita's class is a fun and informative balance between information, analyzing famous works of art, demonstrations, practice time, and instructor feedback to determine how to compose a compelling piece that succeeds. Note: Focus is on representational art and the use of photographs; includes extensive handouts and an entertaining gallery trip.

WEEKLY CLASS

INTERMEDIATE ACRYLICS

Janice Robertson, SFCA

September 23 - November 4 (7 Wednesdays)

1:30pm - 4:30pm

Level: intermediate-advanced

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



This class emphasizes the personal artistic development of each participant, working on finding your own voice as an artist using your own source material. There will be some technique oriented demos and plenty of one-on-one guidance from the instructor. Note: There's regular critiques and students are

encouraged to bring other works/mediums to class for further feedback. It's interactive, informative and fun.

WEEKLY CLASS

IMPRESSIONIST OILS

Rick McDiarmid, SFCA

October 19 - November 9 (4 Mondays)

9:30am - 4:30pm

Level: all levels

Centre for Peace in Vancouver



The effective use of light and pattern is fundamental in creating bold statements in painting. Clarity of intent, awareness of light and its movement throughout the composition are covered in this inspired class. Focus on alla prima techniques to create energetic and colourful impressions of sub-

jects. Rick's love of this rich and traditional medium comes through in his instruction, demos, technical guidance and painting critiques.

LOCATIONS

Centre for Peace 1825 W. 16th Avenue, Vancouver

Evergreen Cultural Centre 1205 Pinetree Way, Coquitlam

Ocean Park Hall 1577-128 Street, Surrey

Harrison Galleries 901 Homer Street, Vancouver



All workshops \$250

All classes \$360

unless otherwise noted

10% member discount

10% early bird discount

**TO
REGISTER**

604.681.8534 or

www.artists.ca

EXHIBITION CALLS

A Bird, A Stone, A Letter

September 8 - 20

Entry Deadline: August 6

Images: to be entered in juried shows may be sent either as jpg files or slides. **Digital images** may only be sent via e-mail as a jpg attachment to fcagallery@artists.ca, do not send CDs. Jpgs must be named in the following pattern: Last Name, First Name or initial, title of work, size, medium.jpg **Slides** must be 35 mm in a 2" x 2" mount, without adhesive labels. Glass slides are not accepted. Slides should be marked with the artist's name, title of work, image size, medium, and framed price, and have an arrow to indicate the top of the image.

Entry forms and fees: Members may submit up to three images per show for a non-refundable fee of \$11 per entry. Whether you use slides or jpgs, mail your entry form and fees with a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) for the return of your receipt and results. Entries made without the SASE will not be returned. **NEW ENTRY FEE:** \$11 per digital or slide entry.

Exhibition Regulations: Environmentally sensitive artwork, such as watercolour and pastel, are required to be framed under glass or Plexiglas. Artwork must be submitted with a conventional hanging device and good taste and workmanship should be exercised in framing. It is not acceptable to secure framed works under glass with clips. Unframed canvas must have all sides painted and the staples must be on the back of the stretcher bars. The FCA reserves the right to refuse to hang any artwork. Entries must not be copies, derivatives, or based in any way on other copyrighted or published paintings or photographs. Paintings created under instruction cannot be submitted to FCA juries. Only new works may appear in juried shows. Artists are obligated to ensure that their work is available and for sale once selected. Failure to do so wastes the opportunity for other artists to display their work, or to be eligible to apply for Signature status with the FCA. Not-for-Sale paintings cannot be accepted into juried shows. The FCA does not carry any insurance on paintings in its care, custody or control. Insurance is the responsibility of the artist. The FCA will take the utmost care in handling works submitted but cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to paintings, frames or packing crates. A 35% commission will be deducted from the selling price in the event of a sale. Please advise the Office if you are GST registered. Artists submitting work agree to allow their images to be published in Art Avenue or in FCA advertising. Consent is given by the artists through the act of submitting. The FCA does not pay for shipping.

Federation Gallery in July & August

Canada Day at Federation Gallery

July 1 - Plein air painting outside the gallery
Summer Gallery
through August 16

BC Day at Federation Gallery

August 3 - BC Day events and festivities

7th Annual Painting on the Edge

August 18 - September 6

Opening Reception: Thursday, August 20, 6pm - 8pm

artclassifieds

The rate for ads placed in this column is fifteen cents (.15) per word per issue plus 5% GST. Classifieds with a box/frame or other offsetting device are twenty cents (.20) per word plus 5% GST. There is a 100 word maximum. Prepayment is required. Simply mail, fax or email (preferred) your ad wording along with cheque or credit card information to the Federation of Canadian Artists.

