



ARTS LETTER

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PENTICTON ART GALLERY



PG. 10

Under \$500 Exhibition
and Sale Returns

PG. 18

45.5th "Annual"
Art Auction



FREE

Please Take One

Thank you for recycling this Arts Letter

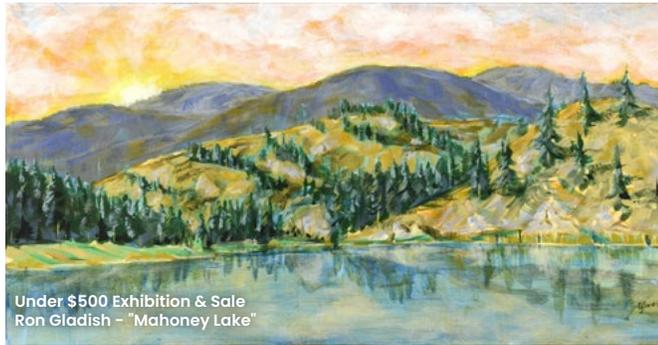
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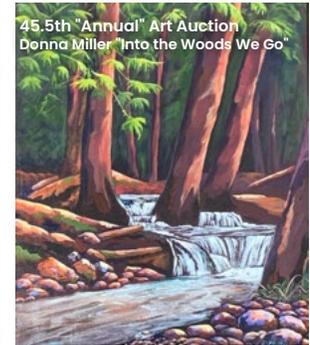
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OUR VISION

Penticton Art Gallery's vision is a world where the visual arts foster inclusiveness, social engagement, critical thinking, and creativity.

OUR MISSION

Penticton Art Gallery's mission is to engage our diverse community in an ongoing dialogue about issues as expressed through contemporary and historic art practices and to provide opportunities for interaction with artists and the artistic process.

OUR MANDATE

Penticton Art Gallery exists to exhibit, interpret, preserve, and promote our collective artistic and cultural heritage as expressed through the visual arts. Our Gallery is accessible to everyone as a vibrant public space in service of our community. Our exhibitions, education, and outreach programs engage our community in local, regional, and global issues, while embracing cultural and gender diversity, and the work of indigenous artists.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE PENTICTON ART GALLERY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE UNCEDED, TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SYILX (OKANAGAN) PEOPLES.

ABOUT

pentictonartgallery.com

199 Marina Way
Penticton, British Columbia
V2A 1H5, Canada

1.250.493.2928
inquiries@pentictonartgallery.com

Tuesdays-Fridays: 10am-5pm
Saturdays: 11am-4pm
Sundays: Closed
Mondays + Holidays: Closed

Gender Inclusive Washrooms
Wheelchair Accessible



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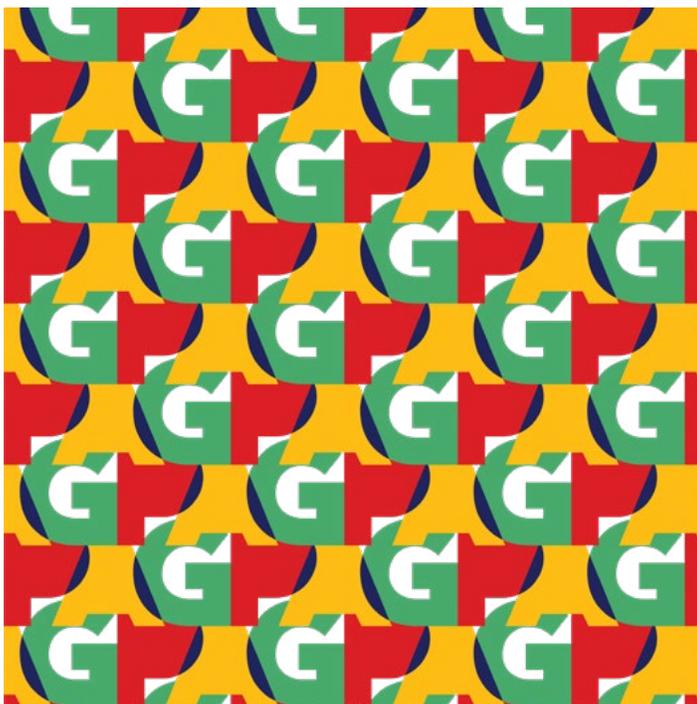
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Nancy Schmidt, Cindi-Lou Baker
Katie Bowling, Jesse Doucette**
Directors

A Fresh Canvas...

A new logo! Please welcome a dynamic and versatile representation of our identity, embodying the ever-evolving artistic spirit of the Penticton Art Gallery. What makes this logo particularly exciting is its adaptability – the colorways can be transformed to reflect the themes of our various exhibitions and events. This flexibility allows us to infuse a fresh and vibrant energy into our visual branding, making each visit to the gallery a unique and captivating experience. Furthermore, the logo will serve as a dynamic frame to highlight our exceptional art pieces and upcoming exhibitions, seamlessly integrating our visual identity with the rich tapestry of creativity we present within our walls. As you explore our gallery, you'll witness the logo evolve and adapt, showcasing the diversity and dynamism of the art that defines us, without pulling focus. It's not just a logo; it's a canvas that breathes life into our artistic endeavors!



Thank you to Purple Pig!

The driving force behind this remarkable transformation is the creative genius of Edward Alp and his talented team at Purple Pig in Kelowna, British Columbia. Their vision and expertise have breathed new life into our identity, ensuring that we can continue to inspire, engage, and connect with the Penticton community, as well as art enthusiasts from near and far.



@purplepigdesign

Penticton Art Gallery Unveils Rebrand!

As we embark on this exciting new phase, it's essential to understand that change is often a reflection of growth and evolution. Our new logo represents the artistic spirit of our community and gallery, and it's a testament to our commitment to innovation and creativity. Over the coming months, we will gradually phase out the old logo and usher in the new one, infusing fresh energy into our visual identity. We also have exciting discussions on the horizon regarding new signage, which will further enhance the visitor experience and make our gallery even more welcoming and accessible. These enhancements will ensure that we continue to be a cultural hub in our vibrant community, inspiring creativity and fostering a love for the arts.

The new logo features a modern and dynamic design that embodies the essence of the Penticton Art Gallery. This transformation is not just about aesthetics; it's a celebration of the ever-evolving art landscape in Penticton.

We are grateful for all our staff and board input, as well as the lucky few community members we bounced ideas off of! Your dedication fuels our mission to bring art to life in Penticton. The rebrand is a reflection of our commitment to delivering engaging and transformative experiences through art.

The Penticton Art Gallery is committed to being a center of artistic excellence, and we hope you will continue to be part of our thriving creative community. We hope you like it! And if you don't... it will grow on you. We promise. ♦



Another Dynamic use of the new logo. Highlight of our Permanent Collection:
Endrené Shepard - Summerhill Vineyard, 2012

Message from the Director



Paul Crawford

Director/Curator

Photo by Gallery Staff

As the days grow shorter and the world outside undergoes a remarkable transformation, we find ourselves in a season of change and introspection. The natural world, in its infinite wisdom, shifts its palette from the vibrant hues of autumn to the muted tones of winter, inviting us to adapt and embrace the coziness of our homes. It is a time to feather our nests, both literally and metaphorically, as we prepare to hibernate and reflect on the passage of time and the profound impact the changing seasons have on our lives. Just as the world outside undergoes its own transformative journey, we are reminded of the hidden beauty of introspection and renewal as we adapt to nature's rhythm.

