



PENTICTON ART GALLERY

ARTS LETTER

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IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION! · IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION! · IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION! · IGNITE THE ARTS EDITION!

GIFTS OF MADNESS



**GUEST CURATED
BY KAGAN GOH**

PG. 10

M.A.i.D in
Canada

PG. 12

Behind the Mask:
Katie Green



FREE

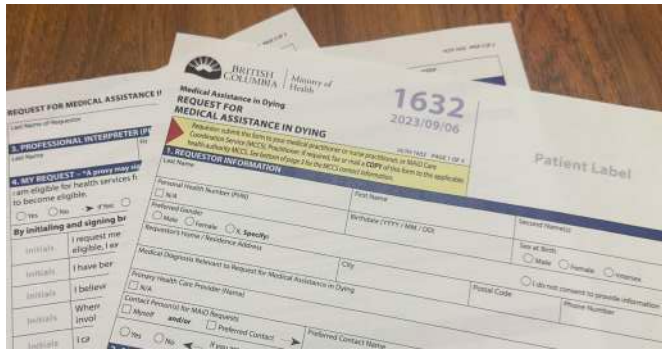
Please Take One

Thank you for recycling this Arts Letter

Table of Contents

PG. 10

**M.A.i.D.
In Canada**



PG. 12

**Behind
the Mask:
Katie Green**



PG 4 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PG 6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PG 7 46th ANNUAL ART AUCTION

PG 8 GIFTS OF MADNESS

PG 10 M.A.i.D. IN CANADA

PG 12 BEHIND THE MASK

PG 14 IGNITE THE ARTS: VENUE BREAKDOWN

PG 18 IGNITE THE ARTS VISUAL SCHEDULE

PG 20 ADOPT-A-PAINTING

PG 21 IN THE GIFT SHOP + SHAUNA INTRO

PG 22 PROGRAMMING

PG 24 ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

PG 25 LOVING MUGS RECAP + MINI MURAL ARTISTS

PG 26 UNEXPECTED BATEMAN

PG 28 AGM ANNOUNCEMENT

PG 29 THE CELESTIAL WIFE BOOK LAUNCH

PG 30 SPONSORS/ THANK-YOUS

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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Directors

Message from the Director



Paul Crawford

Director/Curator

Photo by Gallery Staff

"Art brings people back to their sensibility as human beings. This is the purpose of art: To bring people together and bring back the humanity as well."

- eL Seed

After numerous hours sitting here at the my computer trying to write this months column all I am left with is a seemingly endless parade of paragraphs comprising of incomplete thoughts, overthought ideas and countless false starts. In an effort to kickstart the process and to circumvent my writers block I distracted myself looking for a quote which I felt might help encapsulate the spirit of what I am wanting to say. In doing, so I came across the above quote by eL Seed, a street artist, activist and muralist from Tunisia.

This quote resonated with me and the subsequent discovery of eL Seed and his art certainly helped to distract me. I suddenly found myself diving deep into his website and learning about his creative practice. As a street artist he is best known for his "calligraffiti" where he incorporates Arabic calligraphy as an essential part of his street art. As a result of the social changes which came from the 2011 Tunisian Revolution, eL

Seed's work underwent a thematic shift and became a catalyst for fostering social discourse, aiming to spark conversations and disseminate messages of peace and unity while highlighting the shared aspects of human existence.

In an interview he explained, "I always make sure that I am writing messages, but there are also layers of political and social context, and that's what I am trying to add into my work. The aesthetic is really important; that's what captures your attention. But then I try to open a dialogue that's based on the location and my choice of text." The dual emphasis on aesthetics and meaningful content in eL Seed's work underscores his commitment to using his art as a medium for engagement and societal reflection. His approach and purpose goes beyond the visual allure, aiming to instigate conversations, provoke thought, and contribute to a broader dialogue on social and political issues.

The following year, eL Seed completed a 57-meter-high (187-foot) mural on the minaret of the Jara Mosque, located in the southern Tunisian city of Gabes. This piece effectively transforming the religious landmark into public art. In an interview talking about the project the artist emphasized the motivations behind his art stating, "This project is not about decorating a mosque; it is about making art a visible actor in the process of cultural and political change... I truly believe that art can bring about fruitful debate, especially within the uncertain political climate right now in Tunisia." He further elaborated on the project, stating, "I like graffiti because it brings art to everyone. I like the fact of democratizing art. I hope it will inspire other people to do crazy projects and not to be scared."

Perhaps its the algorithms that pushed his quote into my search or perhaps it was luck, chance or even serendipity, but whatever the cause or reason, something about his words and art struck a chord and resonated with me.

I feel a kinship in his philosophy and the motivations behind his work and it got me thinking about "purpose."

A quick check online revealed that psychologists define purpose as "a steadfast intention to achieve a meaningful, long-term goal that positively impacts both oneself and the world." Similar to happiness, purpose is not a fixed destination but an ongoing journey, continually evolving with our changing identities and responsibilities. Studies have shown that by regularly revisiting and renewing our sense of purpose results in a more fulfilling and meaningful life. All of this resonated with me and serves as a good reminder that we all need to make time to check in with ourselves more often to ensure that we all find and nurture our own sense of purpose in life.

Inspired by my discovery of eL Seed's creative practice, I can't help but notice striking parallels that deeply resonate with my own interests and the guiding principles behind the Ignite the Arts Festival. Originally conceived as an extension of our March exhibit program, the overarching goal was to highlight the transformative power of art and its capacity to connect us to one another, build and strengthen community, initiate dialogue, enrich lives, and empower individuals to explore their creative potential.

The festival's guiding principles revolve around democratizing access to the arts and making creativity accessible to all by breaking free from traditional art spaces and boundaries. Collaborating with a diverse group of community partners, we develop and deliver a program of exhibitions, events, workshops, performances, and interactive interventions to take the arts directly to the people. Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome to explore their creative potential and engage with the cultural landscape. Ultimately, the Ignite the Arts Festival aims to grow a passion for creativity and self-expression within the community, while also serving as a catalyst to empower everyone to contribute to building a more vibrant



Pictured: "Perception"
by Franco-Tunisian artist el Seed

This giant anamorphic "calligraffiti" covers more than 50 buildings in the district of Manshiat Nasser in Cairo.

(photo from www.ted.com)

and dynamic cultural landscape that flourishes and thrives throughout the year.

The Festival serves to provide additional context to the exhibitions featured in the gallery, with their openings kicking off the Community week. The three exhibitions featured this year all explore important factors impacting our lives today, ranging from the role of public art, mental health, and the impacts of Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) program. Combining these three exhibitions may have been an overly ambitious undertaking, one that I must confess has pushed me to my limits and challenged me in ways I could not have foreseen at the outset of this journey. In many ways, it was the perfect convergence of events, and while I knew the weight of these topics would be challenging, I could not have predicted the impact they would have on me and, by extension, all those around me.

This experience has pushed me to confront my own limitations and engage in conversations that I never thought possible. Through this, I've discovered an abundance of compassion, empathy, understanding, and care. I hope that these exhibitions will help break down the stigma of mental health and the self-imposed barriers that isolate and protect us. Through this process, I've realized that I'm not alone, and I've

seen how universal these emotions are among us all. While our circumstances may differ, the need for meaningful connection and compassion is universal and essential.

While any success enjoyed by the gallery is a collective achievement, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wife, partner, and collaborator, Julie Fowler. Despite her best efforts, I have pulled her into the chaos of this endeavor. Throughout it all, she has remained a steadfast source of support, keeping me grounded as we navigate this roller-coaster ride together. I am keenly aware of how indispensable she has been in ensuring that we stay on course. All of this is to say that, I need to learn that sometimes less is more. While I want to include everyone, I need to remember that this is a marathon, recognizing that the ultimate finish line may be well beyond my tenure here.

It's been a whirlwind couple of months at the gallery, marked by significant changes as we bid farewell to Brendon, Donna Lee, and Rebecca, who have moved on to new opportunities. We're grateful for their contributions and wish them the best in their future endeavours. With their departure we're excited to welcome Shauna Morrow to our front desk and gift shop team where she will be joining Karen to welcome you all to the gallery. We are also grateful



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to welcome Jenny Long and Shirley McMahon, who have joined us to assist with our education programs during this time of transition. Once the festival is settled, we look forward to reimagining the future of our education and outreach efforts and meeting with our community partners to better support each other and ensure consistent and universally accessible opportunities for educational programming in the visual arts for our entire community.

I deeply appreciate everyone's support, compassion, and understanding. Moving forward, please prioritize self-care and remember to extend that care to one another, fostering a culture of compassion, support, and empathy. I believe each of us has the capacity to make a lasting impact through our actions. If I have one final request, it's to ask that we all remain conscious of the power of what we project outward and strive to spread more positivity and compassion into the world. Thank you for being part of this journey! ♦

Message from the President



Dr. Claude Roberto

President of the Board
Photo © Government of Alberta

You may wonder why the Penticton Art Gallery offers workshops in partnership with Foundry Penticton. These workshops are free and open to youth 12-18 and 19-24 who explore and experience different art techniques on a wellness journey. Why? The answer is simple: To reduce crimes committed in our city and build a safer community.

Arts-based interventions use creativity as a medium to improve a process or a situation, especially one that involves self-esteem, social inclusion and psychological well-being.

The uniqueness of using art as a vehicle to deliver messages on crime prevention is in its ability to make the intervention engaging, relaxing, fun and helpful. Art becomes a springboard to positive change, improving self-esteem and confidence and supporting a person's journey away from crime and towards a new identity.

Arts and cultural activities have a long tradition of successfully empowering youth and people in the criminal justice system to turn their lives around. Evidence indicates that the arts can support the process of desistance from crime and reduction in criminal behaviour. Because they can reach children and youth at risk, arts activities

ARTS AS A TOOL TO REDUCE CRIMINALITY

can be effective ways to prevent or reduce youth crime and drug use, dropping out of school and criminal involvement. Visual arts have also been used to reduce bullying in schools.

