

ARTS LETTER

IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION

IGNITE THE ARTS



National Indigenous Professional Artist Training Program (NIPAT)
20th Anniversary Exhibition

SKƏLXAP:

the Confluence of Where a Tributary Joins a River

FREE

Please Take One

Thank You for Recycling this
Arts Letter





IN THIS EDITION

Front cover features artwork from Ashikeha Jack—Untitled #3, **Acrylic on Canvas**

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Our VISION



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

Our MISSION



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

Our MANDATE



The 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 ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

The Penticton Art Gallery acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the unceded, traditional territory of the syilx (Okanagan) peoples.

VISIT US

**199 Marina Way
Penticton, British Columbia**

CONTACT US

(250)-493-2928
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www.pentictonartgallery.com



HOURS

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



Wheelchair accessible



Gender-inclusive restrooms

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Above: Love Penticton Local designed by
Skyler Punnett, 2020.



Message from the Director



Above: Paul Crawford
Director/Curator, Penticton Art Gallery
Photo © Bill Blair

Article Written by Paul Crawford

What do you consider to be the most valuable thing you own?

The concept of value has always intrigued me, encompassing both tangible and intangible aspects. As I have grown older, I have come to place greater significance on the latter. My childhood hobby of stamp collecting challenged and forever changed my understanding of the value of an object. The face value represents the original selling price of the stamp, catalogue value serves as a reference point, and market value is the price a stamp will fetch in the open market.

Unlike collectables such as stamps, the valuation of art, wine, and real estate is a whole other animal involving a complex interplay of factors that can be difficult to quantify objectively. The ideal valuation of a work of art takes into account subjective qualities such as cultural significance, historical context, and emotional resonance. Unfortunately the art world is particularly susceptible to the influence

of powerful actors such as collectors, dealers, and auction houses, who can shape the historical narrative of what is considered valuable and significant within the field. This can lead to the marginalization of certain artists or styles, while others are elevated to great heights of fame and acclaim.

Reflecting on the value of art, I am reminded of a documentary I watched several years ago about the Rembrandt Research Project. This project was a grand endeavour to scrutinize all existing works attributed to the celebrated Dutch master. The documentary recounted the story of a particular painting that had long been a prized possession of a major museum's collection. However, after undergoing evaluation by the project's experts, the painting was downgraded to the "school of Rembrandt." It is remarkable how a mere change in attribution can alter the perceived value of a work of art. Despite being considered a masterpiece by scholars and its popularity with museum visitors, the painting was promptly removed from public display and banished to storage.

I am grateful for the generosity of all those who recently entrusted the gallery with their beloved artwork for our first exhibit of the year. The exhibition served as a powerful reminder of the profound impact that art can have on our lives, inspiring and moving us in ways that cannot be quantified. More than just mere objects, each artwork represented the unique stories, experiences, and perspectives of both their creators and collectors, and through the

process of sharing them deepened our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. As we continue to explore the true value of art, I hope this exhibition inspires others to start their own collections, share them with others, and gain a greater understanding of what it means to be human.

Did you know that until they are canceled, stamps continue to retain their face value and remain valid postage, with many stamp dealers selling off bundles of unused postage at a fraction of its face value as a cost saving alternative? The challenge for the purchaser is figuring out the math and combination needed to make up the current postage required. I love everything a stamp represents and I am grateful that the gallery has also benefitted from this practice, as it has given us the opportunity to add some art, colour, and nostalgia to all of our correspondence. Not only has it helped us save money, the positive feedback we receive from our members and the recipients of our mailings serves as an important reminder of the intangible value that stamps still hold and the joy and wonder they can still illicit in all those who are fortunate to receive mail from us.

Alas I digress. As I reflect on my life journey, I have gained a greater appreciation and understanding that the most valuable things in my life are my Health, Friends, Family and Community. These precious elements play a significant role in all of our lives by offering us a sense of belonging, love, and support, contributing to our overall happiness and well-being. One of the unfortunate drawbacks is that that when everything is going well, it's

easy to overlook these things and become complacent, forgetting to appreciate the people and things that make our lives so fulfilling.

In the early 2000's I had the great fortune of being a part of a community of friends who were living in the town of Wells, population 200. At the time there was no cell service, two bars, two restaurants, a general store, gas station, library, monthly bingo nights, community dances, curling and always a potluck offered. That's not to say it wasn't without its challenges, but at its best the community was magical.

It was the kind of place where you left the keys in your car, didn't lock your door and amongst our community of friends you could show up unannounced and always be welcomed in. If you planned it right there was always a seat at the table. Everyone had a place and a role in the social ecosystem and you knew if the chili lights were plugged in, there was a party at Sharrons.

There was a predictable ebb and flow to the seasons that were anchored by events like the Chili cook-off, the Fireman's Ball, Yacht Race, Community Christmas Dinner, Judy's Boxing Day brunch and each summer the towns population would see an influx of actors, miners and seasonal workers. Somehow this motley crew of misfits who under no other imaginable circumstance would have found themselves together was able to make a community.

Whether you were getting schooled at the curling rink, grabbing a beer at the legion, reading the daily paper over coffee at the Northwoods, or participating in baking bingo, you got to know the town's seasoned residents. Despite having differing worldviews, it was through these interactions and shared experiences where we discovered commonalities that brought us together.

One of the greatest attributes of this community was the willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Whether you were stranded on the highway or needed anything else, there was always someone in town ready to assist. Wells embodied the old adage that a chain was only as strong as its weakest link, and this community worked together to ensure that everyone's needs were met.



Maiya Robbie Performing at Arts Wells in 2019— Maiya will also be performing at Ignite the Arts! (photo by Megan Adair)

In a small town like Wells, change is the only constant. Even the departure of a single person or family can bring significant shifts in the community. As the town entered the 2010s, several key individuals moved away or passed away, leaving behind a void that unfortunately could never be filled. To add to this, the community paper ceased publication, and the community TV service was replaced by satellite TV. The rise of high-speed internet and cell service also contributed to an increasing sense of isolation among people who are increasingly staying at home leading to the decline of local support for the Legion, Northwoods Restaurant, Curling Club, and community dances.

I hold dear the memories of my time in Wells, and I have come to realize how exceptional that community was. In speaking with friends, it appears that many of us are searching for a place where we feel a sense of belonging, support, and a meaningful physical connection with others. This sense of

community cannot be forced; it must develop organically. However, we can provide tools and resources to bring people together and facilitate these connections.

Arts and culture are an essential piece of the puzzle when it comes to building and sustaining communities. They provide a platform for people to come together, share experiences, and connect with each other on a deeper level. Through arts and cultural events, we can celebrate our differences and find common ground, which is crucial in creating a sense of belonging and support. Inclusive communities that celebrate diversity and welcome everyone are particularly crucial in promoting a sense of belonging and support. When we feel accepted and valued, we are more likely to participate and contribute to the community, which benefits us all.

I guess this is all to say—I think the most valuable thing we own after health and family is community. Looking back on my time in Wells as a case study, I think as a society we need to devolve and get back to a simpler time where we left the isolation of our homes and gathered together on a regular basis for that common shared experience. A place where we don't live in fear of each other, where we can trust that someone will catch us if we fall. We must create spaces and opportunities for people to come together, share experiences, and build relationships.

Instead of solely relying on technology to connect with others, we need to prioritize disconnecting from our devices and actively engage in meaningful real-life interactions to foster a greater sense of connection among individuals. By doing so, we can create stronger and more supportive communities that contribute to our collective physical, emotional, and mental well-being. ♦



Message from the President



Above: Dr. Claude Roberto
President of the Board, Pentiction Art Gallery
Photo © Government of Alberta

You might be ready to welcome spring. However are you ready to celebrate the BIG iconic event of the year in Pentiction? Did you mark your calendars? March 24 – 30, Community Week? March 31 – April 2, Festival Weekend? It is time to Ignite the Arts in Pentiction!

Of course, I am talking about your 2023 Festival making, in our mind, Pentiction the Arts Capital of BC. I have no doubt you will share our vision when you know more about the Festival with its incredible live performances, workshops and activities for everyone.