The profound impact of changing seasons on our physical and mental well-being is undeniable, as it subtly yet significantly molds our daily routines and emotional states. This interconnectedness between our lives and the natural world becomes strikingly apparent during these transitions. The emotional and psychological impact of changing seasons can be further intensified by the relentless deluge of distressing news we receive daily

through our growing dependency on the increasing number of electronic devices that have come to dominate our lives.

This reality makes the task of preserving our inner equilibrium even more daunting, and it becomes increasingly clear why so many of us frequently experience overwhelming feelings of disconnection and powerlessness in the face of this relentless sensory assault. The striking dichotomy between the natural world's transformative beauty and the continuous deluge of disheartening information serves as a poignant reminder of the delicate equilibrium we must constantly strive to maintain in our lives. In this intricate and capricious world, the pursuit of resilience, balance, and meaningful connections becomes not just a choice but a fundamental necessity.

One might naturally assume that after 17 years and over a hundred editions of the Arts Letter behind me, writing this column every other month would have become a progressively easier and increasingly routine undertaking. Yet without fail, each time I prepare to compose this column, a peculiar and somewhat mystifying phenomenon grips me. It's as if the wellspring of ideas that was so readily available just moments before vanishes the very instant my fingers contact the keyboard. Over the years, it seems that I have cultivated a talent for needlessly complicating what should be a straightforward task and transforming it into a mentally taxing internal struggle. This tendency is further exacerbated by my self-imposed conviction that every word I commit to paper must bear a profound sense of sincerity and heartfelt significance.

In recent months, I've been grappling with a profound sense of existential uncertainty, a

struggle that may resonate with many as a midlife crisis. This introspection and self-reflection have been further intensified by the bewildering and often incomprehensible events that continuously hold the world in their grip. Amid this backdrop, I've embarked on a deeply heartfelt journey to question the purpose, significance, and meaning of the work to which I've dedicated the past 30 years of my life. As I sat down to write my bimonthly column, these questions weighed heavily on my heart, casting their shadow over both my thoughts and the words that poured onto the page. While my initial aspiration was to write something positive and uplifting, it proved impossible to overlook the profound impact of the heavy current events that loom over our lives like a persistent shadow. After encountering several false starts, I arrived at a pivotal juncture where I recognized the urgency of pressing the pause button and pursuing a more holistic perspective, one free from the escalating pervasive sense of helplessness, despair, and fear that has permeated the thoughts and conversations of virtually everyone I know.

During this period of self-reflection, I've found myself reevaluating my sense of purpose and, for the first time, genuinely questioning the path my future might follow. Looking back on the pivotal moments that have defined my life's journey, it's become strikingly evident that my best laid plans have rarely unfolded as anticipated. This process of introspection has also brought to mind the following quote from Apple CEO Tim Cook, who wisely observed,

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward."

This process has served to underscore a truth I've always held dear: that many of my life's defining moments can be traced back to an interconnected chain of seemingly unrelated serendipitous events. I've always held in high regard not only the practice of sowing the seeds of chance but, even more profoundly, the art of trusting one's heart, embracing the process, taking chances, and wholeheartedly welcoming every opportunity that comes my way. By nurturing this openness and unwavering trust in the journey, serendipity has proven itself to be a powerful, transformative force. It doesn't just shape the course of my own life; it also leaves an indelible and lasting impact on the lives of those who share in this remarkable journey with me.

As I embarked on the task of rewriting my column, aiming to infuse it with positivity and inspiration, an unexpected phone call from Kathleen Quasey in Chicago, Illinois, brought about a remarkable turn of events. Kathleen had recently stumbled upon a post I had shared online, part of a tribute page dedicated to the late artist Alvin Constant. In that post, I had mentioned our upcoming exhibition, "In Search of Alvin Elif Constant: Wandering Spirit" (1946-2006), and our collaborative efforts to gather artworks and stories related to the life of this itinerant artist, who tragically froze to death on the streets of Calgary, Alberta, on November 24, 2006, within two blocks of the homeless shelter at the Mustard Seed Ministry.

Kathleen shared with me an extraordinary story of her encounter with Alvin around 1998 during a day trip to Victoria while visiting relatives in Seattle. Their immediate connection blossomed into a deep friendship, and their conversations continued over the phone long after she returned to Chicago. In the years that followed, an unexpected package arrived in the mail, containing over 30 of Alvin's paintings. He had sent them to her with the hope that she could help sell them through her connections in Chicago. Unfortunately, her attempts to sell

the paintings at the time proved to be unsuccessful. After losing touch with Alvin, she stored the paintings away, and they remained forgotten until she recently stumbled upon them once more. The synchronicity of the timing of her rediscovery of these works and her subsequent phone call to me is nothing short of incredible and it's her desire to see these works returned to Alvin's family and community.

Since I embarked on this seemingly impossible journey to organize an exhibition of Alvin's work last December, a remarkable chain of events has unfolded and continues to bear fruit. In the last few days, two more individuals have reached out to me, offering both artworks and stories to contribute to this endeavor. When I first contacted Alvin's niece, Shelly Mike in Saskatoon, she expressed her long-standing aspiration to write a book about his life. Fate has brought together a talented team for this project, as it turns out that Kathleen is a published author, and so is another contributor to the exhibition, Melinda Price-Wiltshire of Victoria. They are all eager to help tell Alvin's incredible and tragic story, putting a face to not only Alvin's legacy but also opening the door for so many others whose stories may have been lost and forgotten forever. The significance of this serendipitous chain of events cannot be overstated. It has not only doubled the number of works that will make up this initial exhibition but, more importantly, has laid the foundation for the ongoing development of a substantial touring exhibition that will bring these forgotten stories to light.

On behalf of all of us here at the Penticton Art Gallery, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a season filled with warmth and joy for you and your loved ones. As we come together to celebrate the spirit of the season, let us also unite in a collective effort to build a community that we are all proud to call home - a community characterized by compassion, inclusivity, acceptance, safety, and deep human connection.

Our shared vision is not just a dream;

it's a resolute commitment to make our community a better place for everyone. It's about strengthening the bonds of empathy and understanding among us, a commitment to inclusivity, acceptance, and care for our most vulnerable members. Through these collective efforts, we can create a positive and transformative impact while setting an example for others to follow, showing them that, together, we have the power to create the community we want to call home.

In this endeavor, we embrace a shared responsibility, understanding that our actions, whether big or small, can have an immeasurable impact. By strengthening the bonds that connect us, we open the door to transformative change. It's not just about making our community better for today, but about setting an example for others to follow. Our shared vision is a beacon, guiding us toward a more inclusive, compassionate, and harmonious community that we can all be proud of, where the well-being and dignity of every individual are paramount. With that in mind, let us take care of ourselves and each other, as we usher in a season of warmth, joy, and boundless compassion.

The Penticton Art Gallery's success is a tribute to our collective efforts, and without your unwavering friendship and support, we wouldn't exist. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. ♦

Message from the President



Dr. Claude Roberto

President of the Board
Photo © Government of Alberta

Days are shorter and winter is around the corner. However, we have some excellent news to share with you.

Here is the first piece of good news: Attendance at the Penticton Art Gallery now exceeds pre-Covid levels. In 2018, PAG had approximately 14,586 visitors, in 2019 approximately 14,651 visitors, and in 2022 approximately 16,161 visitors. Numbers for 2023 are not yet final but, in spite of smoke, wildfires, highway closures, inflation and recession, they are still very high. This success comes from you, community members, supporting your Art Gallery.

Unfortunately, attendance being up is not the same in other locations across Canada and around the world, where galleries, museums and cultural institutions are struggling because of reduced numbers of visitors. According to David Bond (Penticton Herald, pg 8 –

Opinion, October 24, 2023), “the experience of many Canadian entertainment and cultural venues has been that attendees have returned slowly – and some have not returned at all... Further, the belief that a community’s orchestra or museum or art gallery is a public amenity in which everyone can take pride is important to building a sense of community. If this belief is in any way weakened, society as a whole suffers a loss.”