Numerous academic studies in Canada and the United States have been conducted and are still conducted to get more detailed evidence on how the arts help reduce crime. The National Arts and Youth Demonstration Project, developed by McGill University and funded by the Government of Canada, was implemented in five sites across Canada (Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and one rural location) to reflect the diversity among rural and urban communities. At each site, the project involved children enrolled in a structured art program. The primary aim of the project was to use the findings of the study to inform policy makers, program planners and researchers on the usefulness and the cost effectiveness of art programs as a prevention strategy aimed at reducing criminality and behaviour problems.

This study explored the extent to which community-based organizations can successfully engage young people in artistic endeavours. The study also determined the extent to which the effectiveness of art programs can demonstrate positive outcomes for children and youth such as: staying in school, improving academic performance, improving self-esteem, instilling hope for the future, encouraging a focus on career development, and, most important, inhibiting their involvement in negative social situations such as substance abuse, crime and violence.

There is a long and complex history of creative arts in the criminal justice system, and currently, there is a substantial arts and cultural life in the system that primarily sits outside of 'traditional' and official rehabilitation and education provision. There is also considerable evidence that participation in the arts increases the

confidence and social skills of those in contact with the criminal justice system. This leads to improved relationships brought about by participation in the creative arts.

Arts and culture are commonly split into activities that are **receptive**, involving art that has been created and is now experienced by an audience (such as galleries), and those that are **participatory**, requiring creation of and involvement in the arts (such as creating artworks). Both types of activities successfully prevent or reduce reportedly antisocial or criminalized behaviours among adolescents.

Several studies indicated that participation in extracurricular activities, including arts and culture, was found to be associated with reduced criminality and associated with lower levels of theft, destroying public property, truancy, vandalism, breaking school rules and antisocial and criminalized behaviours. There is also some evidence that extracurricular activity participation is associated with reduced misconduct two years later among teens, and less school misbehaviour up to three years later.

Another study reported that for each 10 additional non-profits in a given city, the violent crime rate is reduced by 14% (published by Professor Patrick Sharkey in his 2018 book *Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence*). Local governments can aid the development of these local non-profit associations which are assets in crime reduction. It should come as no surprise that access to more and better services has positive effects.

We know arts and cultural engagement is an innovative approach to reduce the problem of violence. The findings indicate that participation in arts and cultural activities provide opportunities for people to realize

positive developmental outcomes. However, most research to date has focused on arts-based interventions and has not tested arts and cultural engagement in large population-based studies. It is important and we as a society need more extensive research focused on arts engagement in schools and communities. Until then, we here at PAG will continue to extend our knowledge of the positive outcomes from the arts. ♦

Sources:

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January/February edition correction: The Penticton Art Gallery Auction Live event was incorrectly listed as June 20th. The correct date is June 22nd, 2024.

THE PENTICTON ART GALLERY'S 46TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AUCTION

NEW DATE: LIVE EVENT JUNE 22TH, 2024

This fundraiser is a celebration of the transformative power of the Arts, and the importance of cultural institutions like the Penticton Art Gallery to the social fabric of our community.

LOCATION: PENTICTON ART GALLERY, 199 MARINA WAY, PENTICTON, B.C.
DOORS: 5:30 PM • DINNER: 6:00 PM • AUCTION: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

CATERING BY: CITY EATS, KELOWNA, BC (JAMAICAN/CARIBBEAN INSPIRED)
 CITYEATSCA.COM

FINE WINES FROM: GOLD HILLS WINERY, OLIVER, B.C.
 GOLDHILLWINERY.COM

CRAFT BEERS: CANNERY BREWING, PENTICTON, B.C.
 CANNERYBREWING.COM

ADVANCE BIDDING ONLINE MARCH 22 – JUNE 19: 32AUCTIONS.COM/PAG2024
 ON-LINE BIDDING ENDS: 9:00 PM WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH

**TICKETS SALES TO BE ANNOUNCED
 FOLLOWING IGNITE THE ARTS FESTIVAL**

pentictonartgallery.com



GIFTS OF

GUEST CURATED BY KAGAN GOH

MADNESS

Runs March 23 – May 11, 2024

Exhibition Opening:

March 23, 2024

7:00 – 10:00 pm

Artist Talks:

March 24, 2024

1:00 – 2:00pm

Foreword by PAUL CRAWFORD

We are honoured to work with our Guest Curator Kagan Goh along with a number of incredible community partners including; Gallery Gachet, the Community Arts Council of Vancouver, Connection Salon, Workman Arts, Rendezvous With Madness and Voices With Impact. As a direct result of this collaboration, we are pleased to be able to present the Gifts of Madness exhibition here at the Penticton Art Gallery which we hope will continue on in some form at one of our presenting partners later this year.

The Canada Council recognizes mad arts within the overall Disability Arts sector. "Mad" is framed as a social and political identity by people who have been labeled as mentally ill or as having mental health issues. Rather than focusing on awareness and coping with stigma, Mad Pride focuses on expressing the unique ways people experience the world in terms of making meaning, developing communities, and creating culture. Mad arts is the artistic exploration of Mad Pride focusing on mad histories and identities.

In line with this ethos, "GIFTS OF MADNESS" is a Mad Pride mental health-themed art exhibition. Our goal is to explore how individuals have discovered the therapeutic benefits of art, and how their creative gifts of madness not only contribute to their personal healing but also play a vital role in healing others. Instead of fixating on disabilities, we aim to celebrate the transformative power of artistic expression and its profound impact on both the artist and the community.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to all the artists who have submitted their work for this exhibition, showcasing their personal life stories, experiences, and resilience in the face of mental health challenges. Your trust in allowing us a window into your lives is truly humbling. Through your art, you not only demonstrate triumph over adversity but also contribute to positive change in the world. Thank you for your bravery and creativity.

"GIFTS OF MADNESS" is about breaking the silence surrounding mental illness and combating the stigma, prejudice, and discrimination against individuals with mental health conditions. We are excited to see the compelling narratives that will undoubtedly emerge from this exhibition, affirming the incredible strength and power inherent in artistic expression, mirrored through your personal experiences and artwork. This exhibition will stand as a poignant testament to our collective resilience, creativity, and the profound influence the arts wield on our mental health and well-being.

Catherine Mellinger
Ten Centimeters, 2023
Photographic collage, found collage,
oil stick, pencil on paper





*Curator's
Statement
from KAGAN GOH
photo: Lydia Nagai*

As a Bipoc Chinese Canadian multidisciplinary Mad Artist living with a mental health disability, I am firmly rooted in the motto of the Mad Pride and Disability Movement - "Nothing about us without us." To genuinely comprehend the multifaceted experiences of those with mental health challenges and to shatter the chains of stigma, prejudice, and discrimination, it's essential to listen to authentic narratives from those with lived experience. My personal mission is to educate the public about mental health issues and help fight the stigma, prejudice and discrimination against people with mental illness.

In alignment with this vision, the "Gifts of Madness" is a two-month Mad Pride mental health-themed art exhibition at the Penticton Art Gallery opening on the 23rd of March and continuing through to 11th of May 2024. This grand event aims to change perceptions of mental illness, illuminating it through the transformative, healing power of the Arts.

The artists whose lives and struggles with mental health form the core of this Mad Pride mental health-themed art exhibition at the Penticton Art Gallery won't merely highlight the challenges of mental illness but will celebrate the often-overlooked gifts it brings, painting a holistic picture of the experience.

"Gifts of Madness" is an art exhibition that will show the Yin Yang duality of both the negative and positive experience and all the grey areas in-between. The exhibition will explore the negative aspects of the experience of mental health, predominantly focusing on the stigma, prejudice and

discrimination against people with mental illness, and the trauma and damage suffered by people living with mental illness. As Lauryn Hill, the renowned bipolar musician, put it, our ambition is to "develop a negative into a positive picture."

This project will aim to shift the paradigm by exploring the valuable and positive abilities, as opposed to the undesirable disabilities of mad artists "touched" with mental illness. We celebrate those who discover the therapeutic benefits of Art - how their creative gifts of madness have helped them to heal themselves, and in the process, help to heal others.

This Mad Pride themed art exhibition will emphasize both the challenges faced by people with mental illness and the profound abilities it can foster. These artists have not only harnessed their unique gifts for personal healing but have also taken on roles as spokespersons, mentors, advocates, and activists, fighting the stigma surrounding mental illness. Through "Gifts of Madness", we aim to showcase their journey from victimhood to activism, depicting how they positively transform culture by turning mental health challenges into unparalleled strength.

So, welcome to the Gifts of Madness art exhibition. It's a wild carnival-like Mad Pride celebration of the Mad Arts. Come join us. You'll be crazy to miss it! ♦

About Kagan Goh

Singapore-born, Vancouver-based Kagan Goh is a multidisciplinary artist wielding creativity as his weapon against mental illness. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder, Goh uses his experiences to shatter the stigma surrounding it. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Goh sheds light on mental health journeys through his films. He's also a published author, his memoir "Surviving Samsara" a testament to his struggles. A well-established voice in Vancouver's literary scene, Goh is a spoken word poet and published essayist who doesn't shy away from difficult topics. He channels his art into activism, fighting for understanding and acceptance. Goh confronts societal prejudice against those with mental illness, aiming to dismantle the discrimination they face daily. With raw honesty, he shares his story, transforming from victim to survivor and advocate.

