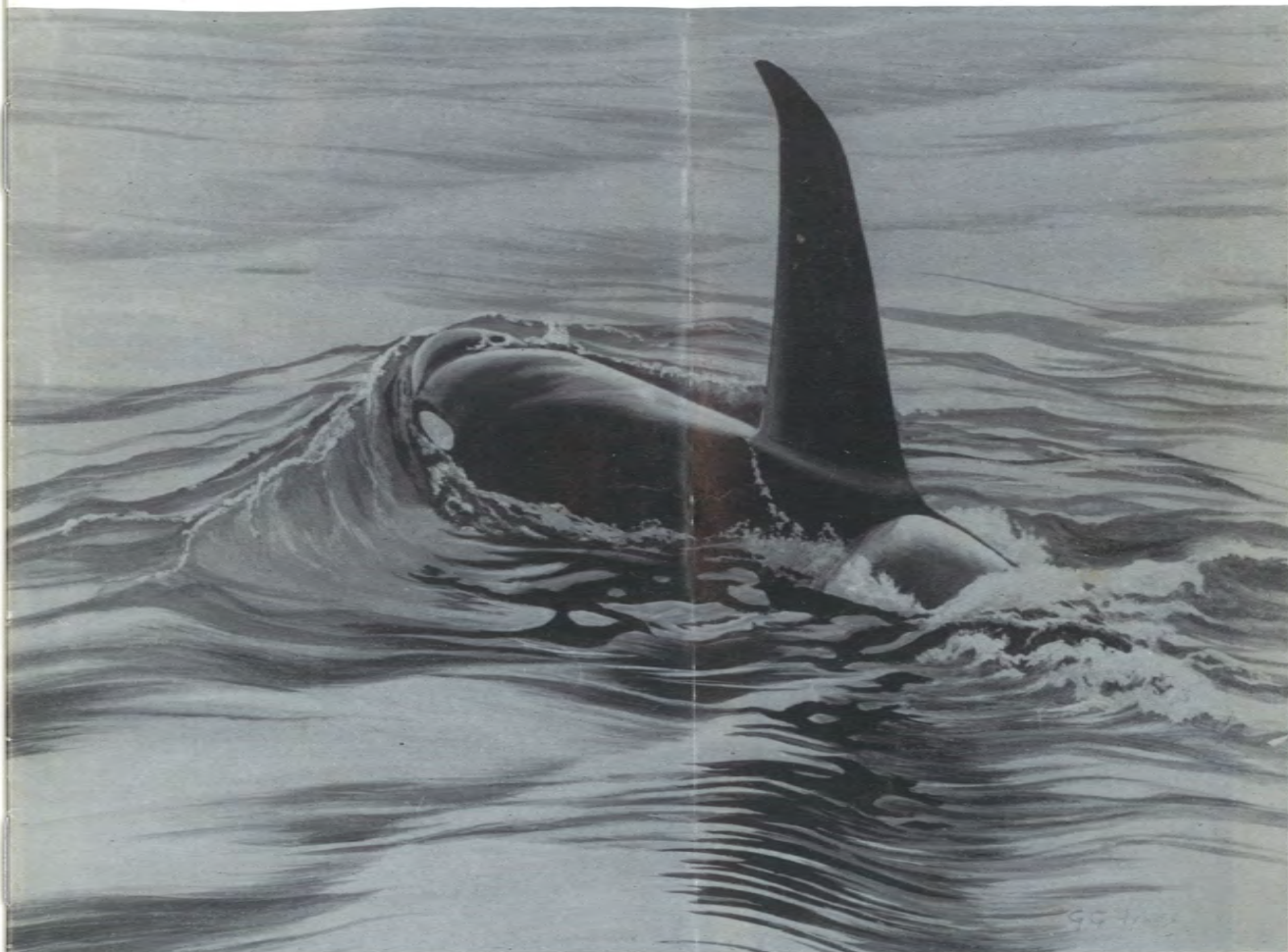


DEC 1997 / JAN 1998

CANADIAN
ARTISTS'

News



ORCA IN TRANSIT acrylic, 18"x24" Gord Hynes

MID-ISLAND CHAPTERS

Granville Island Bi-Annual Exhibition

ARROWSMITH ♦ COMOX VALLEY & CAMPBELL RIVER



THERE'S
ANOTHER ONE
watercolour, 15"x20"
Peggy Burkosky



GOLDEN KEY MANDALA
gouache, 22.5"x22.5"
D. Sylvia Tucker

SWEET PEAS watercolour, 9"x15.5" *Carole Goodwin*

Canadian Artists' News

DECEMBER 1997 / JANUARY 1998

Canadian Artists' News

is published 10 times per year.