This ten-day Festival celebrating art and culture will return in 2023 in two parts: a mix of free, paid, and virtual events scheduled for the Community Week, then our ticketed Festival Weekend. For the second year this amazing Festival will make the Pentiction downtown core alive with programming spread all around town. Evening gatherings for all

festival goers will take place until late into the evening each day. The Festival artists come from four continents, and have toured all across the world, now gathering here to ignite culture in Pentiction. Some have performed at the biggest festivals in the world and now they will visit us to share their talents and build the Ignite the Arts Community. No doubt you will want to participate and welcome them.

Community Week will jump start spring with seven days of events including the unveiling of the Pentiction Art Gallery's Mini Mural project in partnership with Cannery Brewing, a Lake to Lake Art Walk in partnership with PDCAC, Artist Talks, the UNBOX Project in partnership with SOICS, Creative Kids Art Camps, a Children and Youth Song Writing Camp in partnership with PAMDA, Art Installations, musical events and our first "Parade for No Reason." This week will of course also showcase Indigenous artists who have an international reputation and it will include the Confluence Conference at the En'owkin Centre.

So, are you ready to experience incredible multi-day, multi-venue cultural events and be part of the most expected and incredible extravaganza of over 50 musical acts, theatre, dance, workshops and activities for the whole family throughout Pentiction? Action will bounce all over the city with

internationally acclaimed artists. You want to be part of it and ignite Pentiction as the Arts Capital of BC, right?

I am looking forward to seeing you in front of the Pentiction Art Gallery at 5:00 pm on Friday March 24 for the Parade for No Reason kicking off the Festival. Bring your families, bring your friends. We are pet friendly and you can even bring your furry friends to the Parade!

More information at ignitethearts.ca. Do not forget to buy tickets in order to avoid disappointment and support very talented artists.

Claude Roberto, PhD
President of the Board



Above: Board Member Kona Sankey and one of our furry parade participants from last year's Parade for no Reason! (photo by Gord Goble)



In the Gift Shop

FEATURED ARTIST: Dona Smithson



Dona Smithson is a passionate watercolour artist who finds inspiration in the natural beauty of the Okanagan Valley. As an active member of the Federation of Canadian Artists and the Naramata Arts Studio, she has honed her craft and developed a unique style that is both vibrant and rich in color.

Smithson's journey as an artist began when she found that watercolors were particularly captivating, as she could layer transparent paints to create dynamic, multi-dimensional pieces that evolve over time. The process of layering the colors and watching them come to life is an exciting journey for her, and she finds joy in every step of the process.

Living in the Okanagan Valley provides Smithson with an abundance of inspiration to fuel her creative endeavors. From the lush vineyards and orchards to the stunning vistas of mountains and lakes, the natural beauty of the region is a constant source of inspiration for her work. She has captured

this beauty in her paintings, which are alive with vivid, organic color.

For Smithson, painting is not just a hobby or a career - it is a true journey of love. She approaches every piece with a sense of wonder and excitement, allowing the colors and shapes to come together in a way that is both spontaneous and deliberate. Her watercolors and paintings are a testament to her passion for art and the beauty of the Okanagan Valley, and they continue to inspire and delight those who view them! ♦

IGNITE
THE ARTS

Join Dona Smithson during the Ignite the Arts Community Art Walk March 25th!

Dona will be presenting in the tea room about her works and her artistic process

@ Penticton Art Gallery Tea Room, Starting at 11:30 am **FREE TO ATTEND**



"Spring"

Original Watercolour, Archive Varnish

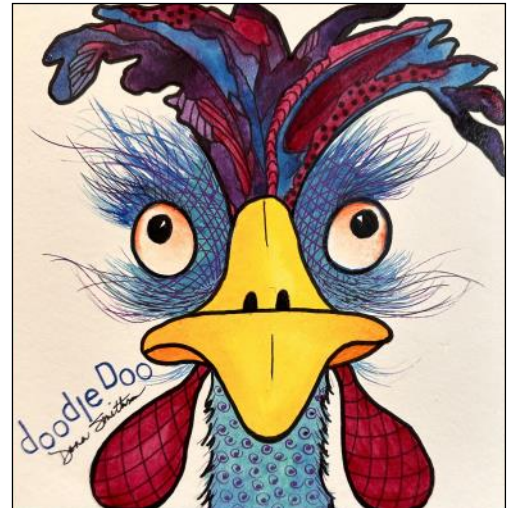
\$100.00



"Redwing Rhapsody II"

Original Watercolour

\$225.00



"DoodleDoo! Regis"

Original Watercolour, Rooster Collection

\$80.00



Volunteer Highlights



Above: The big winners from the evening, Cannery Brewing!
Chef Darcy, Paul, and Thomas (Photos by Gallery Staff)

BRAVO TO THE PENTICTON ART GALLERY VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you so much for your help and hard work with the Penticton Art Gallery's 6th Annual Loving Mugs Project Fundraiser! You assisted hungry ticket holders with such fun and style, handed out spoons and ballots like seasoned professionals, and cleaned up like nobody's business. After a pandemic hiatus for this event, it was incredible to welcome everyone once again back into the gallery for this much-loved community gathering and we couldn't have made it happen if not for the incredible support and generosity of our AMAZING volunteers.

You all deserve a medal for your efforts, but we'll settle for a hearty round of applause and maybe a bowl of chili - or ten. (Thanks to those wonderful recipe books!) Without your tireless dedication, the chili contest would have been a complete mess - and I'm not just talking about the chili stains on our shirts!

You are the real MVPs of the Loving Mugs Project, and we couldn't have done it without you. You kept things running smoothly, ensured everyone had what they needed, and did it all with a smile on your face (even when we were all completely stuffed with chili).

Thank you from the bottom of our spicy hearts! ♦



Above: Paul Crawford and Kristine Lee
Kristine won "Most Unique" Chili on behalf of PAG!

IGNITE THE ARTS

The Ignite the Arts Festival is nearly upon us, bringing together talented artists and musicians to showcase their creativity and entertain the Penticton arts community. Something not at all possible without the dedication and hard work of the many volunteers who contribute their time and energy to ensure everything runs smoothly.

From welcoming concert-goers to festival venues, MC-ing, driving, setting up, marching in a Parade for no Reason, slinging slick merch at festival booths to preparing for the festival by making buttons, poster and delivering maps, all our amazing volunteers play a crucial role in creating a memorable event for everyone involved. The commitment and enthusiasm for the gallery and the Ignite the Arts Festival has been evident from the very beginning, as the emails flooded in asking to help out in so many ways and even going the extra mile to promote the festival on their favorite social media platforms!

The Penticton Art Gallery's volunteers help to create an inclusive atmosphere that reflects the true spirit of Ignite the Arts. They greet attendees with smiles and warmth, answer questions and provide information, groove out and help to create a sense of community and connection that makes this more than just a music and art event. It is a testament to the generous collaborative spirit alive in Penticton. The festival supporters who give so much help to create a magical event that will be remembered and celebrated for years to come. Your dedication and hard work are truly a driving force behind this festival's success, and you deserve to be celebrated! ♦



Gift Shop Coordinator: All about Karen Donovan-Schreiber!



Above: Karen Donovan-Schreiber
Gift Shop Coordinator

Article Written by Karen Donovan-Schreiber

I grew up in Vancouver, BC and lived in a few different areas, including Richmond (where my oldest son was born), Burnaby, and Maple Ridge (where my youngest was born). When I was 15, I got my first paying job at Bata Shoe Store in Brentwood Mall, which started my obsession with shoes. After finishing school, I started working in office jobs until I discovered my passion for accounting, which I pursued for many years. Learning about money and accounting helped me save money so that I could continue indulging in my love for shoes!

Life threw me some curveballs over the years, but in my 50s, I decided to sell everything and travel around for a few years, spending a lot of time down south. While living down south, I started doing animal rescue work, which was a real eye-opener regarding how different cultures regard animals. Unlike us, many cultures don't view pets the same way we do - we tend to love our pets like our kids (guilty).

In the early 2000s, I was introduced to "Bard on the Beach," which are Shakespeare plays performed in large tents at Vanier Park in Vancouver. It took me a good 30 minutes to understand what they were saying, but I was hooked! I started bringing my youngest son when he was 10, and it turned into a tradition that we do every year together. No matter where I was living at the time, I would fly into Vancouver so that the two of us could attend Bard together. He's turning 29 this year!