**Below: My Madness Personified
Tylor Stasiuk
Pencil on Paper**



**Below: Hide
Johann Wessels
Acrylic on wood panel, handmade painted objects**



Toni Onley Gallery

Runs March 23 –
May 11, 2024

Exhibition Opening:
March 23, 2024
7:00 – 10:00 pm

Artist Talks:
March 24, 2024
1:00 – 2:00 pm

Written by PAUL CRAWFORD

The Penticton Art Gallery is seeking the public's input on Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Program in the form of a handwritten, typewritten letter or email to be displayed in the gallery from March 23 – May 11, 2024, as part of our MAID in Canada exhibition

The intent of this exhibition is to provide the community with a safe space to reflect, talk and explore the impacts and the implications of Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Program. If it hasn't impacted your life already it's only a matter of time before you or someone you know will be directly impacted by it. Since coming into law in 2016 over 50,000 Canadians have received medically assisted deaths. In 2022, the total number of MAID provisions increased by 31.2% (2022 over 2021) compared to 32.6% (2021 over 2020) and the annual growth rate in MAID provisions has been steady over the past six years, with an average growth rate of 31.1% from 2019 to 2022.

Our aim is to create a forum for dialogue by putting a human face on the overarching impact of the MAID program, providing a personal context that highlights individual experiences and perspectives. Whether you're currently considering MAID or have had a loved one contemplate or undergo the program, your individual perspective is a valuable tool in helping us collectively process and come to terms with the impact this has and will have on our society. Recognizing the



deeply personal nature of Canada's medical assistance in dying (MAID) program, we believe your unique perspective will help shed light on the impact of this social policy and help us foster a more informed and compassionate dialogue. Through this collective sharing, our exhibition aims to contribute to a more compassionate, empathetic, and caring society.

There are no right or wrong answers and there is no agenda advocating either for or against this complicated and highly emotionally charged aspect of our society including our legal and health care system. In doing so I also realize that each of us brings our unique perspectives which have been shaped by our individual experiences and beliefs and these perspectives are subject to evolution and possibly change as the circumstances of our lives unfold. This exhibition is a direct response to my own lived experiences over the past few years, during which I've known at least a dozen individuals who have chosen MAID. For those who were confronting a terminal illness and enduring excruciating suffering, MAID may appear to have been the most compassionate option. However, for others—especially those for whom

natural death wasn't imminent—coming to terms with the implications of MAID has left many unanswered questions. Setting aside any questions of morality, it's undeniable that MAID presents a challenging subject, fraught with genuine risks and uncertainties both in its current implementation and in any potential expansions in the future.

When I first considered this as an exhibition, the eligibility for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) for individuals solely suffering from mental illness was set to come into effect on March 17, 2024. This controversial expansion raised significant concerns with over 50 disability organizations opposing it in a joint letter to the justice minister in December 2022. They expressed concerns about the interconnected relationships among increasing socioeconomic disparity, social isolation, inadequate affordable housing, and food insecurity which have all contributed to a mounting climate of anxiety and rising addiction rates, exacerbating our growing mental health crisis. In 2023, the heads of psychiatry at all of Canada's 17 medical schools called for a further delay, arguing that determining the irreversibility of mental illness is an

impossible task and raises genuine concerns about the potential tragic consequences of expanding the MAID program. The advocacy efforts of this coalition are directed towards ensuring accessibility to affordable housing, food security, mental health treatment, and addiction support to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Responding to these concerns, the Government of Canada introduced legislation in late January seeking to further extend the temporary exclusion of those suffering solely from mental illnesses until March 17, 2027.

As mentioned above this exhibition has been driven by my own lived experiences my observations, conversations I have had with other who have gone through this and/or are considering this as an option and all the questions, I have been left with to process as a result. The public's participation is crucial in helping us shape a more informed and compassionate dialogue surrounding the impact of the MAID program will have not only on our lives but our society in general. Irrespective of your stance on this issue, we deeply acknowledge that your unique experiences and insights hold immense value in enriching our collective understanding of this complex matter and we are inviting to the public to lend their voice and contribute to this crucial conversation through the medium of a personal letter. Each letter holds the potential to contribute significantly to the depth and diversity of our collective understanding. ♦

"To understand how I feel, imagine how you would respond if I said to someone in a wheelchair 'Grow a pair of usable legs'"

- Kristy Martin
Berkeley, California

CALL TO PARTICIPATE:

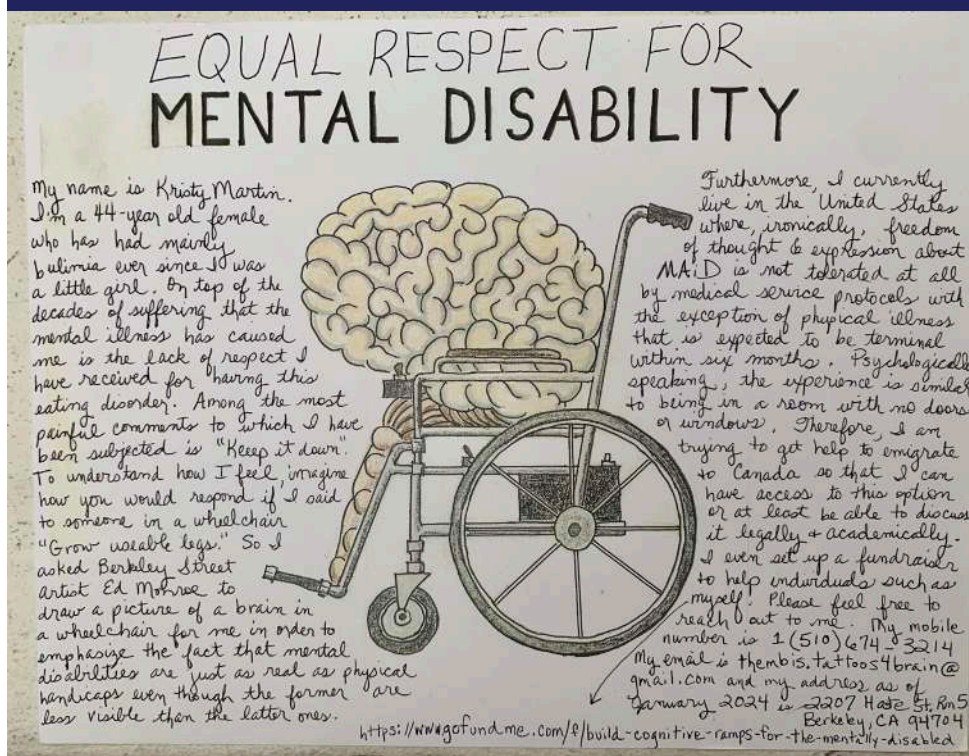
Contributions will be accepted through the course of the exhibition. There are three ways you can contribute to this conversation:

- 1) In person: Penticton Art Gallery, 199 Marina Way, Penticton, BC, V2A 1H5
- 2) Mail to: MAID in Canada, C/O Penticton Art Gallery, 199 Marina Way, Penticton, BC, V2A 1H5
- 3) By email: curator@pentictonartgallery.com

*** Note: Please include the following in the subject line: MAID in Canada Submission**

Each letter submitted will be handled with the utmost respect and reverence, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to engage, reflect, and respond at their discretion. While you are most welcome to put your name to your letter we also respect and understanding the sensitivity inherent in this topic, we prioritize creating a safe and comfortable space for everyone to express themselves fully and your letter can be submitted anonymously, providing the assurance that everyone is welcome to share their thoughts and reflections freely without needing to reveal their identity. Your voice is pivotal in shaping a more informed and compassionate dialogue surrounding this crucial issue.

Thank you again for your consideration, compassion, and trust.



Project Room Gallery

Runs March 23 – May 11, 2024

Exhibition Opening: March 23, 2024 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Artist Talks: More programming surrounding this exhibition to be announced on our Social Media Channels. Follow for more information: @pentictonartgallery on Instagram and Facebook

Behind the Mask: Katie Green

Written by Paul Crawford

In 2022, the Vernon Public Art Gallery joined forces with Calgary-based artist Katie Green and the Turning Points Collaborative Society to develop an ambitious multifaceted public art project. The result was, Behind the Mask, a community driven public art process that uses handmade masks as a way to build community, find healing, and explore self.

Katie Green collaborated closely with 10 individuals from the community and they came together in an intimate three-part workshop series that included round circle sharing, journaling, mask-making, and creative character development. These workshops created intentional and safe spaces to listen, learn, and share one another's stories - putting care and relationship building at the centre of this process. Each participant selected 1 out of 25 small portrait paintings depicting different emotions that lead artist Katie Green had prepared; this portrait would be the foundation for their mask.

While some portraits elicit feelings of calmness and ease, others create sensations of emotional discomfort such as grief and anger. Depending on which portrait the participant selects, their unique emotional reaction will guide them towards the self they wish to explore. From here, following a technique using woven cardboard, they will build a mask form onto which they will paper mache a paper print of their selected portrait. The result is a unique mask that translates their vision of self. Together they explored how everyone relates to their selected portrait, asking questions such as, "how does this portrait make you feel?", "If this character could speak to you, what would it say?", and "If there was a part of you that could be more visible in the outer world, what would it be?"

The project showcased artistic expression and it fostered a collaborative platform for the participating individuals with lived pg 12 —





mental health experiences to share their stories through the powerful medium of art. By designing and wearing a mask, the participants were given the opportunity to present society with an internal, alternate, or imagined part of themselves. The mask creates a unique space - both expressive and anonymous - to share oneself with the world at a time when mental health challenges have affected so many of us this project is a story of hope, courage, and community.

Once the masks were completed Katie Green arranged for photoshoots to give each of the participants the opportunity to wear and embody their mask, exploring aspects of self in front of the camera. In doing they were able to share a vulnerable, beautiful exploration of the unseen sides of themselves. Depending on the character development exercises in the workshop phase, the participant chooses their own costuming and environment for the photoshoot.

In order to bring this project to fruition the Veron Art Gallery recieved more than \$72,500 to bring this project from concept to reality. Initially, Vernon city council pledged \$33,000 in funding for the project, and several municipally owned locations across the city for the upon which the ten photo murals would be displayed. But before the project could go any further an online petition entitled "Say no to Vernon 'scary' new murals," garnering over 4,100 signatories. A counter-petition in support of the murals was also launched but only received just over 1,700 signatures. After the petition against

the murals gained traction, and the city received a deluge of emails and phone calls on the subject, which resulted in City Council requesting that the Vernon Public Art Gallery undertake a public engagement session on the future of the murals as part of an exhibition documenting the project which was held in the gallery. The survey found that of the 353 surveyed 65% were in favour of the mural project going forward. Despite the feedback received the City of Vernon ultimately pulled the funding they had originally committed to the project.