During Covid, our Gallery adapted and remained open as long as possible even as donations and volunteer numbers declined and as the pandemic impacted our relationships and limited previous freedoms. We had to close the doors for a few weeks but as soon as possible we started to offer services and workshops to the community. It was a difficult time but PAG managed to serve people like you who visited us and appreciated our activities. It was an opportunity to strengthen our connection with the community and enrich daily life by offering art workshops. Our visitors turned to the Penticton Art Gallery to feel better and remain connected instead of living in isolation and separation through the pandemic years. We decided to be part of an artistic renewal in the post-Covid months by creating the Ignite the Arts festival that allowed Penticton to become a more vibrant and connected community at a time it was much needed.

In 2020, when the world was still struggling with the pandemic, Paul

Crawford, our outstanding Curator, invited artists from around the globe to submit works that resonated with them about humanity during these unprecedented Covid times. As a result, the Gallery had 182 people submit art, sculptures, and installations for the project, about their COVID experience. This exhibit, named You Are Not Alone, had a deep and emotional impact on visitors, and it toured cities in Europe in 2021. It allowed our local visitors to cope with change and uncertainty, and the Penticton Art Gallery retained, in the following months, its popularity with a growing number of visitors enjoying a rewarding and engaging environment for socialization, learning and fun. When so many cultural institutions struggled and are still struggling, such as reported by David Bond, attendance rates were maintained and keep growing at your local Art Gallery.

Here is the second piece of good news for art galleries: I was doing some research on the value of culture in society when I found these reliable statistics I would like to share with you. **Culture had a \$58.9 billion economic impact in Canada**, according to the latest data Statistics Canada reported in 2019. Nothing more recent is available but new figures should come out soon. According to data currently available, culture also had eight times more economic impact than what was provided by sports. StatsCan says the direct economic impact of sports industries was \$7.3 billion for the same period.

Visual and applied arts (out of the \$58.9 billion impact from culture) made a \$10.2 billion economic impact in Canada, still higher than the impact of sports. The number of jobs in the culture industries, according to the most recent data from StatsCan, is also almost six times larger than in the sports sector—715,400 compared to 125,500.

Of course, sports are very important and should be supported financially by our governments, but certainly not to the detriment of culture. Art galleries have an important economic impact in Canada, in addition to the value of arts and culture to society.

In conclusion, a huge thank you to you, community members, for visiting your local Penticton Art Gallery, allowing us to increase our visitors' services, constantly innovate, create value and support local economy. ♦

OUR FRIENDS AT RANCHO VIGNOLA ARE HOSTING A HARVEST SALE!

They have been great sponsors feeding our Ignite the Arts Festival guests, and we want to show them some love back! Make sure to check this event out and go NUTS!

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Toni Onley & Project Room Galleries

UNDER
\$500

November 18, 2023,
to January 20, 2024

Exhibition Opening:
November 18, 2023
11-6 pm

Join us during the
Fall Art Walk, followed
by a small reception
from 4-6 pm



A photo from Under \$500, 2022. What will we have this year?
Photo by Ron Marsh

For 18 years running, the Penticton Art Gallery has been a steadfast patron of artistic ingenuity, inviting creatives from all walks of life, regardless of age or medium, to partake in a unique annual showcase and sale: the Under \$500 Exhibition. This cherished event has not only grown in stature year after year but has also managed to capture the attention of artisans, crafters, and visual artists spanning the entire spectrum of British Columbia and even beyond. What makes this exhibition truly exceptional is the astounding breadth and diversity of the submitted artworks, encompassing

everything from the creations of well-established artists to the first-time public exhibitions of emerging talents.

The Under \$500 Exhibition promises something for everyone, regardless of their budget. Whether you're on the hunt for a heartfelt gift, a token of appreciation for a loved one, or that elusive perfect piece to add to your personal collection, this exhibition has you covered. The artwork on display is not only an aesthetic treat but also an investment in the art community's future.

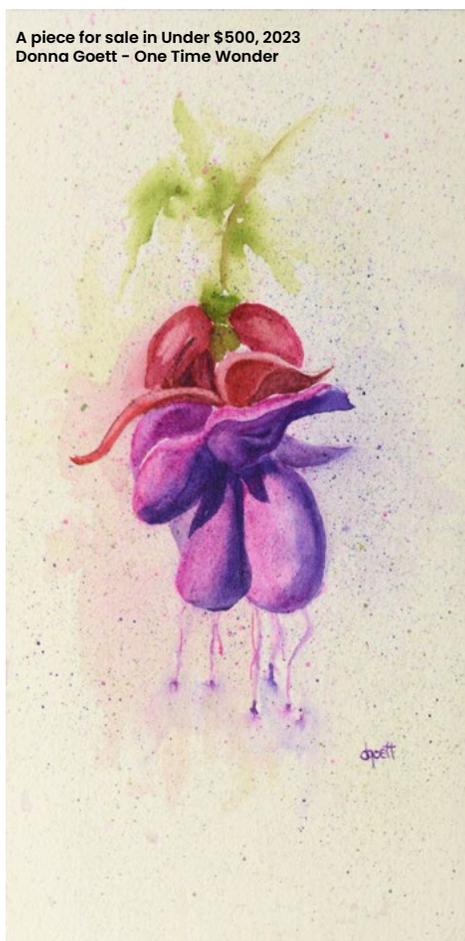
This year's exhibition provides a unique opportunity to uncover a multitude of promising and dynamic artists whose work promises to not only adorn the spaces of those who acquire it, but also enrich their lives with each passing day. Whether you're an art collector or a creator yourself, the art you choose becomes a part of your personal history, a piece of your soul woven into your surroundings.

Collecting artwork from emerging artists also carries the power to transform lives. Your patronage enables these artists to continue painting, contributing

This exhibition opening is an all day affair! November 18th, 2023

As a special treat for art enthusiasts, mark your calendars for November 18th, during the Art Walk, from 11 am to 6 pm. **On this day, all Under \$500 items will be available for a one-day-only 10% discount!** The Penticton Art Gallery will cover the discount from its commission, ensuring that artists receive the same amount as usual. It's a unique opportunity to acquire remarkable pieces at even more affordable prices while supporting the talented artists who make this event possible. Don't miss this chance to bring the joy of art into your life!

More about the Fall Art Walk on PG. 22



A piece for sale in Under \$500, 2023
Donna Goett - One Time Wonder



A piece for sale in Under \$500, 2023
Danielle Harshenin - Okanagan Vineyard V

to their growth and development. It's a symbiotic relationship, where both the artist and the collector benefit, and art takes center stage as the connector.

Excitement is building as the submission period unfolds, and artists from all over prepare to share their creative expressions with the world. This year's Under \$500 Exhibition promises to be a remarkable journey through the diverse tapestry of artistic talent. Join us at the Penticton Art Gallery from November 18, 2023, to January 20, 2024, and explore the beauty of art on a budget. ♦

Main Gallery

Runs November 18, 2023,
to January 20, 2024

**Exhibition Opening:
November 18, 2023
11-6 pm**

Join us during the
Fall Art Walk from 1-2 pm
for a special artist talk
with Paul Crawford and
Members of the Constant
Family, followed by a
small reception from 4-6
pm with a blessing from
Richard Armstrong

In Search of Wandering Spirit...

**Alvin Elif Constant
(1946-2006)**

could make it back to Park Royal in time
for the bus ride home.