Annual subscription rate is included in Membership Fee.

News, articles, announcements, good contrast black/white or colour photos welcome. (NO slides please.) Note: Deadline for submissions is the 1st day of the month preceding the month of issue.

Federation Gallery (and Mailing Address):

1241 Cartwright St. (Granville Island), Vancouver, BC V6H 4B7

Gallery: 681-8534 Office: 681-2744 Fax: 681-2740

Email: fca@istar.ca Website: http://www.artists.ca

Gallery open daily except Mondays - 10 am to 4 pm

Publisher: Federation of Canadian Artists
Editor: Steven Laszcz (582-2115)
Email: lashart@istar.ca
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Proofreading: Tony Greenall

FCA Elected Executive 1997/98:

President: Alessandra Bitelli, SFCA, CSPWC (926-8921)

1st V.P.: Janice Robertson, SFCA (888-2230)

2nd V.P.: Bob McMurray, AFCA (r 535-5069; o 576-9121)

Treasurer: MaryEllen Klassen (294-2575)

Rec. Secretary: Josanne van Hees, AFCA (538-3346)

Past President: Mike Svob, SFCA (535-1459)

Appointments to the Board 1997/98:

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Membership: Marjorie Turnbull, AFCA (941-7695)

Publicity: Vacant

Standards: Jeane Duffey, SFCA RI (Hon.) (943-4406)

Newsmagazine: Steve Laszcz (582-2115)

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Weekend Gallery Supervisor: Ellen Poole

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EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Highlights of the October 21, 1997 Board of Directors Meeting

President's Report:

The process of registering the certification mark AFCA has been started and will take about one year to be finalized.

Alessandra was interviewed at the FCA Gallery for the Asia Pacific Arts Festival and attended the opening as a representative of the Federation. It was good exposure for the FCA to be included with other respected art organizations.

The new guidelines and regulations for Chapters were presented by the Chapters Committee and approved by the Board.

Business Manager's Report:

The project and estimate for the new air conditioning/heating system was presented and approved by the Board. CNHC will grant a contribution of \$10,000.00.

The firm of Bruce F. Jamison & Co. Certified General Accountants has been appointed auditors of the FCA.

Gallery Manager's Report:

The show at the Western Trinity College is now hanging, thanks to the work of Janice Robertson, Andrew Tong and Bonnie Roberts. Special thanks to Bonnie for the use of her van.

Work on the show calendar for 1998 will be finalized soon.

Janice presented an information package for Signature applicants. It will be sent to the Chapters for duplication and distribution.

The Bylaws Committee advised that the bylaws revision should be accomplished soon.

Next meeting November 18, 1997.



GALLERY REPORT

By Nancy Clayton

Of course, we all saw it coming. Wish I could surprise you with an 8 day week or rather that you could surprise me! But twelve months is what we've got, So we put together some statistics from the past year.

These are the numbers for the seven juried shows from 97:

- Annual Winter Juried Show
148 entries 74 accepted
- Postcard Picture Show
82 Entries 54 accepted
- Annual Spring Open
112 Entries 41 Accepted
- Faces And Figures
111 Entries 69 Accepted
- Annual Fall Juried
166 Entries 55 Accepted
- Fall Flavours 119 Entries 53 Accepted
- Christmas Small Picture/Miniatures Show
152 Entries 82 Accepted (at press time)

Still-Life Watercolor Workshop With Janice Robertson, SFCA

The workshop will take place Jan. 24th and 25th (Sat. & Sun.) from 10am to 4pm each day, at the FCA Workshop at Associated Graphics, 1664 West 4th Ave., Vancouver.

Students will spend the two days doing a fully realized painting (or paintings) from live, detailed, still-life set ups including flowers, fruit, bottles etc. This workshop is most suitable for intermediate to advanced painters. Class size will be limited.

Cost of the workshop is \$90.00 payable on registration. For more information, or to register, call Janice at 888-2230.

We have also been working on the 1998 Calendar of Events (listing elsewhere in issue). I know you will let me know if there are any conflicting dates, oversights or glitches. So put some marks on your 98 calendars and keep in touch.

For those of you who did not make it into the gallery in November you missed the crowds at Ed Loenen's, AFCA and Niels Petersen's, AFCA, "Brushspoke". It was a wonderfully vibrant, cohesive show of paintings and was well received by the public. You also missed the Annual Medals Show too, a rare gathering of paintings by many AFCA's and SFCA's.