When I first heard about this, I immediately reached out to the Vernon Public Art Gallery to see if there would be any possibilities of displaying them here in Penticton. I am thrilled that we were able to finally make this work and I couldn't think of a better time to host this important exhibit and all the conversations I have no doubt this body of work will spark.

The exhibition will feature the ten masks built by the participants and the accompanying photographs, which were originally intended to be mounted throughout the City of Vernon. The exhibition will also feature a short documentary film that was made during the process. We hope to bring the artist Katie Green along with Sierra Bronkhorst the Learning & Community Engagement Curator for the Vernon Public Art Gallery to Penticton at the end of April to talk about this project and role of public art in a community. Please check the gallery's website for more information as this become confirmed! ♦

About Katie Green

Calgary-born artist Katie Green conjures hauntingly beautiful watercolors. These ethereal portraits act as emotional mirrors, reflecting her own experiences of discomfort, joy, and everything in between. They serve as a cathartic process, with vulnerability laid bare through watercolors depicting pain, pleasure, and the full spectrum of human emotions.

Green's artistic journey extends far beyond the canvas. Her watercolors inspire large-scale murals, mask-making workshops, and puppet fabrication. These creations foster connection and empower individuals to explore their own complexities. Witnessing the masks become conduits for healing and community building fuels Green's passion.

Green's artistry transcends mere aesthetics. She's a facilitator, actively using various mediums - painting, murals, masks, puppets - to spark conversations within communities. Her collaborative approach dismantles the barrier between artist and audience, inviting active participation and unlocking personal creativity.

At the core of her practice lies authenticity. Green strives to unravel the complexities of being human, fostering a space where viewers confront their truths and find solace in shared experiences. Through her art, Green ignites dialogue and transformation within the communities she touches.



ignite THE ARTS!

YOUR GUIDE TO IGNITE THE ARTS: VENUE BREAKDOWN

MARCH 29-31 2024

70+ ARTISTS, 10 STAGES, 1 GOAL: MAKE PENTICTON THE ART'S CAPITAL OF BC!

ignite THE ARTS

ignitethearts.ca

ALL ACCESS Passes \$125 (comes with \$15 voucher!)

DAY PASSES NOW ON SALE!

Tickets/Line-Up/More Info: [QR Code]

Written by JULIE FOWLER

We are so excited to share with you all that is coming up in the 3rd Annual Ignite the Arts Festival! There are lots of ways to get involved and bask in the glow of the incredible arts, culture and music that will be igniting all over town for Ignite Community Week, March 22 – 28 and Ignite Festival Weekend, March 29 – 31.

Head over to ignitethearts.ca, your first stop to finding all the information you need. You can check out all the artists and events, buy your pass for the Festival Weekend and sign up to volunteer – we are still looking to fill a few more spots.

The festival is broken up into two art filled segments, Ignite Community Week, March 22 – 28 and the Ignite Festival Weekend, March 29 – 31.

Community Week features numerous free and ticketed events, exhibitions and intensive workshops. In partnership with organizations such as the Penticton Art Gallery and Penticton Arts Council who are presenting a city wide Art Walk and Exhibition Openings on March 23. The Penticton Academy of Music are presenting both an Adult Songwriting Bootcamp (March 27 – 29) and a Youth Songwriting Workshop (March 25 – 29). The En'owkin Centre is presenting a Night of Indigenous Storytelling at the Dream Café on March 27, and 2 Rivers

Remix who are presenting a free night of Contemporary Indigenous Music at the Cleland Theatre on March 28.

Starting on Friday, March 29 and running until Sunday, March 31, the Ignite Festival Weekend is three days of non-stop music, performance, art, and workshops being held in nine venues across downtown Penticton. Find us at Elks Hall, Dream Café, Tempest Theatre, BritBar, Legacy Den, Highway 97 Brewery, Cannery Brewing, Cleland Theatre, the SS Sicamous, and the Penticton Art Gallery!

With over 70 musical and performing acts to choose from, festivalgoers can cruise between venues and experience incredible music and art, while soaking up the vibrant community atmosphere of downtown Penticton. The festival's lineup features something for everyone, from folk to electronic to spoken word and hip hop, as well as live theatre, dance, clowns, workshops, exhibitions, and a good dose of programming for kids and music to get you dancing.

FESTIVAL GUIDE BY VENUE:



Penticton Art Gallery

Come by on Saturday night (March 23) after the ArtWalk and check out the new exhibitions Gifts of Madness and MAID in Canada. Attend a special Monday evening (March 25) performance by Kagan Goh, Guest Curator of the Gifts of Madness.

On the Festival Weekend the gallery will be host to a variety of workshops, gatherings and special presentations including a workshop by **3 Jack Generation Drummers**, with a special presentation on Saturday morning by **Saul Squakin** about his personal account of how the Sweat (house) ceremony has helped him. What it is, why he does it, and how it connects family and community. Another incredible event on both the Saturday and Sunday, is a reading by **Granville**



Johnson of his new memoir **“Back Story: The Many Lives of Granville Johnson.”** Granville a two tour Viet Nam war veteran, is a life-long artist—a poet, short story writer, dancer, drummer, band leader (Autumn Rose), and multi-media creator. He is also an **outspoken dementia advocate** who has lived with the repercussions of a traumatic brain injury, vascular dementia and converted disorder, for years. We are also excited to once again partner with **SOS Pride on Sunday morning** to host a Pride Brunch and Paint gathering, welcoming all members of the rainbow.



Dream Café

Featuring one of the best live music listening rooms in the country, the Dream Café will be one of our main venues for the festival weekend. Check out amazing singer songwriters like **Francis Baptiste, Valery Gore, Yanti, Naomi Shore, Danny Bell and His Disappointments, Madeline Terbasket as Rez Daddy** and trans non-binary alien **niuboi x earth**. The Dream will also host the showcases of the Songwriting Bootcamp taught by **Selina Martin** and **Don Kerr** (Friday night) and the Youth Songwriting Workshop with **Corwin Fox, Kia Kadiri** and **Tereza Tomek** (Saturday morning). Open to Ignite Pass holders only!

During Community Week, the Dream Café is also packed with events including:

Sunday, March 24 – **SOICS “Unbox” Anti Racism Project**, 1 – 4pm and **snpinktn speaking**, 5 – 8pm a monthly spoken word event. Both events are free!

Monday, March 25 – **Funding Info session** with Creative BC – learn about funding opportunities.

Wednesday, March 27 – **Indigenous Storytelling** featuring **Karen W. Olson, Catherine Pierre, Levi Bent, Candace Gabriel**, Doors 6pm, Stories at 7pm. This event costs \$25 with partial proceeds will go to support the En’owkin Centre Scholarship Fund. Tickets available through the Dream Café website: thedreamcafe.ca.



Elks Hall

With two stages starting Friday, March 29 and running until Sunday at 10pm **The Elks Hall is the centre of the Ignite Festival Weekend**. Until last year few of us knew what a special community space the Elks Hall is in our downtown core, providing a welcoming relaxed atmosphere, affordable eats and drinks, as well as an amazing sprung dancefloor upstairs. Another exciting aspect at the Elks is our partnership with the 2 Rivers Remix to run all the sound and lights! We hope to see you on the dancefloor for incredible acts like **Balkan Shmalkan, Melawmen Collective, The History of Gunpowder** and a special set by **Shred Kelly** Sunday night. On the festival weekend this is where the Ignite box office and artist merchandise will be located. We are grateful to the support the Elks has provided to the festival – they not only provide a great venue and helpful volunteers, but also donated \$5000! This venue is only open to pass holders on the weekend, but all are welcome to join the kick off **“Parade for no Reason” at the Elks at 6pm on Friday Night**.

Following the parade, all are also welcome to join for a performance of fire spinners followed by a special free performance by **Al Simmons** sponsored by Rotary Sunrise Club. During Community Week the Elks are hosting two art filled workshops on

Monday, March 25 – **“Art Requailed” & Pysanky Easter Egg Painting**. At Art Requailed, local artist, Ron Gladish, invites art enthusiasts to infuse their personality into an artwork by incorporating a quail of their creation. For a fee of \$50, all necessary supplies and instructions will be provided. Join in the tradition of Pysanky Easter Egg Painting with a \$25 fee. Please register by calling 250-492-2949 or visit the Elks at 343 Ellis St to sign up.



Cannery Brewing

The first event of Ignite Community Week takes place at the Cannery with the unveiling of the Square Mini Murals on Friday, March 22. All are welcome to come by, but reserving seats is a good idea as this is always a packed event. This year’s selected artists are: **Moozhan Ahmadzadegan, Jenny Lewis, Diana Palmer, Glenn Churchill, Melissa Dinwoodie, Peggy Stel, Megan Traicheff, Jennifer Robinson, Emily Fitzowich & Jolene Mackie**. Come by the Cannery the day of the Art Walk, 11am – 2pm (March 23) to participate in the **Mini Mural Forgeries** where aspiring young artists can try their hand at “forging” one of this year’s murals. Supplies included, with suggested \$10 donation going to OSNS Child & Youth Development Centre.

On the Festival Weekend the Cannery back room “Ale-Catraz” hosts live music from 12pm to 9pm on Saturday and 12pm to 6 on Sunday. Enjoy incredible solo and duo musicians, as well as a songwriting circle on mental health hosted by Naomi Shore.