The bus stop for my return journey
was conveniently situated in front of
the iconic Hudson Bay Building on
West Georgia, nestled beneath the
ample shelter of the grand awning that
encircled the structure. It was here on
one of these grand adventures where
I had my first encounter with the artist
known as "Wandering Spirit". Shielded
from the elements, Alvin would
meticulously arrange his paintings on
the sidewalk, his black portfolio boldly
emblazoned with the words "Native
Art," prominently displaying his price
list. In the Middle of it all, Alvin sat
cross-legged, meticulously crafting
a painting right before our eyes. He
exuded a commanding yet disarming
presence, donning an easy smile and
a kind disposition that welcomed
interactions with all who passed by. I
had never met anyone quite like him,
and I was immediately enchanted
by the man, his art, and I remained
spellbound watching and listening to
him as I awaited my bus to transport
me back to the North Shore.



Constant protesting in support of the Lubican Indian Land Claims, during the Calgary Olympics.
This picture made national news across the world.
Photo shared by Shelley Mike on Facebook, in a group in memory of Alvin.

Article Written by Paul Crawford

Reflecting on one's life, it's truly remarkable to trace those pivotal moments that set you on an unexpected path, shaping and defining your existence in ways you could never have anticipated. In my own life, one such transformative encounter unfolded in the early 1980s.

At the time, our family called West Vancouver home, and at twelve-years-old I was armed with the earnings from my paper route and on a mission to expand my collection, which I had been

cultivating through the generosity of friends and relatives and a network of penpals from around the world. It was also about this time I learned of the hidden world of coin and stamp dealers, located just a quick bus ride away across the iconic Lions Gate Bridge, tucked away in the basement of Eaton's and scattered along bustling Hastings Street. While I was well aware that venturing across the bridge was undoubtedly off-limits, the allure of adventure and the potential rewards far outweighed any fears, doubts, and potential risks. I also knew that my secret would remain safe as long as I

Aside from my elementary school art teacher, Alvin stands out as one of the very first "artists" I distinctly remember meeting. The memories of those moments spent observing him etched an indelible impact on me, an impact I could have never foreseen at the time. A decade later, our paths would serendipitously cross once again, this time in Victoria, where he could frequently be found selling his paintings on Government Street or along the Inner Harbour Causeway. During each of these encounters, I consciously took a moment to pause and watch Alvin as he painted, engaging in brief yet meaningful conversations while

he diligently worked and generously shared his art with all those who passed by. Although our interactions were consistently brief and sporadic, Alvin's ability to remember me added an undeniably profound layer of significance to my connection with him. The memories of these moments have endured, resonating with me all these years later.

As the 1990s drew to a close, I moved away from the coast and my chance encounters with Alvin became a thing of the past. However, as the years passed, I frequently found myself reflecting on Alvin, bearing a deep regret for not seizing the opportunity to acquire one of his works during one of our visits. My profound admiration for his art remained unwavering, yet my hesitance to purchase one of his paintings was primarily rooted in the financial constraints of my student status at the time, and partially influenced by my lack of confidence in trusting my own artistic taste.

In 1993, I found myself presented with yet another unexpected opportunity one which would profoundly impact my journey. This opportunity arose when the owner of Gallery 1450 mysteriously vanished in the middle of the night, leaving both the building owner and all the affiliated artists in a challenging predicament. Up until that time Gallery 1450 had primarily served as a platform for showcasing the exceptional works of Indigenous Artists and with his sudden disappearance left many of these artists grappling with substantial losses. At the time, I was employed at Safeway, and it was there that I had developed a friendship with the gallery's landlord, Rachel Katz, who was a regular weekend shopper. She was aware of my deep interest in art, and when the gallery space was left vacant, she offered me the chance to run the gallery temporarily while they sorted out the mess and determined the space's future and over the next two years, I had the privilege of overseeing Gallery 1450.

Initially, my goal was to continue showcasing the work of Indigenous Artists. However, I quickly realized that many of the artists I encountered were not comfortable with the traditional Western gallery model of consigning their work. The gallery's previous owner's situation further

underscored their concerns. Instead, these artists preferred to sell their work outright, with the business owner assuming both the risk and the reward. Consequently, I quickly realized why the work of Indigenous artists was more often confined to craft shops, failing to receive the recognition it rightfully deserved in mainstream commercial art galleries. As I reflect on that era and my subsequent experiences, I've also come to realize that the context of how and where you acquire something can significantly shape your perception of the object and ultimately become a determining factor in its inherent value.

A striking example of the impact of context occurred in 2013 when the renowned street artist Banksy set up a stand in New York City, offering his original artworks for a mere \$60 each. It took several hours before the first sale was made in the middle of the afternoon to a woman who negotiated a 50% discount and bought two small canvases for her children. Another woman from New Zealand purchased two of the paintings, and a man from Chicago bought four, stating that he had recently moved and needed artwork for his walls. The total sales for the day amounted to a modest \$420.

However, the story didn't end there. After Banksy authenticated the paintings, the woman from New Zealand consigned her two pieces to Bonham's Auctions in London, where they sold for a staggering total of £125,000.00. This anecdote highlights how the context and setting in which art is acquired can dramatically affect its perceived value.

Alvin Constant's story sadly mirrors the experiences of many Indigenous lives that were needlessly and tragically cut short. What struck me then and continues to resonate today is the overwhelming senseless tragedy that his story reflects, a tragedy deeply rooted in our colonial history.

Historically, most Indigenous artists had valid reasons not to trust the Western gallery model, where artists consigned their work. Instead, they preferred to sell their art as they produced it to Indigenous "craft" and "tourist shops," receiving cash and allowing these shops to set the prices based on market demand. However, this approach had several downsides. First, there are often

little or no records of these artists' lives, making it challenging to tell their stories and document their legacies. Second, those who purchased their art didn't necessarily view it as "fine" art, diminishing its cultural value. Lastly, many of these artists led transient lives, which were often cut short, further disconnecting them from their communities.

Consequently, there are limited opportunities for art historians to study a comprehensive body of their work, showcase their art in major exhibitions, or ensure that their work is included in the collections of art museums. While there are exceptions, the majority of Indigenous artists remain unknown and unrecognized beyond their community, friends, and those fortunate enough to own their work.

I firmly believe that we need to make a conscious effort to bridge this gap in our collective art history, through the proper documentation and honoring of the lives and legacies of these artists. This is an essential step in recognizing their profound social and cultural contributions. This process would encompass acknowledging the significance of their art, documenting their lives and stories, while also firmly recognizing their place in the wider art world, beyond their immediate circles, and breaking away from long-established colonial narratives.

To that end, I am thrilled to introduce you to the life, art, and legacy of Alvin Elif Constant, also known as "Wandering Spirit" (1946-2006). If this is your first encounter with his work, I hope you experience the same sense of wonder and joy that I did when I first met him over 40 years ago. If you were fortunate enough to have met him and acquired one of his paintings, I hope you can share your stories, thoughts, memories, and any photos you may have, so we can better document his life and legacy. I also hope this exhibit can pave the way for many more such exhibitions and the concerted effort for us all to better document the lives and work of countless artists who left us far too soon, ensuring that their legacies are properly recorded and remembered before they are lost to us forever.

CONTINUED PG 14...

The follow was written by:
**Shelley Mike, Saskatoon,
 Saskatchewan October 29, 2023**



Photo shared by Shelley Mike in Facebook Group
 In Loving Memory of Alvin "Wandering Spirit" Constant

Born February 18, 1946, a son, brother, and the third youngest of 9 children born to Guy and Myrtle Constant, a residential school survivor and an Artist, Alvin Elif Constant was a Cree born on the James Smith Cree Nation, where he developed a passion for painting and drawing since he was a child.