This years' Christmas Small Picture and Miniatures Show will consist of more than 80 paintings. Come and visit us on Tuesday December 23, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. to help draw the winning raffle ticket for Jeane Duffy's, SFCA watercolour "Coal Harbour Christmas".

Congratulations to all of you who took part in making our 1997 exhibits a big success. Several jurors have remarked on the greatly (and continuing) improved quality in the overall entries. This competition nudges everyone up the scale. Congratulations to all of our trusty, hard working volunteers and of course to all of you who were selected to exhibit here and there throughout the year.

Lastly congratulations to those of you who sold something from the gallery. Every bit of it all from hours of anonymous studio concentration to collective 15 minutes of fame helps us pull this off, folks thank you all.

I hope Christmas 1997 is a happy time with family and friends for all of you. Just ask Santa Claus for a bit of extra painting time. Happy New Year and health of all sorts in 1998.

*"The intensity of a picture
is an echo of the intensity with which
it was painted. Your attitude toward
the worth of your efforts shows up on the
canvas. If you're indifferent,
the picture will be uninvolved.
You don't have to think you are great
but you do need to feel that what
you're after is great."*

- Gregg Kreutz, Art Student's League, N.Y.

CRUISE *through* HISTORY

May 1998



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Non-Painters are Welcome.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Formerly called Western Exposure
News of Members' Upcoming Events

Here's Bruce Cryer, SFCA accompanied by Joyce Kamikura, SFCA during the Signatures 97 show. Bruce was doing a demonstration in front of the most famous address on Granville Island.



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John Girard participated in the "MV. Queen of the North" 1997 Inside Passage artist - speaker program. Here is a photo of John as he demonstrates watercolour techniques. John says the weather was excellent and you just can't beat BC's coast for scenery.



Congratulations to Kiff Holland, SFCA he was recently awarded the Lucinda Hutton Memorial Award for his painting "Flambee". The award was presented during the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour show.

Steven Laszcz will be having a show of his paintings and prints at the Yukon & 5th. Street Studios from December 4 to 6 1997. Steve will be joining 14 other artists for this open studio event.

Art & Flowers for CHILD held an auction on October 30, 1997. The following Federation members all had paintings auctioned off during this gala event. Daniel J. Izzard, SFCA, Alan Wylie, SFCA, Chris MacClure, Mike Svob, SFCA, Joyce Kamikura, SFCA, Kiff Holland, SFCA, Carol Evans, Dan Gray, CPS, Brent Heighton, SFCA and Robert Genn, SFCA.

Congratulations to Bonny Roberts, AFCA who won first prize and Lyla Menagh who won second prize in the poster competition sponsored by Teletheater BC, Fraser Downs (Cloverdale Raceway) and the Arts Council of Surrey.

*"Obstacles are things a person sees when
he takes his eyes off his goal."*

- E. Joseph Crossman

Jean Greenwood was recently seen in the desert near New Mexico painting with water soluble oil paints. As the photo below shows she is holding a cup of water.



Please welcome the following new *Active* status members:

Simon Siu-Min Chan	Thomas N. Fraser
Margaret Gish	Roberta J. Wils
Barbara Cardario	



Also welcome the following new *Supporting* members:

Elizabeth Austin	Pamela Blaskovich
Elizabeth Bologna	Emmy Bouma
Carol Bragg	Zola Broomfield
Martin Brown	Carol Buckland
Marilynn Bury	Madeleine Campbell
Katherine Carlisle	Pierre Chenier
Michael Cleary	Brian Colbridge
June Davis	Rita Diebolt
Joan Dusel	Colleen Dyson
Lois Eamon	James Elton
Emilea Fedoriw	Mabel Gardin
Marilyn Gerwing	Dieter Goehring
Kenna Graff	Lynda Grealish
Madelyn Hamilton	Airaca Haver
Patricia Hepburn	Joan Ironstand
Anne Kackson	Colleen Kely
Linda Knowles	Trudy Knox
Pat Krahn	Doris Lambert
Janet Lee	Marina Leisen
Nancy Lucas	Robert Lundquist
Evelyne MacMillan	Linley McKenna
Nick Naunheimer	Edith Nelson
Kathryn Newell	Beverly Payce
Fran Pratico	Victoria Prince
Elene Punsvik	Michelle Reavley
Margaret Ross	Sharon Shepherd
Cindy Smith	Patricia Smith,
Sandy Sommerfeld	Coralie Susser
Connie Swaisland	Isla Thompson
Tom Tinkler	George Traicheff
Millie Von Meerheimb	Louise Walton
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Isabel Wilson	Liz Woodside

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CANADIAN SCENE

Chapter News and Events

ARROWSMITH CHAPTER

By Pat Audley

Isabel Monson tells us her Nanaimo Art Gallery show "Blue and Black" with Gerda Hoffman will open on January 9, 1998 and run until February 1st. Everyone is invited to attend the reception on January 11, 1998 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

At this time the members of the Arrowsmith Chapter would like to wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons and much success in 1998.