My husband Dean introduced me to Penticton back in 2020 - he grew up in the Okanagan. We moved back here in 2021, and I started volunteering at the Penticton Art Gallery at the end of the year. When a position for Gift Shop Coordinator became available, I applied and started working there on February 7th, 2022. The rest, as they say, is history. If you haven't been to the Gallery's Gift Shop in a while, you need to stop by and see all the changes! ♦

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Project Room Gallery

Exhibition Runs: Saturday March 25 – Saturday May 13, 2023

LEVI BENT: RAD ON THE REZ

Article Written by Levi Bent

Way i? p isnaqsilxw iskwist qwyaqwasayáxn. Hello my relatives my name is Levi Bent. I am a multidisciplinary artist from the Okanogan Valley. *Kn sqilxw, kn syilx* I'm an interior salish indigenous person. I've been creating art as long as I can remember and my first memories where being stoked on Saturday morning cartoons. Back in the day all those cartoons gave me a sense of direction for my own artistic expression. My art is kind of like caricature because I really like humor. It might even be considered cartoon but really my style is just my style. When I draw or create this is how it comes out kind of like a window to my soul.

I grew up on an Indian reservation in Washington state in a tiny little town called Malott. There's not much going on in Malott but somehow, I learned about skateboarding, punk rock and other alternative consciousness that developed my personality. That's why I titled my exhibition *rad on the rez*, I want to show the world that even though I grew up on the rez which is pretty much a concentration camp I can still be resilient and creative.

Long story short I grew up in alcoholism and fell into addictions until I was about 26 years old. In my early 20's I didn't skate or do much art so it was like the dark times for me. I left my home town and got sober in Penticton BC and started raising a family. At first it was hard to stay sober but I started learning my language and doing more art and started skateboarding again! ♦





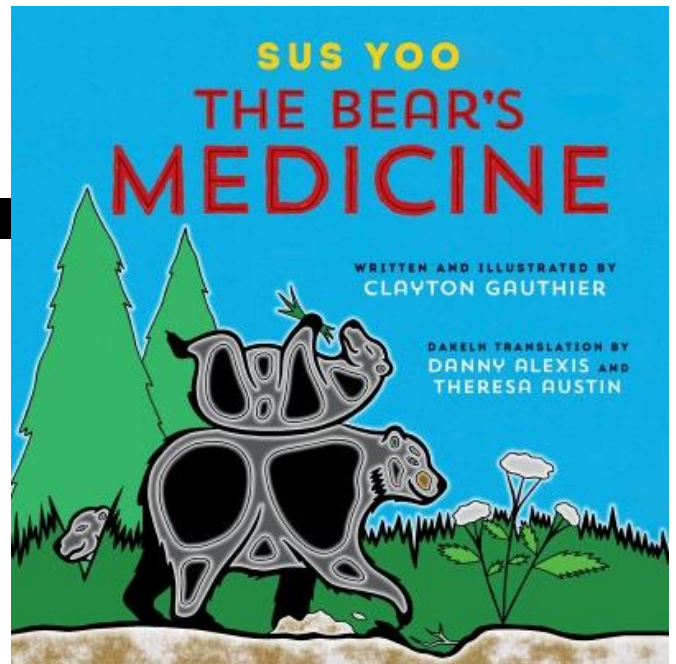
Toni Onley Gallery

Exhibition Runs: Saturday March 25 – Saturday May 13, 2023

Sus Yoo The Bear's Medicine

Written and Illustrated by: Clayton Gauthier

Dakelh Translation: Danny Alexis and Theresa Austin



Clayton Gauthier has apprenticed under the artist Peter George, a Wet'suwet'en master carver. He has also completed murals and carvings for the community of Prince George, British Columbia. Clayton works with youth in the school district and in his home community to share art and storytelling. He is a multimedia artist whose skills include drawing, painting, carving, drum and rattle making, logos, mirror etching, tattoos, graphic art and murals.

"When we are born, we are born with unconditional love," he says. "That baby looks at you with love and looks at your spirit. Doesn't look at colour, doesn't look at race, doesn't have a mindset of money. These things are taught. So how do we get back to that?"

In late September, the Cree-Dakelh author's second picture book, *The Bear's Medicine*, was chosen for **First Nation Communities READ** program, an initiative by the Ontario First Nation Public Library Community to encourage literacy,

intergenerational storytelling, and Indigenous voices in publishing.

A jury of Indigenous librarians from across Ontario chose *The Bear's Medicine* along with Drew Hayden Taylor's *Chasing Painted Horses* (Cormorant Books) for this year's program. Each author receives \$3,000.

The picture book, written in English and translated into Dakelh, is about a mother bear and her cubs and their lives on the land. Gauthier says the images came to him first and were influenced by his father.

"He taught me a lot about the bear and how the bear teaches us many things on the land: where to get the salmon, where to get the berries, what roots to dig that we still dig today," he says. "I wanted to open that door not only for our kids, but our adults too. To look at these animals and be grateful for what they teach us."

He then wrote gentle rhymes that course with powerful lessons to accompany the images. For

example, an illustration of the cubs lapping up water from a stream underlines the importance of gratitude: "we love each drink we take/giving thanks as the season awakes."

Born in Prince George, B.C., he spent summers on the Nak'azdli First Nation in northern British Columbia, where he witnessed the way in which animals operate in nature. He now uses those observations as a guiding philosophy. "They know to get prepared for winter or start gathering for spring," he says. "Do we as human beings know our job?"

He hopes the new audiences who come across his work through the Communities READ program will do like the animals do and learn to trust their instincts.

"It all starts with your heart," he says. "What makes your heart sing, what are the things that you love to do, and how can you share that with others in a good way. We have a responsibility to make ourselves feel good and do what's best for us." ♦



Main Gallery

Exhibition Runs: Saturday March 25 – Saturday May 13, 2023

**National Indigenous Professional Artist Training Program (NIPAT)
20th Anniversary Exhibition**

SKƏLXAP:

the Confluence of Where a Tributary Joins a River

En'owkin Centre



www.enowkincentre.ca

Article written by Dr. Michelle Jack

way' xast sihk'xast (hello good day) The En'owkin Centre is pleased to announce our exhibition skəlxap in partnership with the Penticton Art Gallery, Ignite the Arts Festival and 2 Rivers Remix Society. This event will be exciting to all as we return back to our annual in person NIPAT arts exhibition. We would like to invite you all to come and visit with tea and bannock at our lively opening on **Saturday March 25th, 2023.**

Like the tributaries joining the main flow of the river we are excited to bring together current learners, faculty, and invited arts of the En'owkin Centre to celebrate the twenty year anniversary of the National Indigenous Professional Artist Training Program. It is with full hearts that we present our works, our voices heard, and words forage many connections throughout Turtle Island. We express our deepest gratitude for this valued partnership with PAG to provide space for our faculty, learners, and invited Indigenous Artists over the last two decades which has brought us together in service of our communities to elevate Indigenous arts.

The En'owkin Centre is an Indigenous post-secondary arts and cultural centre located on the Penticton Indian

Reserve. After many years we have an exciting new name change to include the word Indigenous to better reflect our peoples within the continent and the world. The National Indigenous Professional Artist Training Program is one of many innovative programs housed at En'owkin. This two-year certificate program includes storytelling, media arts, performance arts, painting, sculpture, installation art, creative writing and marketing. The focus of the National Indigenous Professional Artist Training Program (NIPAT) is to protect and preserve Indigenous world-view and arts expressions within traditional heritage, utilizing interdisciplinary works with contemporary practice. The NIPAT program was developed to support the learning of how to "revitalize" traditional art forms into contemporary practice. It is a professional training opportunity that assists the artist to interpret traditional forms of art in today's context. En'owkin Centre also offers the Foundations in Indigenous Fine Arts program, in affiliation with University of Victoria. Students focus on visual arts and creative writing, with an Indigenous worldview to collaborate and integrate many different mediums in their studies.