Alvin attended the Gordons Indian Residential School in his younger years and later attended James Smith Day School in the neighbouring town of Kinistino, where he claimed he did "grade 13". In the early 70's, Alvin attended the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College in Saskatoon and began doing some work with Artists in training. It was during this time that Alvin discovered the rich culture and traditions of his people. He was fascinated by the stories that the elders shared with him, stories of courage, wisdom, and humour. He felt a deep connection with his roots and a sense of belonging that he had never experienced before.

He dedicated his life to preserving and promoting his culture through storytelling and art, using his voice and imagination to inspire others.

Alvin moved away early in his teen years, hoping to pursue his dream of becoming a famous artist. However, life was not easy for him in the big city. He struggled to find a job, a place to live, and a way to support his art. He ended up being homeless, sleeping under bridges or in shelters and sketching portraits in bars or on the street for money or food. He never gave up on his art, though. He used whatever materials he could find, such as cardboard, paper bags, and newspaper, to create his paintings. He displayed his works on the sidewalks or in parks, hoping to catch the attention of passers-by. Sometimes, he sold some of his pieces for a few dollars, which he used to buy more supplies or food. He also met other homeless artists who shared his passion and vision. They formed a community of street artists who supported each other and exchanged ideas and techniques. His art was his way of expressing his feelings, struggles, and hopes. He wanted to show the beauty and the pain of living on the margins of society. He wanted to inspire people to see beyond appearances and stereotypes. He tried to make a difference with his art. ♦



Photo shared by Shelley Mike in Facebook Group, captioned:
 "17 years old, going to high school in Kinistino."

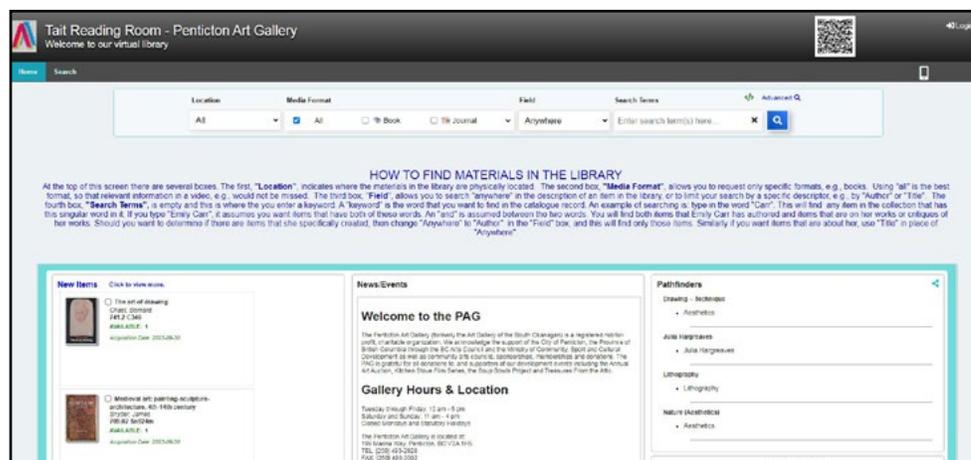
THE LLOYD GALLERY
 18 Front St
 Penticton, BC
 (250) 492-4484
 art@lloydgallery.com

LloydGallery.com

The Tait Art Library – Polishing the Hidden Gem

In the last Arts Letter you might have noticed a page that described the library here at PAG as a hidden gem. A gem needs to be polished in order for its beauty to be seen, appreciated and valued. Since this library's inception, the ongoing polishing by dedicated volunteers has made the Tait Reading Room a shiny gem of substantial value to the art community whether you are a student, artist or just generally interested in all forms of artistic expression.

From the comfort of your home you can browse the library collection through PAG's website by hovering on "Collections & Library" and then clicking Tait Art Library which brings you to a page with a big image of a book that you click on and then you are right in the Tait Reading Room search page where you can start exploring. No need to login! This is what the search page looks like:



BRINGING THE LIBRARY BACK TO LIFE!

Stay tuned in for future Arts Letter editions, where we begin to delve into the contents of the Tait Art Library and hopefully increase awareness of what a fabulous resource this is!

You can browse online, or better yet, visit the Art Gallery and browse in person. The library is open to anyone visiting the Art Gallery, although only members can borrow items from the library.

BENEFITS:

- Free admission to the Gallery
- Six issues of the Arts Letter, delivered bi-monthly
- Library and voting privileges at our Annual General Meeting
- Invitations to Gallery Receptions
- Discounts in the Gift Shop
- Discounts on workshops, children's programming, art classes, and for special events!

ANNUAL FEES:

(including 5% GST)

Corporate (11+ employees)	\$157.50
Small Business (10 or less employees)	\$94.50
Individual	\$31.50
Family/Dual	\$47.25
Senior	\$26.25
Senior Dual	\$36.75

If you are not a member, why not become one? A membership in the Penticon Art Gallery has many benefits!



PENTICTON
ART
GALLERY

November 2023

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5



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

12

SOUP BOWLS NIGHT TWO
6:30 – 9:30 PM



19

MAKER MONDAY:
WATERCOLOURING
3:30 – 4:30 PM

6

TEEN STUDIO ART
3:30 – 5:30 PM

13

PRO-D DAY CAMP –
ROY LICHTENSTEIN
9:00 – 3:00 PM

20

MAKER MONDAY:
WATERCOLOURING
3:30 – 4:30 PM

7

TEEN STUDIO ART
3:30 – 5:30 PM

14

PRO-D DAY CAMP –
ROY LICHTENSTEIN
9:00 – 3:00 PM

27

MAKER MONDAY:
WATERCOLOURING
3:30 – 4:30 PM

8

TEEN STUDIO ART
3:30 – 5:30 PM

15

FOUNDRY DROP-IN
AGES 18-24
3:30 – 4:30 PM
(@ FOUNDRY)

28

TEEN STUDIO ART
3:30 – 5:30 PM

9

SOUP BOWLS NIGHT ONE
6:30 – 9:30 PM



16

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM

29

TOPICS & TEA
1:00 – 2:00 PM
KIDS ORNAMENT CRAFTING
3:30 – 5:30 PM

10

SOUP BOWLS NIGHT ONE
6:30 – 9:30 PM



17

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM

24

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM

11



**REMEMBRANCE DAY
PAG CLOSED**

18

FALL ART WALK &
EXHIBITION SALE &
OPENING!
11:00 – 6:00 PM
KNOW MORE ART:
ALVIN CONSTANT
1:00 – 2:00 PM
TRADITIONAL OPENING
4:00 – 6:00 PM

25

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM

3

FIRST FRIDAYS@AT
LEGACY DEN
7:30 PM

4

FIRST FRIDAYS@AT
LEGACY DEN
7:30 PM

23

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM
BOOK LAUNCH –
SHE'S STILL HERE
6:30 – 9:30 PM

24

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM
AUCTION PREVIEW
SOIRÉE
5:00 – 7:00 PM

30

YOUNG@ART
3:15 – 4:30 PM



PENTICTON
ART
GALLERY

December 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4 MAKER MONDAY: WATERCOLOURING 3:30 – 4:30 PM	5 TEEN STUDIO ART 3:30 – 5:30 PM	6 FOUNDRY DROP-IN AGES 12-18 3:30 – 4:30 PM (@ FOUNDRY)	7 ADULT ORNAMENT CRAFTING 3:30 – 5:30 PM	8	9
10	11 MAKER MONDAY: WATERCOLOURING 3:30 – 4:30 PM	12 TEEN STUDIO ART 3:30 – 5:30 PM	13 FOUNDRY DROP-IN AGES 18-24 3:30 – 4:30 PM (@ FOUNDRY)	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 BOXING DAY	27	28	29	30

PAG CLOSED: Dec 24th to Jan 1st – Happy Holidays!