Tempest Theatre

The Tempest Theatre is the place to go for a myriad of live theatre and storytelling presentations! On Thursday, March 28 at 7pm check out 5 new **Ten Minute Plays** Directed by Kate Twa (Artistic Director of Tempest) and written by **Yanti, Trista Bassett, Kagan Goh, Isak & Eowynn Enquist, and Kate Twa**. And on Friday, March 29 **Denise Kenney** will be presenting her one-person play "Canary". Canary takes the audience on a forensic romp across thousands of years of human history and a poetic dive into the "here and now" in an exploration of how we've arrived at our current mental health crisis. Tickets for these performances are through the Tempest and will also be repeated during the Festival Weekend.

On the Festival Weekend your wristband will provide full access to all the live theatre and storytelling at the Tempest on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will start with a Workshop to prepare for the **One Minute Play Festival** and will continue with a special presentation "**Forged without Fire**" by **Kagan Goh**, followed by Fringe Festival favourite "**Larry**" by **Candice Roberts**. Saturday will wrap up with the One Minute Play Festival at 6pm, followed by the Ten Minute Plays listed above. On Sunday enjoy the chance to catch Canary by Denise Kenney and special Sunday evening showing of Larry. **Please note that these shows will start right on time and Tempest abides by theatre rules - festivalgoers will not be granted access once the show has started.**



BritBar AKA L.E.D. Stage

On Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th, BritBar is host to the **L.E.D. Stage: Live + Electronic + Dance music fusion stage**, featuring an incredible array of Live Electronic and Dance DJs and Hip Hop artists, plus workshops during the day on Saturday. Curated by Penticton's own **Lady of the Mist**, the L.E.D. Stage will feature renown DJs like **JGirl, Hazy Made, and Ember Sparks** on Friday night, exciting workshops like **D-Mystifying DJing, Turntable-ism, and hula and flow dance** on Saturday afternoon and then get ready for some fun on the dancefloor Saturday night with **Jodie B, Quantum Twitch, and Dj Thistle**, just to name a few! Must have Ignite pass to attend the fun!



Legacy Den - (Experimental-Electroacoustic Stage)

Introducing the Legacy Den, a beautiful art gallery located at 441 Main Street. The Legacy Den has been hosting an Open Mic night on the First Friday of each month, and now, **it's stepping into the limelight for our festival weekend.**

Starting Friday night and extending all the way through Sunday, the Legacy Den will come alive with experimental sound performances. Among the highlights is the appearance of world-renowned modular synth artist **J Daniel Cramer and his Ambient band, The Bugs**. In addition to the Electroacoustic sounds, festival goers can also learn more about this genre through workshops, including the popular "**Instrument Petting Zoo**" with **The Cavernous**. Adding to the excitement, local Sound Artist **Danielle Savage** will collaborate with **Andrew Wedman**, experimental musician and piano technician. Estonian Sound Artist **Shawn Pinchbeck**, nominated for Scottish song of the year, and modular artist **Heidi Chan** fly in to join the lineup. With their participation, **the Legacy Den becomes the premier destination for Electronic, Electroacoustic music enthusiasts in British Columbia.**

You can visit Legacy Den on Saturday, March 23 for the Art Walk, and again on Sunday, March 25 at 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm for a **Beginner Performance Prep Workshop: Etiquette and Technical Skills**. All ages welcome. Whether you're just beginning to play music or record, join Rachael and William, the Ignite Production Team, to get acquainted with the technical and logistical aspects of your craft. **Pre-registration is preferred**, email: nightgirlvision@gmail.com or ItsGreyCloud@hotmail.com.



Highway 97 Brewery

Also new this year is Highway 97 Brewery, just across the street from Cannery Brewing. **Hop over there on Saturday and Sunday of the Festival Weekend (March 30 & 31) to hear some storytelling, spoken word**



and live music, all while enjoying some delicious drinks and food. Performances start at 12:30pm and run until 9pm on Saturday and 6pm on Sunday. **Must have a festival pass to attend.**

Auxillary Event Locations:



Cleland Theatre

There are three special events taking place at the city's Cleland Theatre.

Tuesday, March 26, the **Penticton Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts** presents "From Eh to Zed," a captivating evening of music that celebrates the diverse and vibrant musical heritage of Canada. Faculty performers include Jeff Andrew, Daniel Cramer, Mia Harris, Adora Wong, Kelsey Zachary and Yanti. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the SOEC Box Office.

Thursday, March 28, 6 – 10pm, A FREE creative confluence of partners 2RMX, En'owkin Centre, and Ignite the Arts Festival, celebrate the awakening of spring buds and blossoming of creative partnerships in syilx territory. Our 3rd annual collaboration which also launches **2RMX's 2024 season of all-Indigenous performances.** Headlining will be Leela Gilday, Dene Diva, along with Ts'msyen musician Saltwater Hank and The Melawmen Collective, bringing their roots-rock-hip-hop, weaving intergenerational healing of stories and sound. Register to attend at m28.2rmx.ca

Return to Cleland Sunday, March 31,

3pm – for **James & Jamesy: "Easy as Pie."** Rich in wordplay, comic physicality, and cleverly crafted interactive elements, Easy as Pie is uproarious fun. **Festivalgoers can attend this exciting performance for half price** with the special discount code: IGNITE. The show is free for festival artists and volunteers. More info at: www.easyaspiecomedy.com.



SS Sicamous

Another new venue!!! **On Saturday, March 30 the Sicamous will be open to pass holders to experience the Wolf Trail Indigenous Fashion Show.** A partnership with the Ullus Collective, the fashion show will feature local syilx designers showing off their talents! There will be a showing at 1pm and 4pm and between the shows you can mingle with the designers and purchase any work they have for sale. **The Sicamous will be open to Festival pass holders from 12pm – 6pm on Saturday.**



Even more Ignite the Arts "Unofficial" events happening at The Hub on Martin and Slackwater Brewing.

*More Info:
Ignitethearts.ca*



Don't miss out on the vibrant energy and creativity at the 3rd Annual Ignite the Arts Festival! With a diverse range of events spread across 10 days, there's something for everyone. From workshops and exhibitions to captivating live music and theatre productions, Ignite the Arts promises an unforgettable experience. Immerse yourself in the local art scene, discover talented emerging artists, and celebrate the power of artistic expression. Get your festival pass today and be part of the magic! ♦



THE ARTS!
All the deetz at: ignitethearts.ca

MARCH 22-28. 2024
COMMUNITY WEEK!



A Mix of **FREE. PAID.** and **ONLINE** Events happening across **snpinktn (Penticton. B.C)**

FRIDAY
22

Art Walk Preview:
Art of Katherine Wilson
FREE!
4 PM - 7 PM
@ 4th Meridian,
104-1475 Fairview Rd
(Cannery Trade Centre)



Square Mini Mural Unveiling
FREE!
6 PM - 9 PM
@ Cannery Brewing,
199 Ellis St

Live Music: The Feels
\$10 COVER
9 PM - 1 AM
(Tickets at the door)
@ The Hub, 260 Martin St

SATURDAY
23

PDCAC Community Art Walk!
FREE! 11 AM - 4 PM
@ Various Locations



Aurora Matheson FB Page
Sculpture Day & Family Contest
FREE! 11 AM - 4 PM
On Martin St

Kids Mini "Mini" Mural Forgeries
BY DONATION 11 PM - 2 PM
@ Cannery Brewing, 199 Ellis St



Artist Talks
FREE!
1 PM - 3 PM
@ Penticton Art Gallery,
199 Marina Way

Exhibition Opening
FREE!
7 PM - 10 PM
@ Penticton Art Gallery,
199 Marina Way

Live Music: The Feels
\$10 COVER
9 PM - 1 AM
(Tickets at the door)
@ The Hub, 260 Martin St

SUNDAY
24

SOICS Anti-Racism Happy Hour
FREE!
1 PM - 4 PM
@ The Dream Cafe,
67 Colourful Front St

SNPINKTN SPEAKING
FREE!
5 PM - 8 PM
@ The Dream Cafe,
67 Colourful Front St

Live Music: Joshua Smith
FREE!
5 PM - 7 PM
@ Cannery Brewing,
199 Ellis St

Performance Prep Workshop
FREE!
6:30 PM - 9 PM
@ Legacy Den,
441 Main St
Register by email:
nightgirlvision@gmail.com

Live Music: The Fomites, Die Job, Dusty Pines & We Are Not a Cult!
\$15 COVER
7 PM - LATE
@ The Hub,
260 Martin St



MONDAY
25

2RMX Confluence Conference:
Roots 2 Rhizomes
(Runs March 25-26)
FREE: ONLINE
10 AM - 4 PM



Presented in partnership with 2 Rivers Remix Festival (2RMX.) Indigenous Music Industry Professionals will present their craft in a virtual livestream, culminating at an in person event at the Cleland Theatre!

A Hundred Million Suns
Kagan Goh's Poetry Reading
FREE!
7 PM - 9 PM
@ Penticton Art Gallery,
199 Marina Way

Children & Youth Songwriting Camp
\$225 REGISTRATION
(Runs March 25-29)
12 PM - 5 PM
@ PAMDA, 220 Manor Park Ave



Art "Requailed"
With Ron Gladdish
\$50 WORKSHOP
2 PM
@ Elks Hall, 343 Ellis St

Pysanky Easter Egg Painting
\$25 WORKSHOP
2 PM
@ Elks Hall, 343 Ellis St

To secure your spot to either workshop at the Elks, please register by calling 250-492-2949 or visit in person to sign up!