CENTRAL OKANAGAN CHAPTER

By Monika Montana Grant

Wonderful news from the beautiful, bountiful valley here in the Central Okanagan! We are 81 members strong and excitement and enthusiasm is running rampant. On October 15 we officially formed the Central Okanagan Chapter. We would like to thank Bob McMurray, AFCA for his words of wisdom, encouragement and support throughout the process. Also special thanks to Ellen Poole for equipping our member Shirley

Rochon with a multitude of relevant material to assist our chapter, as well as taking the time to make her feel welcomed during a recent visit to the Federation Gallery.

Our first newsletter was sent out on October 31 with announcements of upcoming events, such as Jury to Active Status taking place in mid-November, a three day workshop with Brent Heighton, SFCA and our first Corporate supporter here in the valley (The Mission Creek Golf Club.) We would like to thank the MCGC for donating their facilities and offering to pick the winning painting of their clubhouse - our first painting contest - open to our chapter.

On December 8 we will be holding our first Christmas social event and will officially elect our executive. We hope to see everyone there to celebrate life, the season and the arts.

Members in the News:

Monika Montana Grant had a painting juried into the NWWS Fall 97 show in Seattle. Sharon Russell painted three labels for a local vineyard. The Tutt Street Gallery is featuring members Mars Hallisey, Madison Hart, Tove Sorensen, Tom Tinkler and Catherine Ann Tower.

In the coming months we look forward to furthering and promoting art, art education and



*Seasons
Greetings
from Randy
KELLIE
Jocelyn*

Frame Right

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the FCA's participation in cultural events in this warm, still sunny, magnificent valley. Happy painting and wonderful creative thoughts coming to you from the Central Okanagan Chapter.

CALGARY BRANCH

** PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **

What a beautiful fall we are having, and I hope you are all picking up your brushes in response to the gorgeous colours all about us. I was VERY gratified to see over 50 people at the last FCA meeting! That kind of turnout is fabulous, and I hope that it will continue. We now have name badges to wear so that you can get to know each other better. If you accidentally took yours home after the meeting, be sure to wear it at the next meeting! Karen Huehold did a wonderful job coordinating both signature members and new active members for a 'show and tell' of their work. It was very well received and good to see what our members are doing - very inspiring. Keep your brushes wet, and I'll see you October 21st.

Sharon Williams

MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to Phyllis Ljuden! Her painting of red poppies from the Calgary Zoo "A Time to Dance", was juried into "Open Water" - the 72nd Annual Open show by the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour and showed through September at the Etobicoke City Hall Galley in Ontario.

ALICE SALTIEL at the White Museum, Banff, Alberta (Until November 30).

VICTORIA CHAPTER

By Alan Mark Cross

Our latest organized event was the Bruce Cryer workshop. Everyone who attended this workshop had the benefit of being under the guidance of a truly gifted artist and teacher. Bruce packed excitement and interest into all five days of the workshop. He did at least one demo every day and provided very helpful and informative critiques of the paintings we did in the workshop and of paintings we had done elsewhere. He unselfishly passed on a multitude of information and knowledge that he had spent a lifetime learning. We would all like to extend a special thank you to Bruce for doing the workshop even though it meant missing his daughter's birthday. Due to the good response, we are hoping to have

him back in the early spring to do another workshop.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 9 at 6:00 pm at Windsor Park Pavilion. Bring one of your favorite dishes and bring a painting for all of us to enjoy. For further information, call Alan Mark Cross at 658-8102.

We are pleased to announce that we have finalized the dates for the presentation from Robert Bateman, SFCA. It will be at the Victoria Art Gallery 7:00 pm on January 13, 1998. It should be a very enjoyable night, hope to see you there. We are pre-selling tickets for members at \$3.00 and for non-members at \$5.00. Cheques should be made out to the Federation of Canadian Artists and sent to Laura Carberry at #69 - 14 Erskine Lane, Victoria, B.C., V8Z 6J7.