The mandate of our organization is to ensure syilx heritage, revitalization and preservation is at the core foundation, to develop and implement community-based programs, which focus on the needs of the community. Our programs are supported through partnerships, grants, and donations as we are a registered charity. Our organizational foundational programs have tremendously served to enhance the NIPAT program. We have partnerships with important institutions such as the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Without the foundational n'syilxcen – Okanagan Language programs and Indigenous Studies courses that foster these partnerships as well the NIPAT program would not have the rich resources to draw from for inspiration and incentive while "revitalizing" connections to many Indigenous communities, languages, and traditions throughout North America and the world.

We respect and support personal health and safety precautions and hope as many different sectors of our communities will come out and support this exhibition at your comfort level.

It is with joy and gratefulness we present these creative works through teamwork and partnership, limlamt. ♦

Current NIPAT Program Participants:

1st Year Artists: Dejerie Jackson, Sekoya Weaselhead-Kehewin, Lorne Olson, Denise Tom, Daisy Van Exan, Amanda Wood

2nd Year Artists: Joanne Alexis, Ashleigh Andrews, Ashikeha Jack, Autumn Kruger, Shelia Lowe, Jasmine Nahbexie.

Invited Guest Artists: Dr. Cease Wyss, Maura Tamez, Amber WeaselHead, Bracken Hanuse Corlett, Eartha Good Striker, Shayna Dejarlais, Csetkwe Fortier, Tyrone Whitehawk.

NIPAT Faculty/Staff: Renae Morriseau, Cynthia Jim, Karen W. Olson, Catherine Pierre, Dr. Michelle Jack, Tracey Kim Bonneau.

twining bags with
home tan buckskin, 2022
By Joanne Alexis



Ignite the Arts Community Week Exhibition Opening Event!

Join us to open all three exhibitions of Indigenous Art Excellence

Saturday March 25th @ 7:00 pm at Penicton Art Gallery

Artists in Attendance, Special Prayer and Welcoming Ceremony

** Tea and Bannock to be served. This exhibition opening is Alcohol Free/Dry.**

Ashikeha Jack—Untitled #2, Acrylic on Canvas



Above: Julie Fowler Ignite the Arts Coordinator, conveniently flanked by a painting from one of this years Mini Mural Artists, Endrené Shepherd!

Article Written by Julie Fowler

snpinktn (Penticton) syilx (Okanagan) Territory: Get ready to experience an extravaganza of live music, theatre, dance, workshops, and activities for the whole family at the 2nd Annual Ignite the Arts Festival Weekend, taking place from March 31 – April 2, 2023. This year's festival promises to be even more

spectacular than the last, with an incredible lineup of artists and venues to showcase the best of Penticton's downtown core.

Venues such as the iconic Dream Cafe, the intimate Tempest Theatre, the welcoming Elk's Hall, the tasty Cannery Brewing, and the fun-loving Brit Bar will play host to a wide range of performances throughout the weekend. Festivalgoers can cruise between venues and experience incredible music and art, while soaking up the vibrant community atmosphere of downtown Penticton.

The festival's musical lineup features over 50 musical acts with something for everyone, from folk and rock to reggae, electronica and hip hop, with a good dose of programming for kids including the creative genius, **Al Simmons!** The festival kicks off with a parade featuring the 12-piece brass band, **Balkan Shmalkan**, that will get

everyone in the mood for the weekend's festivities.

Other show-stoppers include the global blues, reggae and soul sounds of award-winning **Digging Roots** (ON); "sneaky beautiful" and "sharp-as-shards" art-rock sensation, **Selina Martin** (ON/France); high energy carnival dance party artists, **Blackberry Wood** (BC); rising star featured on BBC Radio 1, MTV News, and Forbes, **Forrest Mortifee (fka Clear Mortifee)**, internationally acclaimed music group, **The Spiritual Warriors** (Lilwat Nation), exquisite singer-songwriter **Brandon Wolfe Scott** (BC), best known as the guitarist and co-songwriter in the JUNO nominated Indie rock group Yukon Blonde; "hybrid of Bruce Cockburn and Frank Zappa," the interminable **Wax Mannequin** (ON); legendary alternative country singer-songwriter **Carolyn Mark**; contemporary Indigenous alternative fusion artists with righteous rhymes and rich harmonies, **The Melawmen Collective**; local jazz maestros,

the **Justin Glibbery Quintet**; acclaimed synth-rock band, **Loon Town**; Tsimshian folk artist **Saltwater Hank** who resurrects stories of the land, loss and absurd on his trusty fiddle; and award winning songwriter and producer, the extraordinary, **Corwin Fox**. And this is just a taste!

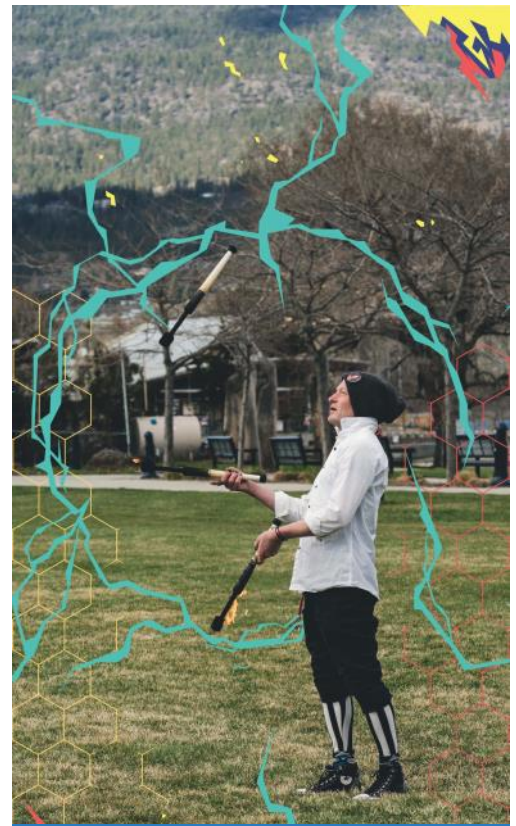
Tickets for the festival are only \$125 + GST for the weekend, which includes a \$15 voucher to spend on artist merchandise or at local venues. Youth tickets are \$25 (ages 13-18), and kids 12 and under get in free.

For more information about the 2nd Annual Ignite the Arts Festival Weekend and to purchase


tickets, visit the festival's website at www.ignitehearts.ca.

Also check out all the amazing events happening as part of the Ignite Community Week, March 24 – March 30 (See Centerfold of this Arts Letter!) that runs in the lead up to the Weekend Festival.

Ignite the Arts is a project of the Penticton Arts Gallery and gratefully acknowledges its partners including funding support from the City of Penticton, Visit Penticton, Province of BC, Creative BC, Community Foundation of the South Okanagan and Penticton's Sunrise and Rotary Clubs. ♦



Much like last year, there might just be some illuminating surprises this year between venues... fire spinners perhaps?




As a thank you for reading this far into the Arts Letter...

USE CODE "MYBESTFRIENDISABIRD" AT CHECK OUT FOR LATE BIRD ADMISSION IGNITE THE ARTS TICKETS AND

RECEIVE \$26.25 OFF!

Code valid until March 30th, 2023



SAVE
\$26.25



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IGNITE THE ARTS

COMMUNITY WEEK

A Mix of **FREE**, **TICKETED**, and **VIRTUAL** Events happening across **sn̓p̓ín̓k̓t̓k̓n̓** (Penticton, B.C.)

MORE DETAILS AT: IGNITETHEARTS.CA

March 24th - 30th



FRIDAY
24



5:00 PM - Parade For 'No Reason'
@ Pentiction Art gallery

Prior to the Parade, Pentiction Museum & Archives will be hosting two LED Workshops on March 18th, including LED Lantern Making, and LED Wearables!
Call 250-480-2454 for more info.

6:00 PM - Square Mini Mural Unveiling @ Camnery Brewing



7:00 PM - Play & Talkback: The Half Life of Marie Curie
@ Tempest Theatre (\$35)



SATURDAY
25



11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Pentiction & District Community Arts Council ART WALK (Various Locations)



11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM - Kit's Mini Mural Forgeries @ Camnery Brewing!