TUESDAY
26

PAMDA Fundraising Concert "From EH to ZED"
\$25 TICKETS 7 PM - 9 PM
 @ Cleland Theatre, 325 Power St

KARAOKE!
FREE!
8 PM - 11 PM
 @ The Hub, 260 Martin St



valleyfirsttix.com

WEDNESDAY
27

Adult Songwriting Camp
\$260 REGISTRATION
(Runs March 27-29)
10 AM - 4 PM
 @ PAMDA, 220 Manor Park Ave

A Night of Indigenous Storytelling
\$25 TICKETS
7 PM - 11 PM
 @ THE DREAM CAFE, 67 Colourful Front St



pentictonacademyofmusic.ca



thedreamcafe.ca

THURSDAY
28

2RMX MOVABLE FEAST
FREE!
BY REGISTRATION
6 PM - 10 PM
 @ Cleland Theatre, 325 Power St



m28.2rmx.ca

10 Minute Plays
\$25 TICKETS
5 PM - 8 PM
 @ Tempest Theatre,
 125 Eckhardt Ave E



tempest.ca

Waves Of Style: Fashion Show
\$30 TICKETS
6 PM - LATE
 @ The Hub, 260 Martin St



eventbrite.ca

FESTIVAL WEEKEND
March 29-31

70+ ARTISTS, 10 STAGES, 1 GOAL:
MAKE PENTICTON THE ART'S CAPITAL OF BC!

3 Jack Generation Hand Drummers, Adventures of Nightgirl, Al Simmons, Andrew Wedman, Angie C, Ari Neufeld, Babyface Brass, Balkan Shmalkan, Bear Naked Noise, Beastie, Candice Roberts as "Larry", Chloe Davidson, Claire Coupland, Corwin Fox, Danny Bell and His Disappointments, Daryl Oneill, Denise Kenney in "Canary", Dennis Hawkins-Bogle, Dennis Thome - Spoken Word, DJ Thistle, Don Kerr, Dream Heavy, Edgar Cal, Ember Sparxx, Francis Baptiste, Frantic, Freshwater Jukebox, FrySatSon, Gautz, Geo the Voice, Grampa Groove: Dance Temple, Granville Johnson, HALF/ASIAN with Amy the CODA, Hazy MADE & Strain K and Crew, Heidi Chan/ Knifey, History of Gunpowder, Hujune, Jacob Dryden Loops, James and Jamesy - Easy As Pie, Jeff Andrew and Danielle Savage, Jeremy Head, JGirl, Jodie B, John Vere, Kagan Goh, Kali Yuga, Kansas-lee, Keisha & Boundless Belly Dance, Kia Kadiri, Kiva MH, Kristal Jem, Kuja Collective, Lady of the Mist, Leo D.E Johnson, Lucas Penner, Melawmen Collective, Mikenna Hope, Naomi Shore, niuboi x earth, Quantum Twitch, Rachel Geick, Raghu Lokanathan, Renite Manisha Gosal, Rez Daddy, Saltwater Hank, Saul Squakin - Men's Sweat Workshop, Selina Martin, Shawn Pinchbeck, Estonia/Edmonton, Shred Kelly, Stephen Hamm: Theremin Man, Steva & The Divas, Tasty Lix, Tasty Lixx, Tenderlove, Tereza Tomek, The Cavernous, The Man From Eldorado, The Myrtle Sisters/Same Same Different, The Oldest Man I Know, Valery Gore, Will Cramer & The Bugs, Yanti & The Wise Guise...and more!

The Adopt-a-Painting Program Continues

SEE THE ITEMS IN PERSON IN THE PROJECT ROOM GALLERY

February 16th - March 16th

Remember the Penticton Art Gallery's Adopt-a-Painting Program, the exciting initiative that lets you contribute directly to the growth of our permanent collection? We're thrilled to announce our ongoing efforts to acquire two exceptional pieces through this community-driven program, and we need your help!

As you might recall from our previous update, the Adopt-a-Painting Program has been instrumental in securing important works that enrich our collection and broaden the artistic landscape we present. Following the successful acquisition of a pivotal Brian Fisher canvas and a substantial collection by Noll Colin Derriksan (Toussowasket), we set our sights on two more remarkable pieces.

This time, we're seeking your support to bring in a powerful artwork by renowned Japanese Canadian artist Shizuye Takashima (1928-2005). This poignant piece confronts the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II, a significant chapter in Canadian history. The painting's acquisition would allow us to share this critical story and its enduring impact with future generations.

Alongside Takashima's work, we're also striving to acquire "Daisies" (1940) by British Columbian artist Jesse Faunit (ca. 1886-1971). Painted amidst the turmoil of the First World War, with the Second looming, "Daisies" takes on even greater significance in today's global climate. This captivating piece would not only strengthen our representation of British Columbian artists but also spark conversations about the enduring themes of war and peace.

Both these paintings offer immense artistic value and will become cherished additions to our permanent collection. By contributing to the Adopt-a-Painting

Program, you have the power to directly influence the artistic landscape of our community.

Every contribution brings us closer to securing these artworks for all to enjoy.

Donating to the program is easy! Visit the Penticton Art Gallery at 199 Marina Way. We accept cash, card, and cheques, and all donations qualify for a tax receipt. Additionally, your generosity will be recognized whenever the artwork is displayed, forever etching your name in our gallery's history.

Don't miss this chance to be a part of something special. Join us in building a vibrant art legacy for Penticton and ensure our community has a permanent connection to these powerful pieces. Contribute to the Adopt-a-Painting Program today and make a lasting impact! ♦



Shizuye Violet Takashima (1928-2005)
Warrior, 1963, oil on linen 46" x 36"
Provenance: The Waddington Gallery, Montreal, P.Q.
Estate of Sharon Irvine (1943-2022)

Purchase price: \$3,500.00



Jesse Faunit (ca. 1886-1971)
Daisies, 1940, oil on masonite

Purchase price: \$500.00

In The Gift Shop + Shauna Morrow Intro!

FEATURED ARTIST: CLAY STEVENS – THE WOODEN ROOSTER

Clay Stevenson, owner and operator of The Wooden Rooster, moved from the Lower Mainland to the Okanagan for a quieter lifestyle in 2017. Woodworking has been a hobby of his since he was young and he found a passion for making custom furniture and cutting boards. Grab one of his creations for yourself in the Gift Shop!

About his craft, Clay has this to say:

"I enjoy handcrafting unique pieces that capture the natural beauty from within the woods that I use. I have a passion for building furniture and a deep appreciation for the time honored techniques that go into making quality handcrafted pieces." ♦



ALL ABOUT: VISITOR SERVICES & OUTREACH COORDINATOR SHAUNA MORROW!



Shauna Morrow

Visitor Services & Outreach Coordinator

Hi! My name is Shauna Morrow and I am joining the gallery as the new outreach coordinator.

I am originally from Penticton but moved to Victoria in 2015 to attend the University of Victoria. I studied English and history and received my Bachelor of Arts in 2019. I moved back to Penticton in October of 2023 and am excited to be involved in the community again.

My professional background includes roles in galleries, museums, and art studios. I have worked at organizations such as the S.S. Sicamous Marine Heritage Park, Craigdarroch Castle, The Robert Bateman Foundation, and the Royal BC Museum Foundation. I have also worked as an art instructor, teaching courses in painting and pottery out of a private studio in Victoria.

I am an avid painter and crocheter in my spare time but love all types of art and any excuse to try a new medium. When I'm not crafting, you can probably find me playing Stardew Valley. ♦

Welcome to the team Shauna!

Programming & Events

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

PAG
PENTICTON ART GALLERY

CREATIVE KIDS
SUMMER CAMP

pentictionartgallery.com/shop-online

Summer Camps

Ages 5-12 // 9:00 am-3:00 pm
 Full Weeks: PAG Members \$165/week - Non-Members \$175/week
 Short Weeks: PAG Members \$145/week - Non-Members \$155/week
 Give us a call, go online, or drop in to reserve your child's spot!
 250-493-2928

- Week 1:** Tues, July 2nd to Fri, July 5th - ARTISTIC ADVENTURES
- Week 2:** Mon, July 8th to Fri, July 12th - ICONIC COMICS
- Week 3:** Mon, July 15th to Fri, July 19th - NATURE EXPLORERS
- Week 4:** Mon, July 22nd to Fri, July 26th - FIVE ART "ISMS"
- Week 5:** Mon, July 29th to Fri, Aug 2nd - ANIMATION STUDIO
- Week 6:** Tues, Aug 6th to Fri, Aug 9th - STREET ART
- Week 7:** Mon, Aug 12th to Fri, Aug 16th - FANTASTICAL WORLDS
- Week 8:** Mon, Aug 19th to Fri, Aug 23rd - COLOUR ME MODERN
- Week 9:** Mon, Aug 26th to Fri, Aug 30th - CARTOON MANIA

NOTE: Please ensure after your purchase of your chosen week(s) you fill out the registration form for your child so we have their information as well!

Registration form and more info at:
pentictionartgallery.com/kids-programming

YOUNG @ ART

FREE FOR ALL

Young@Art

This is a drop-in afterschool art program for youth ages 10-16. It happens every Thursday from 3:15-4:30 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 each class by Safeway.

MAKER MONDAYS
With the Pentiction 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 Pentiction Art Gallery! maker Mondays are 4-week workshops that take place after school on Mondays where kids ages 8-12 can come socialize, learn new art skills, and have fun!

Sessions:

Printmaking: January 22 & 29, February 5 & 12, 3:30-4:30
Nature sketching: April 15 & 29, May 6 & 13, 3:30-4:30

560 Members // 565 Non-members

10 MARINA WAY WWW.PENTICTONARTGALLERY.COM 250-493-2928

Maker Mondays

Maker Mondays: We are continuing our maker Monday's series with our printmaking class and our nature sketching class. Maker Monday's afterschool classes are focused on exploring different art techniques and developing new skills in a fun, creative, and engaging environment.

Topics & Tea with... YOU?

Topics & Tea is an ongoing speaker series that occurs in the PAG Tea room on the last Wednesday of the Month. 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.

We are on the hunt for more speakers! If you have a topic you are passionate about, we want to hear it! Contact Chelsea Marketing@pentictonartgallery.com or call 250-493-2928 to sign up!

Little Leo's Pro-D Day Camp

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.

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

Discover the beauty of nature through art with Emily Carr as our guide! We'll venture into the great outdoors, learn about different landscapes, and create our own masterpieces using paints and natural materials. Let's celebrate the wonders of natural world through creativity and exploration!