Members News:

Pauline Martland, AFCA was a participant in the Cancer Society's benefit for Children's Cancer held at Royal Roads. Her painting was auctioned at the dinner for double its value. Congratulations Pauline.

Bea Davies has moved, she is our Membership Person so her new address is important. It is 4867 Maxine Lane, Victoria, B.C., V8Y 2J3, phone 658-1793. If you have not already paid for your Grapevine, we are only going to be sending them out from now on from the paid list. So, send your name and \$10.00 to Bea so your Grapevine subscription does not run out.

Congratulation to Monika Montana Grant for organizing the creation of the FCA's newest chapter - the Central Okanagan Chapter, of which she is Chairperson.

When you are wrapping up those Christmas presents, be sure not to wrap up your brushes too - they are best kept moist and in use.



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WILD BOUQUET oil, 12"x16"
Wilma Richardson



I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER
watercolour, 15"x17" *Gina Harris*



BANFF GLACIER acrylic, 18"x24" *Gord Hynes*



DALMACIJA oil, 36"x36"
Penny Antifave

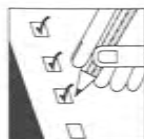
FUND RAISER AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PERSONS WANTED

The FCA Board has openings for a Fund-Raising Chairperson and Publicity Chairperson.

These volunteers need not be artists but must be able to attend monthly meetings (3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.).

The ideal candidates should be energetic, self motivated and have creative ideas for the FCA.

If interested please contact Janice Robertson, SFCA at (604) 888-2230.



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January 13 to January 19

"Christmas Small Picture Extension"

Annual Juried Exhibition
All members All media

January 20 to February 1

"All Chapter Juried Show"

Chapter Members only (all media)
Slide Deadline: Saturday December 20, 1997
4:00 p.m.

February 3 to February 15

Annual Winter Juried Show

Volunteers/Active/AFCA/SFCA Members
(All media)
Slide Deadline: Sat. January 10 1998 4:00 p.m.



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February 17 to March 1

"Members Group Show"

Joyce Benson
Mike Kostic
Maria Semenov

February 28, 1997

Application deadline for AFCA/SFCA Status

March 3 to March 15

*Postcard Picture Show
Juried Exhibition*

All members All media
Theme: From B.C. Waters
Slide Deadline:

Saturday, January 13, 1998 4:00 p.m.

March 17 to March 29

Success! Exhibition

New AFCA/SFCA status members
with Board of Governors
(All media)

March 31 to April 12

Student Show

Foundation Course Students
Drawings and Paintings

April 14 to April 26

*Annual Spring Open Watermedia
Juried Exhibition*

Open to all members and non-members
Slide Deadline:
Saturday, March 14, 1998 4:00 p.m.

April 28 to May 10

Faces and Figures Show

Juried Member Exhibit (All media)
Theme: Paintings featuring the human figure.
Slide Deadline:
Saturday, March 28, 1998 4:00 p.m.

May 12 to May 24

Member Group Show

Sheila Symington
Adrienne Moore
Pat Logie
Pauline Pike

May 26 to June 21

Pieces of Eight V
SFCA Group Exhibit

June 23 to July 5

Member Group Show

Donna Baspaly, SFCA
Pat Peacock, AFCA
Carol Short

July 7 to August 2

Summer Gallery Part One

Juried Federation Artists
All media

Slide Deadline:
Saturday, May 30, 1998 4:00 p.m.

August 4 to August 30

Summer Gallery Part Two

September 1 to September 13

Annual Fall Juried Exhibition

All members All media
Slide Deadline:

Saturday, August 1, 1998 4:00 p.m.

September 15 to October 4

Signatures IV
Group SFCA Exhibit

October 6 to October 18

Active Member Juried Exhibit

Active members only
Theme: Change
Slide Deadline:

Saturday, September 5, 1998 4:00 p.m.

October 20 to November 12

Nanaimo Juried Chapter Show

All media

November 3 to November 15

Member Group Show

Peter Bluet
Jack Rootman
Frank Pochyly
Robert McMurray, AFCA

November 17 to November 29

Medal Show

AFCA/SFCA Members

All media

AFCA Slide Deadline:

Saturday, October 17, 1998, 4:00 p.m.

November 30 to December 6

Elizabeth Smiley Retrospective Show

December 8 to December 24

Christmas Small Picture & Miniature Show

Juried Exhibition

Active/AFCA/SFCA members

All media

Slide Deadline:

Saturday, November 7, 1998 4:00 p.m.