11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - SCULPTURE DAY Events, and family contest on Martin Street

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Encaustic Basics with Angela Hansen Workshop @ PDCAC (Lier House) pentictionartscollective.com/workshops

2:00 PM - Okanagan Mural Dedication @ 333 Main Street
7:00 PM - Exhibition Opening
Featuring art from En'owkin NIPAT Program, Theytus Books, and Levi Bent @ Pentiction Art Gallery

SUNDAY
26

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Opening of the Confluence Conference* @ En'owkin (Virtual Attendance Only - find link at ignitethearts.ca)

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Encaustic 3D Tree Sculpture Workshop with Angela Hansen @ PDCAC (Lier House) pentictionartscollective.com/workshops

1:00 PM - South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services UNBOX Project @ The Dream Café

3:00 PM - Hot Jazz & Swing Artist Aaron Loewen @ Camnery Brewing
7:30 PM - We Are Story: An Evening with Gregory Scofield @ En'owkin Centre

7:00 PM - General Auditions (Booking Required) @ Tempest Theatre

Tempest is joined by 5 other local Theatre Companies for General Auditions. No experience needed. Prepare a monologue and present for our wonderful acting companies all at once!



MONDAY
27

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Day 2 Confluence Conference* @ En'owkin (Virtual Attendance Only - find link at ignitethearts.ca)

9:30 AM TO 4:30 PM - Creative Kids Art Camps Begin @ Pentiction Art Gallery (Runs through to March 31st)

NOON TO 5:00 PM - Children & Youth Song Writing Camp with Pentiction Academy of Music (Runs through to March 31st)



6:30 PM - The (O)URts Panel: MAKING CONNECTIONS & NETWORKING* presented by Ullus Collective @ PIB Community Hall (\$15, 2 for \$20)
more info @ ulluscollective.com on FB

TUESDAY
28

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM - Day 3 Confluence Conference* @ En'owkin (Virtual Attendance Only - find link at ignitethearts.ca)

*The Confluence Conference is series of virtual events, showcases, workshops and keynotes presented in partnership with 2 Rivers Remix Festival (2RMA). Indigenous Music Industry Professionals will present their craft in a virtual livestream, culminating at an in person event at the Cleland Theatre!

7:00 PM - Bloom: A Concert Celebrating the Musical Gifts of Pentiction. Pentiction Academy of Music Faculty Concert @ Cleland Theatre (\$25)



WEDNESDAY
29

4:30 PM - Confluence Conference* Indigenous Music Showcase LIVE! @ Cleland Theatre
Featuring: Prayer & Welcome, Sylix dancers, Ana Cornejo, Aztec Dancer Cynthia Jim, Kym Gouchie & Shayna Dejarlais, Ninkish, Madeline Terbasket, The Spiritual Warriors DRMMNGNOW, The Melawmen Collective & Digging Roots



THURSDAY
30

6:00 PM - Reggae Inspired Folk Band The Rays @ Camnery Brewing (\$15, or \$12 for ITA Fest Pass Holders!)



7:00 PM - A Night of Indigenous Storytelling @ The Dream Café
Featuring: Madeline Terbasket, Karen Olson, Catherine Pierre, Tracey Kim Borneau, Levis Bent & Graham Angus

SPONSORS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS:



IGNITE THE ARTS Festival WEEKEND

3 Days • 6 Venues • Over 50 Acts!



GET TICKETS & MORE DETAILS AT:
IGNITETHEARTS.CA

March 31st - April 2nd

FRIDAY
31

10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Pentiction Art Gallery - Exhibitions and Festival box office for wristband pick up

9:00 pm - 5:00 pm
PIB Hall -

ULLUS Collective, Artistic Activism Workshop

6:00 - 7:30pm

Elks Hall -
Traditional Welcoming & Parade for No Reason

**AL SIMMONS KIDS SHOW
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

7:30 pm - 12:00 am
Acts performing @ Dream Café

7:30 pm - 1:00 am
Acts performing @ Elks Hall Downstairs & Upstairs (Warryn Berry Stage)

SATURDAY
1

11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Workshops, Panels and Readings @ Pentiction Art Gallery
Tea Room ~
Workshop stage, and 3 Exhibitions on Display

12:00 pm - CLOSE

Acts performing @ Cannery Brewing (9 pm end), Tempest Theatre (10 pm end), Dream Café (12 am end), Elks Hall (1 am end), Brit Bar (2 am end)

6:00 - 7:30 pm
One Minute Play Festival @ Tempest Theatre

8:00 - 10:00 pm
Ten Minute Plays @ Tempest Theatre



SUNDAY
2

11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Workshops, Panels and Readings @ Pentiction Art Gallery
Tea Room ~
Workshop stage, and 3 Exhibitions on Display

12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Acts performing @ Cannery Brewing, Tempest Theatre, Dream Café, Elks Hall, Brit Bar

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Soulful Folk Band
Two Crows for Comfort @ Cannery Brewing

6:00 pm - ?
**Volunteer & Artist
Wrap up Party!**



VENUES: **DRIFTY CLIFF**



FEATURING:

3 Jack Generation Hand Drummers, 49.3° N, 123.6° W, Adventures of Nightgirl, Aidan Mayes, Al Simmons, Babyface Brass, Balkan Shmalkan, Bear Naked Noise, Beastie, Blackberry Wood, Brandon Wolfe Scott, Carolyn Mark, Chris Sand, Corwin Fox, Covid, the Musical: We're All In This Together, Daryl O'Neill, Digging Roots, DJ Thistle, Edgar Cal, Forrest Mortifee, Freshwater Juicebox, Gregory Seofield, HALE/ASIAN with Amy the CODA, Hank and Lily, HARDBALL, Hagley Wallis and the Bright Futures, hujune, Hush Hush Noise, Jack Garton, Jeff Andrew, Jeremy Head, Justin Glibbery Quintet, Keisha & Boundless Bellgdance, Kitty & The Rooster, Kiva MH, LADY of the MIST, Leo D.E Johnson, Loon Town, Lucas Penner, Maiga Robbie, Mivule, Naomi Shore, Parlour Panther, Peach Gravy Theatre Cooperative, Quantum Twitch, Saltwater Hank, Sammy Volkov, Selina Martin, Stella Rae, Tereza Tomek, The Cavernous, The Dirty Show, "The Man From Eldorado," The Melawmen Collective, The Spiritual Warriors, ULLUS Collective, Wax Mannequin... and more!



Programming

Youth Programming:



Young @ Art

This is a **FREE drop-in** afterschool art program for youth ages 10-16. It happens **every Thursday from 3:15-4:30pm** in conjunction with the academic school year. In this program youth are encouraged to explore their artistic interests and socialize with other budding young artists.


Snacks are generously provided by:



PENTICTON ART GALLERY

Preschool Art

EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
FIRST CLASS WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 14TH 2022
\$5.00 FEE: PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE
ALL SUPPLIES INCLUDED
AGES 2-5 (PARENTED)



The early years are a key point in a child's development and art can help early learners develop self confidence as they explore, observe, and imitate. Preschool Art is designed to encourage discovery in a fun, supportive, and inspiring environment. With a Process Art based approach our Preschool Art Program will help to nurture your little ones social and emotional health, reinforcing skills such as relaxation, self esteem, and emotional sharing.

199 Marina Way | Penticton BC www.pentictonartgallery.com 250-493-2928

ONE MORE PRO-D DAY TO GO!

Pro-D Camps

Monday September 26th, 2022: Michael Martchenko
Friday October 21st 2022: Yayoi Kusama
Thursday November 10 2022: Sybil Andrews
Monday January 16 2023: Salvador Dali
Friday February 17 2023: Gillian Ayres
Monday April 24 2023: Patrick Caulfield

Another Pro-D Day with nothing to do? Leave it to us! The Penticton Art Gallery offers educational day camps for children aged 6 to 12 during Pro-D Days for school District 67 Skaha. Little Leonardo's is an art history inspired program where children are introduced to the history of art through hands-on projects and crafts, literature, and interactive activities. 15 spots are available for each class, and please bring a lunch!

Single Class: \$40/child
9:00am-3:00pm *9:30 is latest drop-off
Ages 6-12

PENTICTON ART GALLERY



CREATIVE KIDS SUMMER CAMP

Creative Kids is a 9 week summer art program made possible by funding from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs! Each child will complete a wide range of fun art projects.