EXPLORING LIGHT AND COLOUR IN SPAIN

Watercolour Workshop with Leslie Redhead, AFCA May 2-14, 2010. For more information visit: www.flavoursofspain.net or www.leslieredhead.com

WHISTLER ART WORKSHOPS ON THE LAKE - May, June, July & August, 2009

Two to four day workshops in acrylic, watercolour and oil painting, as well as sketching and life drawing, for beginner to advanced artists. Alta Lake Station House is a rustic heritage home on the shores of Alta Lake, with views of Whistler, Blackcomb and Wedge Mountain. Instructors include Brian Atyeo, Mike Svob, Vincent Massey, Suzanne Northcott, Jean Pederson, Janice Robertson, Grant Fuller, Alan Wylie, Donna Jo Massie, Richard McDiarmid and more. 604-935-8232 and www.whistlerartscouncil.com.

ENCAUSTIC ART - COURSES AND SUPPLIES

Encaustic is the ancient art form of painting with coloured beeswax. The basic techniques are very easy to learn. Based in the Okanagan, experienced Encaustic Art teacher Thea Haubrich offers workshops for beginners and advanced on this exciting medium, using ready-made Encaustic waxes and low heat painting tools. No need to buy any supplies beforehand, as Thea provides everything from electrical painting tools to waxes. She is the exclusive representative in Canada for equipment and waxes from Arts Encaustic Ltd. and Hobbying (wholesale and retail). More information: visit www.encaustic.ca or email info@encaustic.ca

CALGARY WORKSHOPS - 2009

Alan Wylie	W/C on Illustration Board	Sept 11-13
Janice Robertson	Basic Acrylics	Sept 25-27
Gerald Brommer	W/C/Acrylic/Collage	Oct 5-9
Mike Svob	Oil/Acrylic	Oct 29-Nov 1
Leading Edge Art Workshops	Louise Hall 403 233 7389	
www.greatartworkshops.com	email louise.hall@shaw.ca	

ART MENTORING WITH DONNA BASPALY, SFCA, NWW

Donna is offering a one-hour personal critique. Focus will be on the individual's own progress in achieving their potential; creatively, emotionally and technically. Strong emphasis will be placed on design skills, validation of one's work process, clarity of goals and bringing out the artist's unique strengths. Private one-hour critique - \$80.00. For private appointment in her Qualicum studio, e-mail donnbas@shaw.ca or call 1-250-752-4799.

NEW WORKSHOPS ON QUADRA ISLAND at Firesign Studio and B&B

Inspirational workshops in small classes: exciting instructors, delicious lunches!

New! Rhythms in Stone	DJ Garrity	July 13-16
The Zen of Quadra Island Plein Air	Marilyn Timms	July 20-24
Water Media Rambles	Dianne Bersea	August 1
The Artistic Study in Water Media	Dianne Bersea	August 24-28
Plein Air Painting	John Stuart Pryce	September 7-11
Quadra Island IPAP Point Out	Everyone welcome	September 11-13
Painting the Sea with Watercolour	Grant Fuller	Sept 21-25

Phone: 250-285-3390, toll free 877-285-3390 Website: www.firesignartanddesign.com

DVDs and CDs for sale at Federation Gallery Richard Nelson's Lessons CD and Richard Nelson In Retrospect DVD. The CD features more than 200 pages of lessons, discoveries and ideas from the beloved teacher and the inventor of the Tri-Hue Method of painting. In Retrospect is a multimedia portfolio featuring nearly 100 images from Nelson's 50 year career along with demonstrations of the Tri-Hue Method. Full copyright reserved. \$38 each, taxes included. \$70 for both. Shipping and handling \$9.00

PICTURE THIS WAY DVDs Watercolour & Mixed Media: painting demos by Mike Svob SFCA and Joyce Kamikura SFCA, or Acrylic & Oil: painting demos by Robert Genn SFCA and Alan Wylie SFCA. Each video has two 30 minute technique tutorials. Full copyright reserved. \$20 each, tax included. \$40 for the hour-long video featuring all 4 artists. Shipping and handling \$9.00.

To purchase any of these DVDs or CDs, please phone 604-681-8534, or visit Federation Gallery.

FIRESIGN ART & DESIGN STUDIO AND B&B - invites artists to explore beautiful Quadra Island - attend multi-day painting workshops or come and paint on your own! Comfortable 3-bedroom B&B and art studio/gallery. Details at www.firesignartanddesign.com or call Nanci 250-285-3390 or toll free 877-285-3390

5-DAY PAINTING WORKSHOP with JERRY MARKHAM

September 8-12, 2009 at Beaverfoot Lodge near Golden, BC. Includes demos and personal instruction. Visit www.jerrymarkham.com or call (250) 558-0377 for details.

WANT TO GO TO SABLE ISLAND?