9:00am-3:00pm // Ages 5-12 (if 5 years old, must be attending kindergarten)

TOPICS, TEA AND ??????

AND TREATS WITH YOUR HOST ?!?!?!?!?!?!?

Last Wednesday of the Month ♦ PAG Tea Room ♦ 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

SPONSORED BY: **the Bench MARKET**

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

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

We're Hiring

Interested in working with us this summer as one of our fabulous Creative Kids Summer Camp Leaders?

Please send your cover letter and resume to Julia: admin@pentictonartgallery.com

Eligible participants must be:

- Between the ages of 16 and 30 at the start of employment
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- The successful candidate must be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or holds refugee status in Canada
- Must meet the eligibility criteria as set in the program guidelines
- Must be registered in the YCW on-line candidate inventory
- Must be willing to commit to the duration of the contract
- Must not have another full time job (over 30 hours per week) while employed in this program
- Full-time secondary or post-secondary students in the semester preceding YCW employment
- Intending to return to full-time studies the semester following YCW employment
- Not in receipt of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.

Penticton & District Community Arts Council Corner



Greetings from the Leir House!

The Penticton Arts Council is super excited about the upcoming Ignites the Art Festival and all of the amazing and fun activities everyone has been working hard to put together. Here at the Leir House, we are thrilled to once again be organizing the Ignite the Arts Art Walk which will be happening across the city on Saturday, March 23rd. This year we have 24 venues at 21 different locations participating and they are all working hard to make the day one to remember.

We hope you plan to get out for the Art Walk and we hope you plan to make the Leir House one of your stops on the 23rd. We will have our two new exhibitions opening that day, *The Shattered Canvas: Fragments of Beauty in Unexpected Places* from the amazing glass artist Nancy Dearborn as well as our inaugural under-30 group exhibition entitled *13 Going On 30*.

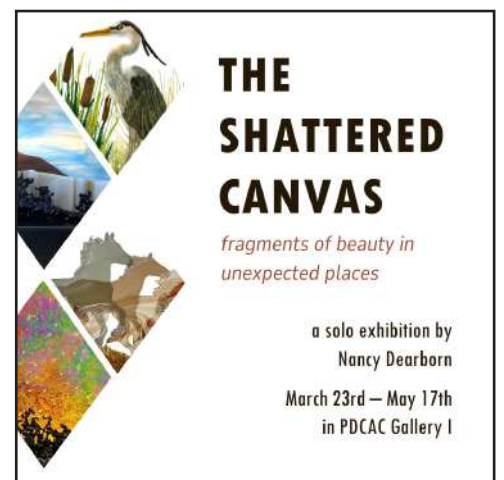
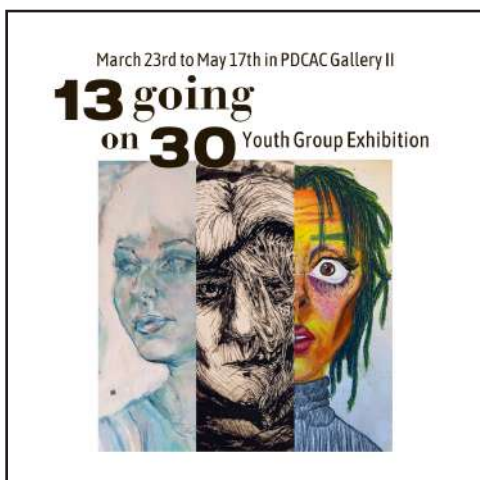
This youth exhibition will be the first, but not the last, held at the Leir House and we couldn't be happier with the submissions we received from the next generation of artists. Both of these shows will open during the Art Walk on March 23rd and run until Saturday, May 17th. The opening reception will take place between 1 pm and 3 pm with the exhibiting artists on hand and a musical act performing. Our stable of talented and amazing Artists in Residence will also be on hand that day with their studios open to the public.

In addition to the Art Walk, the Arts Council is in the process of finalizing a few workshops for Community Week that we think everyone will really enjoy. Follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for more announcements on all of our fun, artsy, activities coming up.

And as we are talking about Ignite the Arts and upcoming workshops I would be remiss not to mention that the PDCAC had been partnering with the Dream Café for their spoken word poetry series, *Snpintktn Speaking*, which will have its next performance on March 24th as part of Ignite the Arts. The PDCAC has been hosting workshoping sessions at the Leir House for aspiring performers to gather, prepare, and critique their pieces. These workshops are free to attend.

With this and oh so much more transpiring during the upcoming Ignite the Arts Festival it's becoming easier and easier to get behind the vision Paul Crawford and the Art Gallery have of Penticton becoming the Arts capital of British Columbia. Here's to making that happen!

For more information visit www.pentictonartscouncil.com or call our office at 250-492-7997. ♦



Loving Mugs Recap

The Penticton Art Gallery turned up the heat for their annual Loving Mugs chili competition on Thursday February 8th. Ten local eateries brought their best chili concoctions, battling it out for bragging rights and the coveted People's Choice Award.

Nearly 200 chili enthusiasts showed up, eager to sample everything from classic Mexican-style chili to innovative vegan options. The event even boasted a record-breaking line before doors even opened, all vying for a chance to choose their own unique, handcrafted mug – a cherished takeaway from the evening.

This year, vegan options took center stage with four delectable offerings, nearly half the competition! Stillfood Bistro impressed with their slow-cooked "very loaded" vegan chili, while Kristine Lee, a longtime gallery supporter, brought her crowd-pleasing black bean and fire-roasted vegetable chili.

But competition was fierce across the board. Match Eatery offered a fiery "Ignite the Night" chili, while Gratify intrigued attendees with their mole-inspired creation.

Ultimately, Cannery Brewing took home the People's Choice Award, with Stillfood

Bistro and Match Eatery close behind. Other awards were given for most unique, beaniest, spiciest, and best toppings, with Kristine Lee taking home the latter for her creative chili cornbread fritters.

The Loving Mugs success story continues, raising funds for the Penticton Art Gallery's art programs while bringing the community together for a night of friendly competition and artistic flare. If you missed out on the chili fun, don't fret! Lovings Mugs companion event, Soup Bowls will return in the fall! ♦



And The Winners Are...

1st Place: Cannery Brewing

2nd Place: Still Food

3rd Place: Match Eatery

Most Unique: Dream Cafe

The Climate Changer (Beaniest): Highway 97 Brewing

The Pepto Bismol (Spiciest): Slackwater Brewing

Best Toppings: Friend of the Gallery Kristine Lee

Best Vegan or Veg: Still Food

Mini Mural Project: Announcing This Year's Artists!

Art lovers and community members rejoice! The highly anticipated unveiling of the Mini Murals takes place March 22nd at Cannery Brewing. From 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, attendees can be among the first to set eyes on the creative visions brought to life by ten of the area's most talented artists.

2024 Selected Artists:

Moozhan Ahmadzadegan, Jenny Lewis, Diana Palmer, Glenn Churchill, Emily Fitzowich, Melissa Dinwoodie, Peggy Stel, Megan Traicheff, Jennifer Robinson & Jolene Mackie!

Don't miss this free unveiling event – **More info:** pentictionartgallery.com/mini-mural-project

Summer Exhibition Announcement: Unexpected Bateman

Article Written by PAUL CRAWFORD

It's with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the Penticton Art Gallery will have the honour of organizing and hosting, "Unexpected Bateman", an exhibition tracing the life and development of the renowned Canadian painter, Robert Bateman.

Over the past 50 years his work has made an indelible mark on the visual culture and art history of Canada, garnering international recognition for not only his art but also for his activism and conservation efforts. As an artist, there are few Canadian artists whose work is as well-known and recognized, not only here in Canada but also internationally. One cannot argue the incredible impact he has had on the visual culture of the past 50 years, and I would argue, by extension, on our art history. His influence on pop culture has been profound, and there are few artists who can claim the breadth of reach and impact he has had on our cultural landscape. Conversely, there are few artists whose legacy has polarized the arts community as much as his work has.

My first venture into the arts came unexpectedly during Christmas in 1987 when I responded to a newspaper ad for a temporary job at Mayfair Mall in Victoria, selling matted book plates by Robert Bateman. Unfortunately, the job was short-lived as the booth owner received a cease and desist letter shortly after I started. Nevertheless, it provided me with an introduction to the world of Robert Bateman.

Coincidentally, my second arts-related job also came from a newspaper ad in November 1989. I became a "gallery" attendant for an exhibition of work by Robert Amos at Honda City in Victoria. Robert Amos, who had served as the art critic for the Victoria Times Colonist newspaper for many years, went on to author numerous books documenting the art history of Vancouver Island.

There was no way I could have anticipated the impact these two brief encounters with the art world would



have on my life. As they say, the third time's the charm, and on March 1st, 1990, I stumbled upon a photograph by Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002) at the Salvation Army store in Victoria. Intrigued, I wrote to him to learn more about the photograph, and less than a month later, I received a letter from the artist with a signed self-portrait. The hook was set.

From that moment onward, I actively pursued not only seeking out and collecting art but, more importantly, reaching out to the artists whose work I stumbled upon. I became deeply engaged with the lives, stories, and art of these individuals, discovering, and fostering a genuine interest. Reflecting on that period, I now recognize that my greatest assets for gaining access to these artists were my naivety, youth, sincere curiosity, love for history, and a strong desire for knowledge and understanding.

During this time, the wildlife print market was booming, and I have vivid memories of the excitement surrounding the offset litho print market, particularly Robert's prints like "Midnight Black Wolf," published by Millpond Press in 1989, and "Air, Forest, and the Watch," published the following year in 1990. It was difficult not to be captivated by the images, the

hype, and the perceived collectability of these works. I recall hearing stories of individuals purchasing multiple copies of prints as investments to resell on the secondary market.