Spaces are limited to 15 spots per week.

9:00am-3:00pm | Ages 6-12

FULL WEEKS: PAG MEMBERS \$155/WEEK, NON-MEMBERS \$165/WEEK
SHORT WEEK: PAG MEMBERS \$135/WEEK, NON-MEMBERS \$145/WEEK



199 MARINA WAY // WWW.PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM // 250-493-2925

PENTICTON ART GALLERY



CREATIVE KIDS SUMMER CAMP

- Week 1: Artistic Adventures, July 3-7
- Week 2: Iconic Comics, July 10-14
- Week 3: Nature Explorers, July 17-21
- Week 4: Five Art "ISMS," July 24-28
- Week 5: Animation Studio, July 31-Aug 4
- Week 6: Street Art, Aug 8-11 (Short week)
- Week 7: Fantastical Worlds, Aug 14-18
- Week 8: Colour Me Modern, Aug 21-25
- Week 9: Cartoon Mania, Aug 28-Sept 1



199 MARINA WAY // WWW.PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM // 250-493-2925

Did you know we offer

School Tours?

Tours are available for grades k-12 and include an age appropriate activity.

If you are interested in booking a tour for your class please email our education coordinator at education@pentictionartgallery.com for more information

Have your say in PAG Programming!

Education coordinator Rebecca has put together a survey for members and friends of the Gallery to have a say in what you want to see in upcoming programming. That way, we can plan things of interest to our community. If you would like to help Rebecca, Scan the QR code below and take our short survey:





Programming (cont.)

Adult Programming:

\$5 The Penticton Art Gallery Presents
MAIL ART MONDAYS

JOIN US THE 3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6-8pm

Join us at the Penticton Art Gallery to become a part of the worldwide mail art movement. The Gallery will provide supplies, postage, and mail art exhibits to contribute to - All you have to bring is your creativity!

A TWO DAY WORKSHOP FOR ACRYLICS WITH JAN CRAWFORD: AFCA BFA BED.

DATES: MAY 27 & 28

LOCATION: PENTICTON ART GALLERY, 199 MARINA WAY

WORKSHOP TIME: 9- 4:30 BOTH DAYS

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW: THIS WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON ALL ASPECTS OF MIXING COLOUR FOR ACRYLICS. THE WORKSHOP ALSO INCLUDES THE TECHNIQUE OF GLAZING (FOR ACRYLICS). PAINTING DEMOS WILL BE FEATURED.

REGISTRATION: CONTACT JAN CRAWFORD, CRAWFORDART@TELUS.NET
JANS WEBSITE CAN BE VIEWED AT : JANCRAWFORD.COM

PAYMENT: \$300. SIGN UP BY MAY 12 (MINIMUM OF 9 STUDENTS , MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 14). E-TRANSFER OR CHEQUE.

MATERIALS LIST: A MATERIALS LIST WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL PARTICIPENTS TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE WORKSHOP.

THE JOURNEY OF COLOUR



CREATIVE ACTIVISM: ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Presented by Dr. Antonella De Michelis Phd. Art is a powerful catalyst for change. This lecture series looks at the city as the canvas for political art and explores the intersection between social justice movements, activist media, and artistic practice. Dr. Antonella De Michelis is an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia and author of Time and the City. Notes on Rome.

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1: GRAFFITI. STREET ART OR VANDALISM?
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12: FEMINISM & GUERRILLA GIRLS
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 3: VICTORS OR VILLAINS. HISTORIC MONUMENTS
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14: BANKSY. AESTHETICS OF PROTEST.

7-8:30, \$20 per person per lecture, Pre-registration Required

SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1: GRAFFITI. STREET ART OR VANDALISM?

THE CITY IS THE ARENA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE BUT WHERE IS THE LINE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE? THIS TALK EXPLORES THE DEBATE OF GRAFFITI AS AN URBAN BLIGHT OR AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION. IF THE ART MUSEUM IS AN ELITIST SPACE, STREET ART CHALLENGES THE STATUS QUO AND CHAMPIONS INCLUSION... THE QUESTION REMAINS: IS THE PUBLIC FACE OF A BUILDING PUBLIC OR PRIVATE?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12: FEMINISM & GUERRILLA GIRLS

THE GUERRILLA GIRLS ARE THE SELF-PROCLAIMED CONSCIENCE OF THE AT WORLD EXPOSING SEXISM AND RACISM IN CULTURE AND THE ARTS. THEY ARE A GROUP OF ANONYMOUS FEMALE ARTISTS WHO WEAR GORILLA MASKS; THEIR WIT, COURAGE, AND CREATIVITY FIRST CHALLENGED THE ART ESTABLISHMENT IN 1985 AND STILL DO TODAY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3: VICTORS OR VILLAINS. HISTORIC MONUMENTS WHEN HISTORY IS DIFFICULT

HISTORY IS A MIRROR THAT REFLECTS ONTO SOCIETY ITS GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS AND ITS FLAWS. HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND THE ART THAT COMMEMORATES PAST LEADERS, EVENTS, AND CONQUESTS ARE AS MUCH ABOUT THE ONES WHO RAISE THE MONUMENTS AS THOSE WHO ARE COMMEMORATED. CHURCHILL, MACDONALD, LEE GRANT: VICTORS OR VILLAINS?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14: BANKSY. AESTHETICS OF PROTEST.

ANTI-AUTHORITARAN, POLITICAL ACTIVIST, AND STREET ARTIST: BANKSY'S POLITICAL STENCILS HAVE FOREVER CHANGED IDEAS OF HIGH/LOW ART, PUBLIC SPACE, ART OWNERSHIP, AND THE ART MARKET.



Events

Topics & Tea

The theme that we have attempted to adhere to with the Topics & Tea speaker series is Creativity. In addition to artist speaking about their own artistic practice, past topics have included: Fashion, writing, photography, Okanagan Art Review, The Jealous Curator, art & mental health, art curation, textiles, art history, the spirituality of art, architecture, artists' collectives, book collecting, storytelling, creative living, music history, improvisational theatre, theatrical costuming, creative up-cycling, and the creative process.

1-2 pm, Admission by donation - Tea and treats to be served

March 15th @ 1pm Speaker Faye Arcand: "What makes a Good Book Great." Faye Arcand is a writer, freelancer, and agented author who lives in the Okanagan.

April 26th @ 1pm TBD (Check our website for updates!)

May 31st @ 1pm Speaker Chelsea Terry: "Marketing for Artists: AI Insight." This talk will explore the latest marketing strategies for artists with a special emphasis on utilizing AI. In this session, we'll dive into the various ways AI can enhance your artistic brand and reach new audiences. From creating targeted social media campaigns to optimizing your website for search engines, AI can help you make smarter decisions and achieve your goals more efficiently. In fact, Chelsea used AI to write this message you are reading right now!



First Fridays Open Mic Night! Hosted by your friend and mine, Daryl O'Neill

When: TONIGHT!!! 7:30pm - ???

Where: The Penticton Art Gallery

Cost: FREE!!! (Tea, coffee, and cookies by donation)

What: An open mic night where you can show off your musical prowess, dazzle with your poetry skillz, get the crowd grooving to your sick beats, practice your magic show, workshop your off-broadway monologue, bring the audience to tears with your comedy--whatever! (Also if you're more of a watcher and less of a performer come and enjoy the show--work quietly on your art while seeing talented people do cool stuff!)



First Friday — May 5th

Note: No Open Mic in April (Easter)

Open mic night is free to attend and a great way to gain experience performing in front of a live audience. You'll have the opportunity to take the stage and share your talents with others, while receiving feedback and support from the crowd. It's also a great opportunity to network with other artists and create connections within the community.

If you're an audience member, open mic night is a great way to discover new talents and enjoy a night out with friends. You'll be able to watch a variety of performances and support your local artists. It's a fun, lively event that's sure to be a great time for all!

Coffee and tea always available by donation.



Events (cont.)