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- George D. Stoddard

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ART SHOWS AND OTHER INTERESTS

By Sue Mclvor

This month we would like to introduce a new column. Sue Mclvor has been compiling data on other shows that might be of interest to our membership. These would include International as well as local events. Please direct all inquiries to Sue if you would like her to include something you have heard about. (Steve)

Here is a list of a few shows you might like to catch if you are in the area:

- *"The Act of Painting"*, Oils and Acrylics by **Gordon Smith**, Vancouver Art Gallery until January 11, 1998.
- *"Evolving From Tradition"*, Prints and mixed media work from Coast Salish Native Artist, **Susan Point**, Richmond Art Gallery until January 12, 1998.
- *"The Gorgeous George Series"*, Local and Minnesota Landscapes from **Robert Michener**, Surrey Art Gallery January 10 to March 8th 1998.
- *"Sketching Traditions of Canada's Landscape Artists"* 19 and 20th Centuries, Glenbow Art Gallery, Calgary.
- *"Leonardo Lives"*, until January 4th 1998 Seattle Art Museum.

There is certainly a feast for the eyes here if you can see any of these shows.





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PAINTERS BEWARE

By Maggie Ferguson-Dumais

As you age, your storeroom of wisdom expands. As you teach, your ability to sound wise also increases. As you paint, your personal habits blossom into wondrous but strange adventures.

First, I warn my students of watercolour, painting is very addictive. I believe that this information needs to be stated early in the experience, warning would be painters of the rarely discussed dangers and pitfalls of painting.

Painting causes you to look more closely at the world around you. You take on strange and unusual habits. Squinting is a major change in your life. The exquisite details of a scene fades, allowing you to simplify the picture, rendering the landscape to the basic shapes.

Driving erratically is another strange habit of painters. Squinting at clouds, trees, mountains or birds in flight can cause you to veer in odd directions at any moment while driving on the highway.

The veering changes on country roads to sudden stops to capture the moment, driving backwards down the lane for the same purpose. Parking precariously close to the roadside is a given, with the understanding that details are overlooked in general.

Gathering source materials for painting can lead painters down adventuresome paths. Capturing the sunlight on subjects can cause painters to do headstands with their cameras. Obsessing over shadows is an opposite habit with similar consequences.

Lastly, the most noted habit is venturing into your right brain. Going here is highly rated but sometimes difficult to attain. Exterior stimulus of the left brain nature creates obstacles. However, getting into the right brain state of creative bliss is worth the strange stares and accusations by associates of being ignored. Happy painting!

Maggie Ferguson-Dumais is the Art Co-ordinator for the Arts & Recreation Centre in Quesnel. This article first appeared in the Quesnel Caribboo Observer and is reprinted here with permission from the author.

FCA WEB SITE UP AND RUNNING

by Glenn Marcus

By October 1st the FCA's web site was up and running and members were contacting the site to enquire about linking an existing home page or having an On-Line Studio designed for them.

The site offers information about the organization, education opportunities, instructional videos and a calendar of events. The most popular part of the site is the Members' Studios. This is what art on the Internet is all about. The Members' Studio Page links art pages of active, AFCA and SFCA members with the FCA site. With a click of the mouse the viewer is transported to the individual sites of artists. So far we have ten members linked to the Members' Studios and the number is growing.

Active, AFCA or SFCA members who wish to have an existing site linked should contact the FCA Webmaster (gmarcus@istar.ca) or if interested in having a site designed call Glenn Marcus at 522-3134 in the evening. A mailout last month gave all the details of having a site designed. Members with the computer know-how to design their own web page can check out the sites already linked. Also keep the following design hints in mind:

- Pages with background patterns have given way to a cleaner look – your art will always look better on a white page!
- Keep your images small. how many of us have lost interest in a site waiting for large graphic files to download.
- Put your art at the beginning of your page. That's what the viewer came to see.
- Tell the viewer where your art can be seen.
- Put your e-mail address on your page so the viewer can contact you.

The Members' Studio page will include thumbnail graphic files of those sites control by the webmaster. This helps to spark interest in the index and prevents the page from being a list of names. Members wishing to link an existing site can send the Webmaster a graphic file and for \$10 a thumbnail file will be made and retained on the FCA server for faster loading.

Painters in Action MONDAYS

* * * * *

*Demonstrations at Federation Gallery
1241 Cartwright Street, Vancouver
1:00 to 4:00 pm*

**Admission: Free to FCA Members
\$10.00 to Non-Members**

Date	Artist / Subject
TBA	To Be Announced
* * * * *	

Painters in Action is on hiatus until March. Look for workshops by **Donna Baspaly**, SFCA, **Bonnie Roberts**, AFCA, and many other fine artists.