For many, acquiring these prints marked their first tentative steps into the exclusive world of the art market. The validation came from the brand recognition; guests at one's home or office instantly recognizing the art adorning the walls. With each positive comment, the value of the purchase seemed to grow, bolstering confidence in the decision to invest in what many considered a luxury item.

However, these works served a greater purpose beyond mere decoration. They also facilitated a reconnection to nature at a time when we as a society were becoming increasingly disconnected from our surroundings.

For many, these prints served as the gateway to a life filled with art, providing them with an understanding of the value of living with art and the confidence to seek out, purchase, and build a collection of original works by both emerging and established artists. However, for others, the harsh reality dawned that there are no guarantees in

life, especially when things are hyped as an "investment" or a "collectible." Although none of it is of his doing, it is around this issue that Robert's legacy unfortunately becomes clouded in controversy.

Despite the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History hosting the major exhibition "Portraits of Nature: Paintings by Robert Bateman" in 1987, Robert received little to no interest from Canada's public art museums. However, this changed in 1993 when the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria hosted "Robert Bateman: Natural Vision." The impact of this exhibition was further enhanced by the war in the woods, which revolved around the Clayoquot Sound protests which were well underway that summer. It was at this intersection that I found myself participating in one of my first acts of civil disobedience by joining a convoy of protesters from Victoria to support those on the front lines. Through these initial steps into environmental activism, I discovered Robert's own efforts to raise awareness of these issues. As the centerpiece of his exhibition, I vividly remember his painting "Self-Portrait with Big Machine & Ancient Sitka." Which would make a significant impact on my understanding of the power of art and its role in social activism.

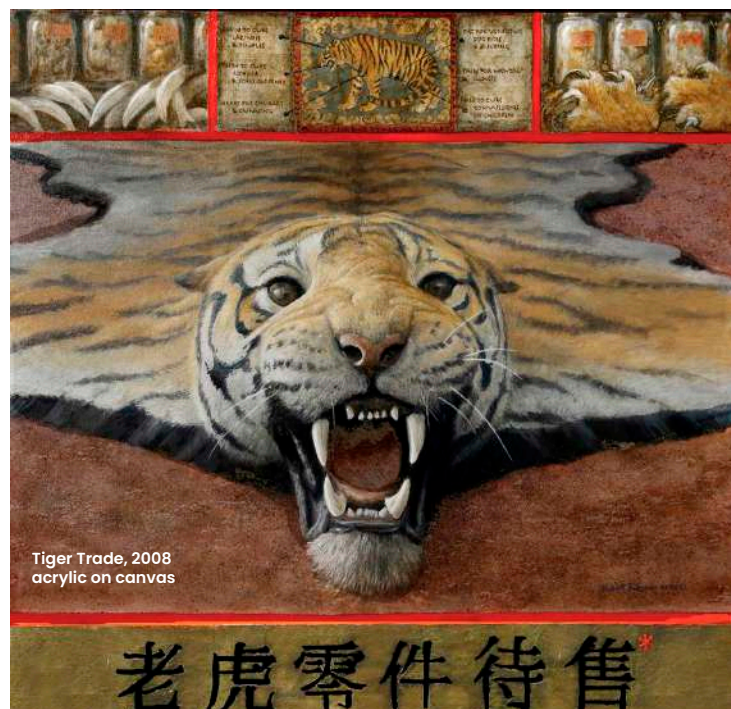
During that period, I read an article in which Robert mentioned his initial exploration of abstraction before committing to the path for which he is best known today. Struggling to connect these divergent ideas, I took the initiative to write him a letter, seeking the opportunity to view some of his early works and gain a better understanding of his evolution as an artist. Remarkably, he not only responded but also included a small drawing of Milkweed and Timothy to help illustrate his point.

His generosity had a profound impact on my perception of Robert and his work. However, after that exchange, there was no direct connection to Robert until this past September when unforeseen circumstances led me to housesit for a few days on Salt Spring Island. While staying at our friends Yael and



Jason's house, as we were away visiting family in Ontario, Yael suggested we attend the opening of a photography exhibition at ArtSpring. Although they were in the midst of packing up when we arrived, they graciously allowed us to quickly explore the exhibition. As we were leaving, I purchased a catalogue featuring photographs by Robert's wife, Birgit Freybe Bateman when one of the attendants asked if I would like to have the artist sign the catalogue, to which I eagerly agreed.

For the past 30 years, I have lived with Robert's drawing, always recalling the impact of that article where he spoke about the roots of his work in abstraction. I'm especially grateful for the generosity he showed me when I wrote him, not only responding to my letter but also sending me this drawing. The lasting impression from attending the exhibition at the AGGV in 1993 has stayed with me.



It's fascinating how things can come full circle, and through a chance set of circumstances, I suddenly found myself in Robert's studio. Behind his easel, on the wall, hung three abstract works by Robert Motherwell, Jack Shadbolt, and Gordon Smith. Observing these pieces reignited my curiosity, prompting me to see his work in a completely different light, realizing that at their core, they are all abstracts. It's remarkable to trace an artist's career and observe the consistent elements that remain true throughout one's life.

In bringing this exhibition to life, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Robert, Birgit, and Kate for their trust and help in making this exhibition a reality. I am genuinely excited that the Penticton Art Gallery is able to host this exhibition, and I hope that in doing so, the public may also experience that same sense of wonder that I first felt when reading that article, a feeling further amplified in all my interactions with him and his art since. Additionally, I hope that this exhibition will help reframe how Robert's work and legacy are viewed and understood in the context of contemporary art history. ♦

PAG AGM & Board Recruitment



Penticton Art Gallery

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday May 29th starting at 5:30 pm
Penticton Art Gallery's Tea Room



(light refreshments to follow)

Pre-registration is requested: (250) 493-2928

Email: reception@pentictonartgallery.com

Do you love art and your community? Make a difference!

The Penticton Art Gallery is searching for passionate individuals to join its Board of Directors. As a board member, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future of this cultural hub. You'll help guide exhibitions, educational programs, and ensure the gallery remains accessible to everyone.

Lend your expertise and enthusiasm – applications are open now!
Tell us a bit about yourself today by reaching out to:
reception@pentictonartgallery.com

The Celestial Wife Book Launch

Calling all bibliophiles and art enthusiasts! Pentiction Art Gallery Hosts Local Author Leslie Howard for "The Celestial Wife" Launch Calling all bibliophiles and art enthusiasts! Join the Pentiction Art Gallery for the launch of Leslie Howard's highly anticipated new novel, *The Celestial Wife*, on **Saturday, April 20th, from 4 PM to 6 PM.**

Howard, a local author dubbed "the family storyteller," will be on hand to discuss her latest work, answer questions, and sign copies. *The Celestial Wife* is the follow-up to Howard's debut novel, *The Brideship Wife*, which became an instant national bestseller.

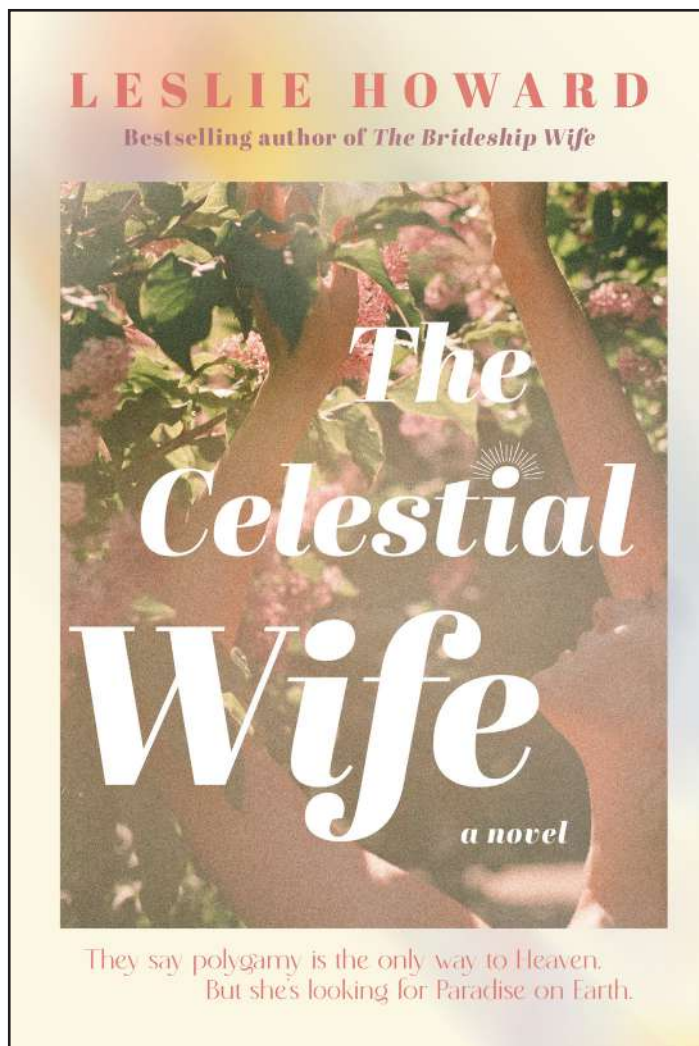
This free event is open exclusively to Pentiction Art Gallery patrons and their guests, along with a select group of Leslie Howard's invited guests. Light refreshments will be served.

Space is limited, so those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP as soon as possible by contacting Alyssa Boyden at alyssa.boyden@simonandschuster.ca

About Leslie Howard

A self-proclaimed storyteller from a young age, Leslie Howard spent her childhood weaving tales inspired by the stunning landscapes and rich history of British Columbia. While her early career path led her to success in finance, her passion for writing never faded. After years spent honing her craft, Howard transitioned to writing non-fiction articles and eventually returned to her true love: fiction.

A portion of the proceeds from book sales will go directly to the Pentiction Art Gallery Gift Shop. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to meet a local literary talent, celebrate the arts, and support a valuable community institution! ♦



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Poster Art by Haley Regan @Haleyregart on Instagram

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