Join Paul Crawford as he paints an alternative art history based on the people, art and stories he has discovered over the past three decades. **Admission is free but pre-registration is requested** so we can make certain we have enough seats and refreshments set up to accommodate all those who are interested in attending. **To register please call the gallery at (250) 493-2928 or email: reception@pentictionartgallery.com**

Chapter Three - Two Young Canadian Artists: At Home and Abroad

Part 2: William J. B. Newcombe (1908-1969): Living outside the frame... 1:00 pm Saturday March 18, 2023

The second of this two part lecture will feature the work of William John Bertram Newcombe (1907 - 1969), one of two artists

included in the travelling exhibition, *Two Young Canadian Artists: At Home and Abroad*, first displayed at the Vancouver Art Gallery from January 22 – February 10, 1946 and then in Victoria where it was displayed at the the Little Centre from October 8th – 20th, 1946.

We will explore the trajectories of each of these artist's careers and look at the incredible impact they both had on the art world and art history beyond the borders of Canada yet they both remain largely unknown here in Canada outside of occasionally showing up as a footnote in Canadian art history texts. In the catalogue that accompanied the exhibition the Hon. Mark Hugh Kearley, a founding member of Federation of Canadian Artists and a co-founder of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in 1944 wrote the following about William Newcombe:

"W.J.B. Newcombe, born in Victoria in 1908, took up Commercial Art when he was eighteen. He worked in Vancouver and later in Toronto, but in 1941 he joined the R.C.A.F. and went Overseas. Whilst on Active Service he made many trips over enemy territory and in June, 1943 was shot down by a Nazi night-fighter over England. For almost a year, Newcombe was in hospital and whilst there devoted much time to sketching and, whenever opportunity offered, he visited whatever Art Exhibition was within reach.

In conclusion, Mr. A.H. Newcombe, the artist's father to whom we are indebted for this short biography, adds: "You can see that the boy's success, if any, is mostly due to his own perseverance and to what assistance and encouragement he has received from his various Artist friends."

The artist left for Mexico in January, 1946 and the water colours now on exhibition at the Little Centre form but a small part of the work he has done in the last eight months. If hard work and perseverance merit encouragement, then we here in his native land, certainly have an obligation to this young Canadian artist. His work is sound and we venture to suggest that it will one day hold a position of importance in Canada and make a valuable contribution to the Art of this country. What is needed to prevent these talented young Canadians from drifting away and being lost to us, is encouragement and real support, expressed in a practical way. We commend this thought to all who visit this noteworthy Exhibition.

Chapter Four: Noll Derriksan (1940-2020): Craft or Fine Art, its all about semantics Saturday April 22, 2023

Explore the rise of the contemporary Indigenous art movement in Canada from the late 1950's to present day through the incredible life story and artistic legacy of Westbank's, Noll Derriksan (1940-2020). His is a complex story one which illustrates the challenges with how we see and value the legacy of an artist and whose work is worthy of being collected by museums and documented as part of our art history. Its also a question of semantics and in particular the fine line that divides fine art and craft. This is a deep well and one we will revisit again later in this series. ♦



Square Mini Mural Unveiling!

3rd Annual Square Mini Mural Unveiling March 24th and Kids Mini Mini Forgeries!

After a long and challenging selection process, the committee is pleased to announce the chosen artists: **Arianne Tubman, Brittney Bidlake, Endrené Shepherd, Lukas Lundberg, Naomi Qoyllur Díaz Robledo, Neil Erickson, Robyn Sylvester, Taylor Baptiste, Toni Albert, and Zac Abney.**

Each artist will receive a \$500 honorarium, and 50% of the proceeds

from the auction of their works will go directly to the artists. The remaining 50% will be reinvested back into the program for next year's event. The works will be framed and installed by Cannery Brewing in advance of the opening reception on Friday, March 24th, which kicks off the 2nd Annual Ignite the Arts Festival immediately following the Community Week Parade for No Reason!

The Square Mini Mural Unveiling will take place at Cannery Brewing on March 24th at 6:00pm. This event will showcase the 10 selected artists and their incredible works of art. Join us as we celebrate the creativity and passion of our local artists, and be among the first to witness their unique visions brought to life.

In addition to the unveiling, Penticton Art Gallery and Cannery Brewing are hosting a Kids Art Forgery event during the Art Walk on March 25th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Children are invited to create their own forgery pieces of the murals, using their imagination and creativity to create unique interpretations. Parents are welcome to join in on the fun as we celebrate both the artistic talent of our juried mini Mural artists as well as the community's budding Picassos. This event is by donation, with all proceeds going towards OSNS Child Development. We are excited to share that during the month of March, all donations made to OSNS will be matched by Wildstone Construction.

Prizes will be awarded to the up-and-coming artists in the form of VIP Ignite the Arts tickets!

This event promises to be a thrilling celebration of art, creativity, and community. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to support our local artists and ignite the arts in Penticton! ♦

SQUARE

Mini Mural Project





In Search of “Wandering Spirit”

Article written by Paul Crawford

Do you remember meeting the artist Alvin Constant “Wandering Spirit”?

The Penticton Art Gallery is seeking the public's help in locating works of art and stories relating to the artist Alvin Elif Constant “Wandering Spirit” (1946 -2006) for an exhibition scheduled to open here at the Penticton Art Gallery on Saturday November 18, 2023 and continuing through to Saturday January 20th, 2024.

Wandering Spirit was one of the first artists I remember meeting, seeing him sitting outside the

Hudson Bay building on West Georgia St where he would make his stencil prints while displaying and selling his work out of a large black art folio. I would have been around 12 years old when I first met him as a result of my sneaking off to the forbidden land of East Hastings to explore the numerous coin and stamp shops that were located there at the time. The Hudson Bay was the location of the bus stop for my journey home and I remember many enjoyable days watching and occasionally talking to this jolly, affable and fascinating man.

The memories of my time spent watching him made a deep impression upon me, one that I could have never imagined at the time. A decade later our paths would cross again, this time in Victoria where he would set up shop on Government Street or in the Inner Harbour Causeway. Each time I would see him I would make a point to stop and watch him paint and listen as he would sell his paintings. He always seemed to remember me and I have always regretted not buying one of his works at the time. This was as much a product of being a student as it was not having the confidence to trust my heart to buy what I liked rather than the name behind the work.



DRAGON'S DEN
Art Supplies, Cards, and Gifts!
12 Front St, Penticton, BC V2A 1H1
(250) 492-3011

It's amazing how the context of how and where you acquire something can impact how you will always value it. I think of this every time I am travelling and buy a piece off an artist I meet on the street or in a market, for many it's merely a souvenir of your journey and sadly you will never really know anything beyond that transaction. For all we know that artists might have been considered by their community to be one of the most important knowledge keepers and practitioners of their craft and cultural tradition.

A great illustration of this happened in 2013 when the renowned street artist Banksy set up a stand in New York City selling his originals for \$60 each. It took a number of hours before the attendant made the first sale mid-afternoon, to a woman who bought two small canvases for her children after negotiating a 50% discount. Another woman from New Zealand is seen buying two of the paintings, before a man from Chicago buys four telling the seller he has recently moved house and needs something for the walls. The total day's sales came to a grand total of \$420. After posting this on his website the woman from New Zealand consigned her two pictures after they were authenticated by Banksy; to Bonham's Auctions in London, selling them for a total of £125,000.00.

His is an amazing and tragic story which is emblematic of so many others whose lives have been needlessly cut short. What struck me then and continues to this day is the overwhelming sense of tragedy his story speaks to our colonial history.

Historically, most Indigenous artists didn't trust the western idea of galleries where an artist consigns their work, and for good reason. Rather artists preferred to sell their art as they produced it or sell it to the various Indigenous "craft" and "tourist shops" for cash and let them price it as they felt the market would bear. The downside of this is threefold;



Trust and Innocence, 1993
 stencil print – acrylic on paper
 Edition: 1/1 unique, 18 1/2" x 27 1/2"

- 1) there are little or no records of these artists
- 2) those purchasing them generally didn't come to see the work they were buying as "fine" art, and
- 3) many of them lived short and tragic lives.

As a result there is little opportunity to ever see a body of their work, or to have their work included in major exhibitions and even rarer to find their works in the collections of art museums. As such the perceived "value" is reflected in how one came to acquire the works. Now there are always exceptions to the rule with Norval Morrisseau (1932-2007) being the best example.