Sunshine Coast School of the Arts

The newly-formed Sunshine Coast School of the Arts is thrilled to announce its first summer program with the following outstanding American and Canadian artist-teachers:

Carla O'Connor	July 20-24/98
Eva Margueriette	July 27-31/98
Judy Morris	August 3-7/98
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MY STUDIO**
By Karen Marcus

It has been just about two years since I decided to create my on-line studio on the Internet. With the decision to do so I opened myself up to a new level of exposure and recognition. In a little less than two years my web site has had over 5000 "hits" which can be translated into about 5,000 Internet visitors from around the world. This is a level of exposure that would have never been available to me as an individual artist had I not been on the Internet.

Why did I take the plunge? I guess my retail background with the Bay put a bug in my ear: do it before Eaton's does! I was none too late. Over the past two years I have been amazed at the increasing number of artists that have joined the Internet. Whole states, such as New Mexico and countries such as Switzerland have really embraced the Internet and they have listed hundreds of artists and galleries.

Can you sell your art on the Internet? I am really not sure as to what direct sales an artist can expect,

but I do know the level of exposure increases dramatically. Let me tell you about my experiences and you can decide if the Internet would be worthwhile for you.

Besides the various reporting tools available to indicate how many people have visited my site I have received some wonderful e-mail. Here are just a few examples:

"I have a syndicated radio show from LA and will be in Vancouver, please tell me what galleries I may visit to see your work."

"I own a gallery in Darwin Australia, please send me photos of your work with sizes and prices with the view of buying work for my gallery."

"I am a fellow artist and your work is most inspirational, love your textures."

I can't tell you how good it feels to hear words like those, particularly if I am in a bit of a slump. My husband, Glenn, also has a web site for his passion of fountain pens. Through his site we have met a new friend in Rome who took us to dinner while we were visiting that city and a lawyer from Sicily also invited us to visit him. A couple from Arkansas wrote for information about what to see when visiting Vancouver. They wrote back after their trip with some very nice comments on some of my art they saw in a gallery I had listed on the Internet.

Although it is nice to have direct access to the Internet and e-mail I would estimate that more than 50% of artists on-line do not. Messages are relayed by mail directly to the artist or through a contractor. Computer or no computer, I see the Internet as a valuable marketing tool in the present and a necessity in the future.

I am delighted the FCA has finally established a web-site. I see my link to the FCA site as being very important as it will eventually link many artists to one site. Group sites generate a high degree of interest. The FCA site looks great and for those of you who have not seen it yet, and don't have a computer, bribe a friend, child, grandchild or go to the library to take a peak. The site address is: <http://www.artists.ca>. If you are dropping slides off at the gallery, check to see if I am there and I would be glad to give you a demo.

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THE LEARNING CURVE

By Garda Robinson

Reprint from Calgary Chapter Newsletter

"The Learning Curve" is a new addition to the FCA monthly meetings: a 15 minute presentation by member Garda Robinson on the process of "reading" a painting or other work of art. Artists, especially those without a strong theoretical background, are concerned that their discussions are invalid or inappropriate. Yet, it is important that those who *ido arti* are able to enter into a meaningful dialogue about it – to develop a visual reading skill.

How does one begin the process of bringing together a large group of artists for discussion, when each brings a unique history of technical and theoretical practice to the group, as well as a host of personal and social experiences, not to mention biases? The art critics of the postmodern era have provided a blueprint: to view each piece of art as a "text" in which there are extraneous historical, personal, and social references.

These critics suggest that we allow the painting, the sculpture – whatever – to "speak to us", to "leak" information to us. A work of art should facilitate the active response of the viewer. And, as we read this work of art, our interpretations will and should be different. There is no right or wrong response. Our responses are a function of our particular experiences. The works embody certain meaning that can affect us, in a variety of different ways.

Nor does it matter whether we particularly like or dislike a painting, etc. Each of us has our preferences. But it is important that we develop a visual reading skill for all types of art.

How do we begin, then, to read a painting – to initiate a conversation about it? We need, firstly, to ENTER the painting. The viewer may enter through:

color
multiple voices or single voice
marks
art history
form
social, personal, historical references
touch

psychoanalytic theory
speech
literature
the pleasure of painting
etc.

DON'T DESCRIBE THE WORK – TALK ABOUT THE "RESONANCE" AROUND THE WORK (this reminds me of...) LET THE PIECE "LEAK" INFORMATION OUT TO YOU; TRY TO UNWRAP YOUR RESPONSES TO IT.