We are looking for one more person to go to Sable Island from August 3 - 10 this summer. There will only be 5 people on this trip consisting of 2 photographers, 1 anthropologist and 1 artist. Sable Island is a restricted habitat and this is a once in a lifetime trip. For details, phone Joan Larson at 250-752-0395 or email joan@joanlarson.com

Chapter Award Winners



Dianne Stewart
Calgary Chapter
Absolutely Art
Tigress
mixed media 18 x 10 SOLD
First Place Award



David Pawson
Calgary Chapter
Absolutely Art
Reflections
acrylic
Second Place Award



Kathy Hildebrandt
Calgary Chapter
Absolutely Art
Time Warp
pastel and collage 20 x 30 \$1,425
Third Place Award

Chapter Award Winners



Marney Ward AFCA
Victoria Chapter
Spring Exhibition 2009
Dance of the Daisies
watercolour 21 x 29 \$2,500
Third Place Award



Peter Paterson AFCA
Victoria Chapter
Spring Exhibition 2009
Protection
oil 20 x 24 \$2,400
Award of Excellence



Verna Linney
Victoria Chapter
Spring Exhibition 2009
Radiant Childhood
oil 16 x 20 \$1,000
Award of Excellence

Chapter Award Winners



Diane Oser
West Kootenay Chapter
Juried Chapter Show, Close Encounters
Pixie Dust and Friend
oil 16 x 20
Gold Award



Nell Cavin
West Kootenay Chapter
Juried Chapter Show, Close Encounters
The Look - What's For Dinner?
pastel 9 x 12
Silver Award



Elaine Alföldy
West Kootenay Chapter
Juried Chapter Show
Close Encounters
On A Pashmina Shawl
watercolour 20 x 11
Bronze Award

LOST & FOUND

One on One with Mother Nature

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rediscovering your passion to paint

a series on problem solving, path finding and the art of seeing

LOST

On April 21st, spring sweeps in, grabs me by the collar, and hauls me out of my studio. The next thing I know, I'm perched on an Okanagan hillside, crammed between a jumping cactus and a clump of yellow sunflowers. With me is Roger, a long-legged teenaged pooch. We are scarily alike in attitude. I, with my paintbrush and Roger, with his whole being, plan to take this scene by storm. Why am I surprised when within one hour Roger has a mouthful of jumping cactus quills and I have proven beyond a shred of doubt that I should have taken that job at Safeway. We are lost.

FIGHTING BACK

It takes three adults with pliers to extract the cacti that glue Roger's tongue to his gums and the lining of his cheeks. It takes an act of will to turn over my offending painting and begin again. I scale back to painting three flowers instead of everything in sight. The minute I decide to simplify and let go of my traditional approach, the fun begins. By consciously switching my role from star performer to back up, I open up space, giving the flowers room to express themselves. As both participant and observer, I record the feeling of the scene, which is one of wild abandon and pagan celebration. In the process I get a peek into the very nature of spring and know I am on to something very good.

THE EXERCISE

Back in the city, I can't wait to practice my new communication skills on the cherry trees of Granville Island. Sunrise on ten billion cherry blossoms is daunting, but after my Naramata humbling, I sit quietly, sip my morning coffee and allow what most compels me to present

itself. This becomes my entry point into the painting. Once I begin, the scene itself suggests the next step. Each day I rise early and head for the cherry blossoms to paint. Then one day an unexpected and playful wind whips up and the cherry blossoms begin to fall. People, like fairies, materialize from every corner to dance in the shower of swirling petals. Soon the ground is covered, with only dandelions poking through the carpet of pink. The experience is surreal - a blessing and a sign to move on. Next comes the rain, and my wildflower garden is blooming. I am surprised by the intimacy of painting in the rain. Cozy and dry under my blue umbrella, there seems only the exquisite yellow lady-slippers and me. The harsh contrasts and ever-changing shadows are gone with the sun. Bright colours back off, and subtle greys make a stand.

FOUND

If you truly wish to connect with your passion as a painter, put together a kit and get on the road that artists have traveled for centuries. Plein air painting is never a waste of time, and always a meditation on beauty. Amazing and magical things happen when you communicate one on one with Mother Nature. You will come away feeling both peaceful and exhilarated, and itching to go again. The rewards are huge. I now have many inspiring sketches, a great photo of me painting, taken by my friend Richard, and I found Sheldon, the perfect banjo teacher. I have indelible memories of sunflowers in spring, cherry blossoms in the wind, lady-slippers in the rain. A special memory of an elderly Japanese tourist still makes my day. Small and shy, she is a picture of quiet dignity and doesn't speak a word of English. After watching me for some time, she sneaks over to peek at my painting. When she sees the cherry blossoms she breaks into a grin of pure delight, puts her arms around me and gives me the biggest hug. I get the message in several languages all at once!



Photo by Richard Lees