I would love to see a reconciliation of this gap in our collective art history and an

accounting of the lives and legacies which have for the most part up until now fallen through the cracks and remain unknown and unrecognized outside of their community, friends and those lucky enough to live with a piece of their work.

To that end we want to start by exploring the life, art and the legacy of Alvin Elif Constant "Wandering Spirit" (1946-2006) and we are reaching out to the larger community to seek your stories and any works you may have collected of Alvin's along the way to be featured as part of a larger exhibition later this year. If you have any artworks you would be willing to lend us for the exhibition or memories you would like to share please contact us here at the gallery! ♦



Save the Dates!

Sept. 16th: Penticton Art Gallery's 46th Annual Fundraising Auction

Mark your calendars for the Penticton Art Gallery's 46th Annual Fundraising Auction, taking place on September 16th, 2023. This event supports the gallery's exhibitions, public outreach, and education programming.

Over 200 unique and wonderful items will be specially curated for this year's auction. You can start viewing the collection now on www.32auctions.com/PAG2023. Advance bidding begins on June 23rd and runs through to September 15th, with all bids being carried over to the live event.

Join us at the gallery on September 16th for a Live Auction Gala from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, where you can enjoy fine wines, craft beers from Cannery Brewing, and catering still to be determined.

Tickets to attend will be available soon. An announcement will be made on social media and on our website. General seating only, but tables of eight can be reserved in advance.

Can't attend in person? Participate in the live auction online via Zoom. Please pre-register at info@pentictonartgallery.com. All successful online bidders will be notified within 48 hours of the auction's closing.

For additional inquiries or to arrange a private viewing, please contact Paul Crawford at curator@pentictonartgallery.com or (250) 493-2928.



May 19th: Young Collectors Club

Join us for the Young Collector's Club event at the Penticton Art Gallery on May 19th! In the 21st century, art collecting is more accessible than ever and there are more diverse reasons for acquiring art. With this project, we want to encourage young people to start creating their own unique collection.

The first week of this program will be open to children aged 5-12, and the second week will be open for the young at heart (ages 13-99). **NO PARENTS ALLOWED IN THE GALLERY SPACE.** Each ticket is \$25/\$20 for PAG Members, with all proceeds going towards funding our youth programming at the Gallery. Each ticket is guaranteed a work of art to take home.

Tickets will be available soon and an announcement will be made on social media and on our website! Check back!





Artist Exchange Report: Sarah Fahey



Sarah Fahey at the Taller Artistico Comunitario (TAC) Oaxaca, Mexico, where she collaborated with members of the young artist collective to create a collective large format print on the topic of Women's Issues in Mexico and Canada.

Following last summer's installation, 'A Picture is Worth a Thousand Worlds,' of contemporary printmaking from Oaxaca, Penticton artist Sarah Fahey travelled to Oaxaca in February to take part in a week long intensive at Taller Artistico Comunitario (TAC) with members of the Urtarte Collective: Carolina Ocampo, Eric Alonso, Isai Leyva, Joel Arguello and Alex José. The following is written by Sarah Fahey as a recount of her time there.

For International Women's Day the people of Mexico march in the streets, demanding rights for women and the end of gender-based violence. The weeks leading up to March 8th the 'Talleres' of Oaxaca are busy producing large format

prints to paste on the streets and carry on cloth banners during the march. Prints read "¿Donde esta mi hija?" - "Where is my daughter?". Walls around the 'centro' of Oaxaca are plastered with paper posters of missing women and girls was a stark reminder of Missing & Murdered Indigenous women in Canada. Gender base violence is at the top of both Canada & Mexico's social issues today. Around the world all girls and women are vulnerable to violence from family members, spouses and strangers.



Carolina and I were asked to discuss women's issues in Canada and Mexico and to create a large format print in preparation for the march.

According to Canadian Women's Foundation, "Indigenous women are killed at nearly seven more times the rate of non-Indigenous women." In addition, there is often an apathy and disregard from the RCMP to the search of missing and murdered Indigenous women. In recent years the pressure has been placed on the Canadian Government to address these issues. In Mexico, pressure on the Government to assist communities in finding their daughters resulted in families being given shovels. As a mother myself, I think missing would be the worst as I would never be able to give up the search to find my daughter's body, in case in all those years she was actually alive.

Continued on page 28....



Artist Exchange Report: Sarah Fahey (cont.)



Through this discussion an idea was born of embedding women's faces in the trunk of a tree, (common in the city of Oaxaca), its roots and branches strong enough to carry the pain of our lost daughters. Their souls crawl forth from the soil as bats are sent out into the night to assist in the search.

Artistically, the process of the large format print was to brainstorm and draw sketches. Then the sketches are drawn on MDF board in detail. Black paint or marker is applied to the drawing and a different colour wash is brushed onto the entire surface. The wash areas are carved out using various thickness and depths to create textures. The expertise and speed of the carvers was amazing to witness. Ink is rolled on to get a better look at the light and dark areas and a final carving out of areas that need more light is completed. The entire piece is inked for every 'press' and many extra hands are needed to operate the large press. ♦

An Artistic Adventure: Relief Printing & Street Art of Oaxaca, Mexico

Join Sarah in the Penticton Art Gallery's Tea Room on Sunday, April 2nd from 2 - 3 pm for a free artist talk during the Ignite the Arts Festival where she will talk of her recent trip to Oaxaca, Mexico.

Oaxaca, Mexico is a vibrant city, with a rich artistic history and strong Indigenous roots. The city walls and buildings are covered in hand painted signs, printed advertisements and notices, murals and graffiti. From the inside of many 'Talleres' print workshops, the tradition of relief printing continues; prints are wheat pasted on the city walls, printed on paper, t-shirts, bags and stickers. Learn about opportunities for young artists, 19+, who are interested in international art exchanges to Oaxaca, Mexico.

About Sarah: Sarah Fahey has a diploma in Writing & Publishing from Okanagan College, Vernon, BC. For over a decade she has facilitated school age mural workshops in the South Okanagan. Currently, Sarah is completing a certificate in Early Childhood Education and hopes to create a children's book this year.

See the work of art Sarah and TAC created in person!

Location: Penticton Art Gallery's Tea Room

Date: 2 - 3 pm Sunday, April 2nd

Cost: Free!

**IGNITE
THE ARTS**



Collections & Archives



Above: Brendon Raw
Collections Coordinator, Penticton Art Gallery

Article written by Brendon Raw

For this newsletter we are taking a break from exploring the genres and styles of art in the gallery's collection. Instead, I will highlight the first piece of art to enter the collection in 2023: *Comet* by Karl Michel.

Karl Michel was born in Austria, but later moved to Summerland, where he lived in the Cartwright House. While there, he turned the barn into his art studio and gallery. Of his works, Karl is best known for his horse portraits, and wildlife scenes.

I am also going to take this opportunity to provide a behind-the-scenes look at our cataloguing.

As an item enters the collection it is documented, recorded, and numbered. As much information as possible is gathered and recorded about the piece of art: artist, title, date of creation, size, history, story, etc. This information is recorded on paper copies of the donation record, as well as a digital



spreadsheet containing information on all the art in the collection. Each piece of art is also individually photographed. Included in the photograph a scale, to provide reference on an otherwise blank background, and neutral colour patch, to allow for colour correction due to light. Afterwards, the metadata of the photos are edited to include a selection of information from the database. This allows for quick and

easy sorting of the photos. Every piece in the collection is given a unique identifying number, called an accession number. This number is both recorded in the database, and written unobtrusively on art. A piece's accession number acts as the link connecting the physical piece of art with the records containing the relevant information. ♦

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Expires: April 30, 2023

PENTICTON  GALLERY

EVERYONE IS

WELCOME

Penticton Art Gallery is seeking input from those who may have limited access to our programs due to specialized needs such as ASL interpretation, and how best we can serve those who have traditionally been marginalized.

*If interested, please contact:
marketing@pentictonartgallery.com*

"CALL OUT TO LOCAL ARTISTS!"



**WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR YOU!**
(and your art!)

The Penticton Art Gallery Gift Shop is looking for more local artist wares to feature in our upcoming renovated space.

A great way to get yourself and your art out to a diverse population!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
INQUIRES CONTACT:
KAREN: SHOP@PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM**

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