ALSO EXAMINE:

- who is saying what to whom and why?
- what is the purpose and function of this work? (interrogate the idea that the work is ABOUT something)
- how much did the artist explore - how much did he learn? (want to see the residue of new learning in each piece)
- is the piece SOLID, CONFIDENT, COHESIVE, COHERENT?
- is the piece innovative in style, content, and context?
- why is the artist painting these images? – what inside himself does he need to express?

It is important to note here that while many art critics believe that the artist carries privileges and responsibilities of the historical moment, another, Doug Hansen, notes that "artists should worry less about what style is valid for their moment in time. The deepest inspiration comes not from form, but from content: the content of one's own experiences in the world."

In the months ahead, Garda will attempt to enhance the viewer's capacity for reading works of art by presenting topics specific to art history. In October, a review will be made of the still life – how and why it has changed through different periods in art history, and why it is enjoying a resurgence of popularity today. The talks will provide a summary of the ideas of current, recognized authorities, only, and will not represent, necessarily, the personal views of the speaker.

As the members develop this visual reading skill, they will move forward, together, along the learning curve.

Photocopies of the talks available at each meeting at cost.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates for Ads placed in this column: TEN CENTS PER WORD PER ISSUE (+ 7% GST). Prepayment required. Simply submit your Ad Wording along with Cheque (payable to FCA) by 1st day of month preceding desired month of issue.

INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

"Picture This Way in Watercolour & Mixed Media"
with Mike Svob (W/C) and Joyce Kamikura (M/M);

"Picture This Way in Acrylic & Oil"

with Robert Genn (Acr) and Alan Wylie (Oil)

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WORKSHOPS

PALETTES PLUS WORKSHOPS ON WHIDBY ISLAND, WA with Don Andrews, Jan Kunz, Milford Zornes, Barbara Nechis, Eric Wiegardt, Mike Svob, Carl Dalio, James Soares, Marilyn Hughey Phillis, Joan McKasson, Elizabeth Kincaid, Karlyn Holman, Linda Stevens Moyer, David Daniels, Xiaogang Zhu, and more. For a free catalogue: Coupeville Arts Center, Box 171FC, Coupeville, WA 98239 (360) 678-3396.

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Our goal is to make sure you have fun and learn something new in art. Come and visit; swimming and snorkeling are great or just sit on the beach and ENJOY.

For full details call Jeff or Carolyn Howard at Eagleshore Studios (250) 248-9311.

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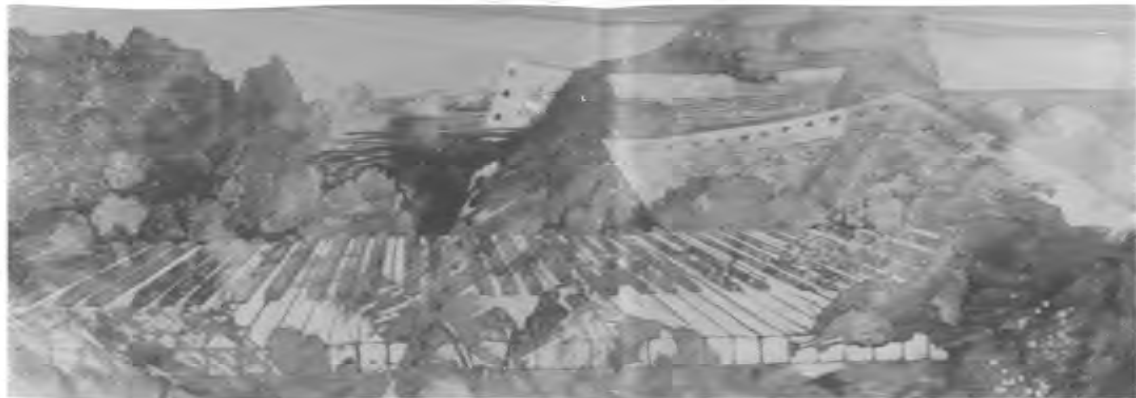
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MUSIC BY THE SEA mixed media, 12"x33" *Pat Holland*



ROSES IN SEALER JAR watercolour, 9"x13"
Wanda Ashmore, AFCA



NUDE pastel, 32"x25.5" *Olivia Mennie*



PROTECTION
watercolour, 12"x15"
Peggy Burkosky



THETIS ISLAND
RETIREE
watercolour on
canvas, 24"x30"
Pauline Pike