45.5th "Annual" Art Auction

November

26

1:00 -4:00 pm
Free to Attend!

At the Penticton Art Gallery, we've always held our annual Art Auction close to our hearts. It's an event that brings our vibrant artistic community together, showcasing the talent and passion that makes Penticton such a special place for the arts. This year, we faced a unique challenge when the devastating wildfires swept across British Columbia, leaving destruction in their path. In light of these hardships, we couldn't in good conscience proceed with our 46th annual Art Auction, asking for donations or funds from those who were already stretched thin. We wanted to respect the ongoing efforts to support firefighters and evacuees in their time of need.

However, we couldn't let go of the tradition entirely, so we decided to do things a little differently this time. We're excited to introduce our first-ever "Half" auction! But what exactly is a "Half" auction, you might wonder?

A "Half" auction is like a regular auction, but with a more intimate and low-key atmosphere, and it's happening a bit later in the year. Welcome to our 45 1/2th "Annual" Auction, set to take place on November 26th from 1-4pm right here at the Gallery. And the best part? It's a free event, open to all. Join us for an afternoon filled with art, snacks, drinks, and the wonderful company of fellow art enthusiasts.

This prize is a good one! Huge thanks to Air North for this generous donation! One return trip for two to Whitehorse from Vancouver, Victoria or Kelowna, as well as a two night stay from NVD Northern Vision Development. Current bid at time of printing: \$1,050.00 CAD

Why It Matters: A Fundraiser for the Arts and Our Community

This "Half" auction serves as a vital fundraiser for the Penticton Art Gallery. The funds raised through this event are crucial to supporting our ongoing mission to promote the arts, nurture local talent, and provide a platform for artists to thrive. In a time when the arts industry faces unique challenges, your participation in our auction becomes a symbol of resilience and solidarity.

By attending or participating in this auction, you not only invest in the growth and sustainability of our Gallery but also contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our community. Your support enables us to continue organizing exhibitions, educational programs, and outreach initiatives that enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

If you can't make it to the live event, don't fret! You can still be part of the excitement by bidding online. All of our auction items are already up for grabs at 32auctions.com/pag2023. Online bidding will be available until midnight on November 25th. And for those who can't attend in person, you can take advantage of the absentee bid feature. Just leave your maximum bid, and a member of the Gallery will bid on your behalf during the live event. If there are no further bids in person, the highest active online bid will win.

This "Half" auction may not be as grand as our traditional ones, but we promise it will be just as enjoyable. The essence of community and artistic passion will shine through, making it an event you won't want to miss.

We hope to see you at our 45 1/2th "Annual" Auction. Good luck, happy bidding, and let's make it an unforgettable day for art and community in Penticton! ♦



Scan to View all items, pre-bid and leave a proxy bid for the live event!

32auctions.com/pag2023

**SEE THE ITEMS IN PERSON
IN THE MAIN GALLERY**

November 18 to November 26



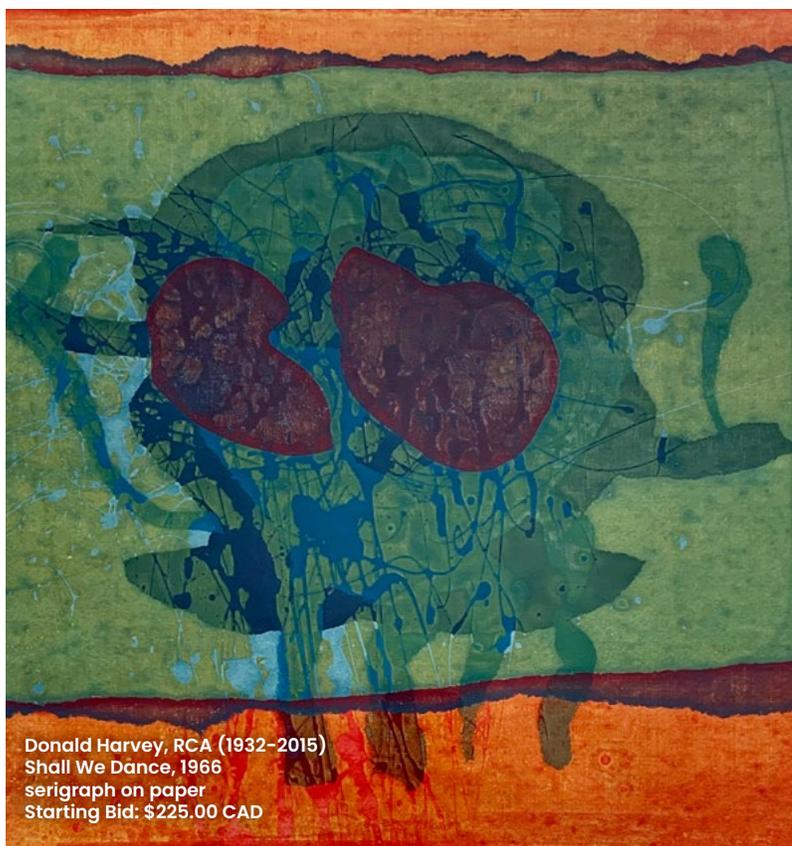
AUCTION PREVIEW SOIRÉE

**Friday November 24rd, 5-7 pm
Free to Attend**

For a little extra gravitas, join the PAG Board to learn the provenance of the extraordinary pieces up for grabs, while enjoying wine, appetizers, and snacks.



Patrick Nagel (1945-1984)
Commemorative #12, 1987
Silkscreen on 100% Cotton Archival Rag paper
Limited edition of 50
Current bid at time of printing: \$225.00 CAD



Donald Harvey, RCA (1932-2015)
Shall We Dance, 1966
serigraph on paper
Starting Bid: \$225.00 CAD



Richard Shorty (1959 -)
Red Tailed Hawk
silkscreen on paper
Current bid at time of printing: \$150.00 CAD

Programming

Mail Art Mondays: Mail Art Mondays will be on hiatus until the new Year. But if you feel the Mail Art itch in the meantime, visit the Mail Art tab on our website (under the learn heading) to view past mail art as well as prompts.

Afterschool Partnership with Foundry: PAG has partnered up Foundry Penticton to provide free workshops for people aged 12-18 and 19-24 to explore and experience different art techniques. These workshops run on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 3:30-4:30. With the first workshop for ages 12-18 taking place on November 1st and the first workshop for ages 19-24 taking place on November 15th. In this workshop we will be exploring watercolour, but in our following workshops we will be trying collage, printmaking, charcoal, and much more!

For more information about these and following workshops, please reach out to Foundry Penticton either through their social media or their website.

YOUNG @ART

Running in conjunction with the academic school year, this self directed drop-in program is open to those aged 10 to 16 on Thursday afternoons from 3:15 - 4:30pm. Students draw, paint and focus on projects of particular interest to them. Our new sessions will start on Thursday, September 15th, 2022

LITTLE LEONARDOS PRO-D DAY CAMPS

Another Pro-d day and don't know what to do? Leave it to us! Little Leonardos is an art history-inspired program where children are introduced to the history of art through hands-on projects.

9:00am-3:00pm

Ages 5-12

Single Class: \$45 members // \$50 non-members

Tuesday November 14th, 2023:
ROY LICHTENSTEIN'S SUPERHERO POP ART

Monday January 15th, 2024:
CELEBRATING ART AND IDENTITY WITH FRIDA KAHLO

Friday February 16th, 2024:
HENRI ROUSSEAU TAKES US TO THE JUNGLE

Monday April 22nd, 2024:
EMILY CARR'S CANADIAN LANDSCAPES

Call, stop by, or visit our website to get your spot:
pentictonartgallery.com
250-493-2928

MAKER MONDAYS

With the Penticton Art Gallery

Looking for an afterschool program where your child can pick up new artistic skills? We have the program for you- Maker Mondays with the Penticton Art Gallery! maker Mondays are 4-week workshops that take place after school on Mondays where kids ages 5-12 can come socialize, learn new art skills, and have fun!

Sessions:

Watercolouring: November 20 & 27, December 4 & 11, 3:30-4:30

Printmaking: January 22 & 29, February 5 & 12, 3:30-4:30

Nature sketching: April 15 & 29, May 6 & 13, 3:30-4:30

\$60 Members // \$65 Non-members

and for a little holiday cheer....

ORNAMENT CRAFTING FOR KIDS!

JOIN THE PENTICTON ART GALLERY IN LEARNING TO CRAFT THREE UNIQUE ORNAMENTS, HOT CHOCOLATE INCLUDED

Wednesday November 29th
3:30-5:30
Children Ages 5-12
Members: \$25 // Non-Members: \$30

TO SIGN UP CALL US AT 250-493-2928, STOP BY THE GALLERY, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM

ORNAMENT CRAFTING For Adults!

JOIN THE PENTICTON ART GALLERY IN LEARNING TO CRAFT THREE UNIQUE ORNAMENTS, HOT CHOCOLATE INCLUDED

Thursday December 7th
5:30-7:30
Members: \$30 // Non-Members: \$35

TO SIGN UP CALL US AT 250-493-2928, STOP BY THE GALLERY, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM



Topics & Tea

the Bench MARKET

Join the Penticton Art Gallery on **November 29th** for the last Topics and Tea before the holiday season. As always, this event will be informative, entertaining, and delicious—as the event is kindly sponsored by the Bench Market who provide wonderful, decadent snacks to go with our tea.

In our last session, we had Cain Critchlow lead a group in a poetry reading, and then a collaborative poem writing exercise. The Group had so much fun, we wanted to share the poem that was created:

The warmth
of summer,

Persists on
this side of the window,

No guests
but we can watch bundled wraiths
parade their dogs on,

Brilliant red,
yellow, pale green fresh and dying
ground cover,

Leaves fallen
on pavement,

Leaves caught
in pines,

Leaves sweep
through moody skies,

Grey,
white, and a fraught blue touch down,

Onto the hordes
of white cap waves, distant crashing,

This stolen
moment before,

The layers of soft cold snow cover this autumn
vision.

– Cain Critchlow & "The Tea Time Ten"

Fall Art Walk – Presented by PDCAC

**Saturday, November 18th,
11 AM to 4 PM**

Save the date as 22 venues at 19 locations will be taking part in the annual Penticton Fall Art Walk. From Leir House to Lakeshore + More – there is something for everyone! This event is fun, free, and family-friendly.

Whether you walk, ride, or drive, the Penticton Fall Art Walk always has something new to experience. Support local while shopping this holiday season and find one-of-a-kind items created by Okanagan artists. Though the Fall Art Walk is a one-day event, we hope you will keep these venues at the top of your mind all year long.

Each venue has unique offerings and activities from prize draws, to artists on site, yummy treats, and more. A full day of fun celebrating community, arts, and #LoveLocalPenticton



The art walk series is curated and managed by the Penticton Arts Council. The Fall Art Walk map is sponsored by the Downtown Penticton Business Improvement Association and the Penticton Arts Council and is in partnership with the Penticton Art Gallery, Visit Penticton, local galleries and businesses.

<p>1 CANNERY TRADE CENTRE 1475 Fairview Road 4TH MERIDIAN ART & AUCTIONS 4thmeridian.ca SPECKLED ROW speckledrow.com DONUT HOUSE donuthousestudios.com</p>	<p>10 AURORA MATHESON GALLERY 221 Martin Street martinstreetgallery.com</p>
<p>2 PENTICTON ARTS COUNCIL & PENTICTON POTTERS' GUILD 220 Manor Park Avenue pentictonartscouncil.com</p>	<p>11 PICTURE THIS FRAMING & GALLERY 133 Westminster Avenue West 250-492-2031</p>
<p>3 TUMBLEWEED FRAMING & GALLERY 452 Main Street tumbleweedgallery.ca</p>	<p>12 BELOW THE ANKLE 255 Main Street 778-476-4991</p>
<p>4 CANADIAN HANDMADE 450 Main Street Canadian-handmade.square.site</p>	<p>13 RASHA TATTOO & GALLERY 218 Main Street rashatattoo.com</p>
<p>5 LEGACY DEN 441 Main Street legacyden.net</p>	<p>14 DRAGON'S DEN ART SUPPLIES 12 Front Street 250-492-3011</p>
<p>6 ARTABLES 432 Main Street artables.ca</p>	<p>15 THE LLOYD GALLERY 18 Front Street lloydgallery.com</p>
<p>7 WHITE LIONESS METAPHYSICS 419 Main Street 778-476-2929</p>	<p>16 ART UP STUDIOS 94 Ellis Street 250-462-8783</p>
<p>8 SAHARA GARDEN ART 407 Martin Street saharagardenart.com</p>	<p>17 CORMIER'S STUDIO 495 Vancouver Avenue cormierart.com</p>
<p>9 CITY CENTRE FITNESS 247 Martin Street citycentrefitness.com</p>	<p>18 THE BENCH MARKET 368 Vancouver Avenue thebenchmark.com</p>
<p>19 PENTICTON ART GALLERY 199 Marina Way pentictonartgallery.com</p>	

For more info go to pentictonartscouncil.com or visitpenticton.com



Photos by The Rainbow Frontier

 A real estate advertisement for Heena Nagar. The top half features a photograph of Heena Nagar, a woman with glasses, sitting outdoors with a dog. The bottom half is a dark blue box containing her name and contact information.

HEENA NAGAR
PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

250-488-9339
heena.realty@gmail.com
www.heenanagar.ca

exp REALTY

In the Gift Shop

As the holiday season approaches, many of us embark on the quest to find the perfect gifts for our loved ones. Look no further than the Gift Shop at the Penticton Art Gallery, where you can discover a curated collection of unique, handmade, and locally crafted treasures. Whether you're searching for exquisite jewelry, beautiful watercolor prints, or artisanal soaps, our gift shop is your one-stop destination for holiday shopping.

This year, we want to express our gratitude to the incredible artists and artisans who make our gift shop a true haven for art lovers and gift seekers alike. These ten talented individuals have consistently contributed their creative works to our shop, making it a vibrant and ever-evolving showcase of local talent. Let's take a moment to recognize and thank our latest top 10 gift shop sellers for 2023.

Angelique Cejka (Jewelry Maker): Angelique's stunning jewelry pieces are not just accessories but expressions of artistry, making them perfect gifts for those who appreciate craftsmanship and style.

Elena Markelova (Watercolor Artist, Print, and Cards): Elena's watercolor creations are a symphony of colors and emotions, available in the form of prints and cards, making them a delightful choice for slipping those holiday gift cards into.

Paul Kirschmann (Woodturner): Paul's skill in woodturning results in beautifully handcrafted wooden items, perfect for those who appreciate the elegance of natural materials.

Dave Brewin (Woodturner and Resin Artist): Dave's wood and resin creations are a fusion of tradition and innovation, offering unique and visually captivating gifts.





We are proud to feature these exceptional artists and their works in our gift shop, allowing you to find the perfect gifts for your friends and family this holiday season. By supporting local artists, you not only discover unique and handcrafted gifts but also contribute to the flourishing art community in Penticton.

Pat Verheyden (Multi-Media Artist, Cards, Magnets & Necklaces): Pat's multi-media creations, including cards, magnets, and necklaces, offer a diverse array of artistry, ensuring something for everyone.

Nancy Dearborn (Glass Artist): Nancy's glass art is a testament to her mastery of the craft, and her pieces make for exquisite and luminous gifts.



This holiday season, make the Penticton Art Gallery Gift Shop your go-to destination for meaningful, locally made gifts that will warm the hearts of your loved ones. We extend our sincerest thanks to our talented artists and our wonderful patrons who continue to support the arts in our vibrant community. ♦

Happy Holidays!

Ralph Schultz (Stained Glass Artist): Ralph's stained glass creations add an enchanting touch to any space, making them an excellent choice for those who appreciate the beauty of light and color.

Kari Lehr (Wildlife Artist, Prints and Cards): Kari's wildlife prints and cards bring the beauty of the natural world to your fingertips, ideal for nature lovers and art connoisseurs.

Carleen Murray (Handmade Soaps): Carleen's handmade soaps are a sensory delight, ensuring that the gift of relaxation and self-care is never far from reach.

Paula Schneider (Pottery): Paula's pottery creations are both functional and aesthetically pleasing, making them a thoughtful gift for those who appreciate artisanal craftsmanship.





ignite THE ARTS!

EXCITING NEWS!
Ignite the Arts Festival
Weekend \$75 Early Bird
Tickets on Sale starting
November 9th!

This is your chance to secure your spot at one of the most anticipated cultural events of the year. Early Bird Tickets will be priced at just \$75, offering an incredible value for those who act quickly. The festival promises an array of experiences that you won't want to miss, so make sure to take advantage of this special Early Bird price.





**COMMUNITY WEEK:
MARCH 22-28, 2024
FESTIVAL WEEKEND:
MARCH 29-31, 2024**

The stages are being set, and the countdown to an unforgettable cultural celebration has begun! The Ignite the Arts Festival, a vibrant showcase of art, culture, and community, is thrilled to announce the 2024 dates!

SPRING BREAK CAMP FOR ARTISTS AND ATTENDEES!

The Ignite the Arts Festival is not just a series of events held over 10 days; it's an embodiment of the profound impact of arts and culture in our region. The festival's dedication to community involvement extends to students, seniors, families, and local businesses, providing a welcoming space for all. In 2024, special initiatives like Deaf culture presentations and partnerships with organizations like "Better at Home" for seniors exemplify the festival's commitment to inclusivity and diverse engagement - and our big hits are returning as well, including the Kids Songwriting Camp presentations, 2RMX Indigenous Showcase, five rotating stages with over 80 acts, and plenty of surprises in store!

SUPPORTING ARTS & CULTURE

By purchasing Early Bird Tickets, you not only gain access to a one-of-a-kind experience but also contribute to the support of arts and culture within the community. The festival stands as a beacon of cultural enrichment, showcasing the immense value of the arts.

Mark your calendars and set your alarms for November 9th, 2024, when Early Bird Tickets for the Ignite the Arts Festival go on sale. This is your chance to be part of a cultural movement that celebrates diversity, creativity, and community.

(The Tiers will only go up from this price, with Day Passes for Festival Weekend Saturday being \$75, so take this opportunity to have access to the whole weekend!)

Don't miss out on the opportunity to secure your tickets at these special Early Bird prices. Join us in igniting the arts and celebrating the rich tapestry of culture that defines our community. ♦

Visit pentictionartgallery.com/shop-online and get ignited for Penticton's Hottest Festival!



Photos by The Rainbow Frontier

Partner Events

She's Still Here — And So Are We!

Thursday, November 23 at 6:30pm

Event Ticket \$25 available in PAG Online Store!
pentictionartgallery.com/shop-online

Join us for the official book launch of *She's Still Here*, MC'd by the glamorous Carl Meadows. All proceeds from the event and book sales will go toward the Pentiction Art Gallery & South Okanagan Women In Need Society.

The evening will feature Live music from the Loving Memory Trio! Gary MacDonald vocalist, recently returned from France, National Award winner and Juno-nominated guitarist Bill Coon and Salmon Arm's Jake McIntyre-Paul on bass. As well, enjoy a Dramatic performance: by Pentiction's artist and vocalist Mia Harris.

Get your copies signed by the author. Book sales and wine bar cash only, canapés from Brodo to be served.

*She's Still Here
and so are we!*

Join us for the official book launch of *She's Still Here*, MC'd by the glamorous Carl Meadows

Thursday, November 23 at 6:30pm

Special Guests
 Live music: Loving Memory
 Dramatic performance: Mia Harris

Get your copies signed by the author

Canapés from Brodo will be served | Cash Wine Bar

She's Still Here
Healing Short Stories for Women

All proceeds from the event and book sales will go toward the **Pentiction Art Gallery** and **South Okanagan Women In Need Society**

SOWINS
Society of Women in Okanagan Valley

TICKETS: PENTICTIONARTGALLERY.COM/SHOP-ONLINE



O Christmas Tea: A British Comedy

December 20 at 3pm & 7:30pm

Event ticket price varies by section
valleyfirststix.com

Rich in wordplay, comic physicality, and cleverly crafted interactive elements, *O Christmas Tea* is uproarious fun, yet it is the duo's boundless imagination and endearing chemistry that provide the real magic and heart of this play.

Upcoming next year, we're thrilled to be partnering with celebrated comedians James & Jamey as they bring new show 'Easy as Pie' as part of next year's IGNITE THE ARTS festival on March 31, 2024.

ignite THE ARTS!

Grab your 20% OFF tickets to O Christmas Tea with the promo code IGNITE.

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW!

Collections & Archive



Brendon Raw

—
Collections Coordinator

Sometimes there is a lot of information or meaning I can share about the art in the collection. This is not one of those times. Breaching Whale by Mahtni [Raymong Bob].

I really enjoy the look of this piece. I have always enjoyed the aesthetics of west coast indigenous art. I love the abstracted, exaggerated, features of whatever is being depicted. I find it interesting how so many details can be left off, replaced by larger simplistic shapes, and yet still be easily recognizable. In this art, I am particularly fond of the use of natural wood grain. The background of the piece is made of several planks of wood fastened together. I am amazed at how the natural grain of the wood has been incorporated into the art. The bottom most plank uses the wood grain to simulate the ripples of water, while the higher ones resemble clouds.

I mentioned that this isn't a piece where I can provide much additional insight on the meaning or symbolism. I am not indigenous, nor am I related to the



various indigenous groups in any way. I do not have the cultural background or knowledge to properly comment on the meaning of the art.

Art is universal. It cannot belong to or be restricted to a specific group or people. Trying to do so is to deny that art, like language and culture, is a living changing thing. Styles change and evolve over time, whether on their own or from contact with new ideas. Such

contact inevitably leads to exchanges of ideas in both directions. That is why an entire style of art cannot be owned or exclusive to a single group. Having said that, it is also true that art can be deeply tied to the culture and history of a group. Art is built on and must be understood through the context of the group that created it. I do not have the context to speak on the deeper aspects of this piece. ♦

THANK YOU

—

VOLUNTEER, SPONSOR, DONOR & FUNDER RECOGNITION

—

In recognition of our amazing, dedicated, generous, and valued contributors, we are truly grateful!

—

MAJOR FUNDERS:



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL



BRITISH
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CREATIVE
BC



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COLUMBIA



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

south okanagan | similkameen



Rotary
Club of Penticton Sunrise

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