

# ISLAND ARTS MAGAZINE

May - June 2023  
Issue # 64



MADE IN CANADA

DIGITAL  
INTERACTIVE PUBLICATION

FEATURE  
ARTIST  
JOCK  
HILDEBRAND

## STUDIO TOURS

- Denman Island
- Central Island
- Nanoose Bay
- Quadra Island
- Art in Garden

## Thanks to our contributors

### John Warden

“Pausing for a long, slow look, I feel the currents of nature coalesce into compositions of simplicity, subtlety, rhythm, and majesty – asthenic values that colour my thoughts. I breathe out and with a click, my feelings flow, onto the canvas of my camera.”



Photo credit - Debra Kelly

### David Essig

As well as being a Canadian Musician, Songwriter & Producer, David Essig knows his way around the kitchen.

Having spent much time in Italy, he is our foodie columnist, sharing his culinary skills with our readers. Buon appetito and grazie David.

[davidessig.com](http://davidessig.com)



## Island Arts Magazine

### Proudly Supporting:

Sooke Fine Arts Society  
Bateman Foundation  
McMillan Arts Centre  
Parksville Senior Centre

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# ISLAND ARTS MAGAZINE

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# **Note**

**from your Editors**

**Susan Schaefer**  
**Jeff Shields**

**Chace - mascot**

May and June are usually such lovely months. It is the months of new growth, gardening, and very busy time for art events. All over Canada artists are pitching their tents, dragging out their grid walls and displays and setting up a display to showcase their work.

Attend as many events as possible. Engage with the artists. Ask them questions about their art. And buy some art, whether it is a \$5. card or a beautiful garden sculpture. Buy Art.

We did a call out to artists in this edition to send us their images that 'made them happy'. Throughout the magazine, where you see a happy sun, know that an artist has been selected to share their art with our readers.



May is also the month that we give pause to mowing our lawns allowing flowers to bloom to help our early season pollinators. Next time you drive by someone's yard and see that it hasn't been trimmed, congratulate them on helping the eco system one bee or butterfly at a time. Bee Kind and Bee Friendly!

It is also the time of camping, backyard barbeque's and sharing a visit with your neighbours over a cold beverage, or two.

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to all the moms and dads.

Whatever you choose to do, be safe, have a grand adventure and have FUN!

And remember to stop and take time to smell the flowers along the way.

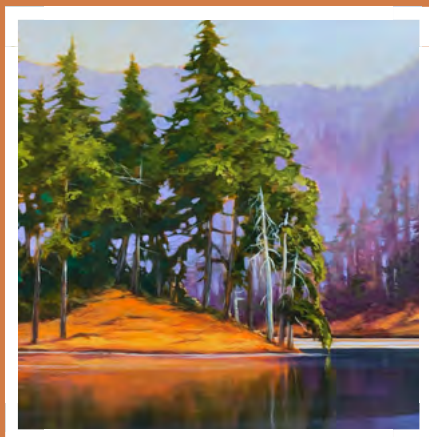
Enjoy the issue!





# C Mawle Fine Art

"The Places That Calm Us"



May 30-June 24

Opening Reception June 3rd 1-3

McMillan Arts Centre, 133 McMillan St

Parksville BC, 250 248 8185

[www.cmawle.com](http://www.cmawle.com)

**Maureen Maryka**  
Contemporary Landscapes

[www.marykastudios.com](http://www.marykastudios.com)



"View from the Terrace", 24 x 24"

Studio/Gallery open year-round  
on the Quadra Island Studio Tour

**250-285-2547**

## CENTRAL ISLAND ARTS GUIDE 20 + STUDIO TOUR 23

The **Central Island Arts Guide** is a regional directory of talented artists, artisans, creators, performers, makers and more.

**CV/ARTS** welcomes everyone to a self-guided **Studio Tour** taking place on May long-weekend. Grab a printed copy of the studio tour map at locations across the region. Be sure to browse the **Central Island Arts Guide** by scanning the QR code to discover more amazing talent.

[centralislandartsguide.ca](http://centralislandartsguide.ca)



CENTRAL ISLAND  
STUDIO TOUR MAP

CV/ARTS

**STUDIO TOUR DAYS:  
MAY 20-22, 2023**



13<sup>th</sup> Annual Event  
NANOOSSE BAY

# Art in the GARDEN

*Come walk the garden and be inspired.*  
Featuring 120+ Vancouver Island Artists, Live Music & Food!

JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> 8<sup>TH</sup> 9<sup>TH</sup>  
GATES OPEN AT NOON TO 6<sup>PM</sup> ON FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup>

Entrance fee \$10 per person - 12 and under free.  
Partial Proceeds going to the Nanoose Community Services.

**FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE**  
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2525 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose Bay



**65<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary!**

**Celebrate Comox Nautical Days  
August 5 - 7, 2023 in Marina Park!**

### Free Festival of Family Fun

- BC Day Parade - Vintage Car Show
- Rides, Games and Crafts for Kids
- Rotary Splash Park
- Local Entertainment
- Shop the 100+ craft booths
- Fabulous Food Trucks
- Festival of Lights Fireworks
- Something for Everyone...

[www.comoxnauticaldays.com](http://www.comoxnauticaldays.com)

**Q** uadra  
Island

**S** tudio

tour

mark your calendar  
June 3rd & 4th, 2023  
[quadraislandarts.com](http://quadraislandarts.com)

**Missa** July 14-28  
At Shawnigan Lake School **2023**

Over 40  
different  
workshops

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## Denman Island Studio Tour

### The 34th Annual Denman Island Pottery Studio Tour Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21.

Part road trip, part art show, part treasure hunt, the 34th Annual Denman Island Pottery Studio Tour is an adventure for pottery lovers and supporters of the arts.

This free, self-guided tour will get you behind the scenes where the art happens. Meet the artists and learn about their techniques and explore beautiful Denman Island.

This year features six studio locations and seven potters. For Bentley Le Baron, master potter, sculptor and painter, this will be his last tour before he retires.

Each potter has their own unique style, so you're sure to find pieces to love.

- Bentley Le Baron's whimsical and mythical creatures, classic functional pieces, and decorative creations can be found both in an enchanted forest outdoor space and several indoor galleries – a delight for adults and children alike.
- Gordon Hutchens, award-winning master potter, has been creating, teaching and mentoring for almost 50 years. Gordon's work features museum-quality pieces as well as functional pots, vases, plates and mugs.
- Tom Dennis' studio is on idyllic Lake Farm where he creates his signature square plates, platters, and mugs and vases.
- Shirley Phillips works out of the picturesque Lilac Sun Studio. Her work includes functional ware as well as nature-inspired textured pieces.
- Jeanie Rogers creates an eclectic mix of earthenware and stoneware pottery, experimenting with textures and colourful glazes.
- Patty Osborne works in porcelain and her lively functional pottery features textures and colourful glazes.
- Sandra Shaffer's pottery features simple stoneware dishes, mugs, vases, bottles and teapots in muted shades. Sandy's historic studio was once part of one of the oldest settler homes on Denman Island.

34th annual

# Denman Island Pottery Studio Tour

Victoria Day Long Weekend. Since 1987.

Part road trip, part art show, part treasure hunt.

## May 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>

Sat. & Sun. 10 am-5 pm



*An adventure for pottery lovers!*



f @denmanislandpotterytour  
denmanislandpotterystudiotour.com

Denman Island is a 10-minute ferry ride from Buckley Bay, between Qualicum and Courtenay on the seaside route, or Exit 101 from the Inland Highway 19.

Pick up your Pottery Studio Tour map from the Buckley Bay ferry booth, Abraxas Books, Gifts & Coffee Shop, the Denman Craft Shop or the Denman Island General Store, or download it from our website.

denmanislandpotterystudiotour.com



## Cowichan Valley Arts Council

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Cowichan Valley Fine Arts Show. This marquis event exhibits the talents of 140 artists across all media. All the works on display are also for sale.

### **Mother's Day Tea, May 13**

Moms & families can enjoy white linen, tea, sweets and a chat with the artists too! Full service. By donation.

### **Art Attack, May 26**

Artists compete in timed sessions as the audience selects finalists for the ultimate "Paint Off". It's tons of fun and participating artists make some pieces available for sale.

### **Working with Gold Leaf, June 23 & 24:**

Bring the warmth and beauty of real gold to your art. The class covers techniques applied over 3 different art pieces. Equipment list provided; special materials included.

### **Introducing the Island's Newest Talent, July 8 – Aug. 4:**

We're seeking artists for the "Introducing ..." exhibition. Contributors must have recently completed a degree in fine arts, art education, a mentorship program, or studies that require studying & producing art. A wonderful opportunity for emerging artists.

### **Summer Camps for Kids, July & August:**

Outdoor, arts and screen-free programming. See the CVRD Recreational Guide for details & registration.

Cowichan Valley Arts Council  
250.746.1366 [cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca](http://cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca)



**COWICHAN VALLEY  
FINE ARTS  
SHOW**

**May 5 - June 2**

Good Morning Iris by Cheryl Painter

In the CVAC Gallery  
Cowichan  
Community  
Centre

**C V A C**  
COWICHAN VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY ARTS PORTAL

**Fine Arts Show OPENING**  
**May 4, 7 - 8:30 pm**  
Visit our website for tickets - \$20

**Mothers Day Tea - May 13, 2 - 3:30 pm**  
No better way to celebrate Moms!  
By Donation

**Art Attack - May 26, 7 - 9 pm**  
"Paint Off" + People's Choice - \$10

**Current Threads - June 7 - July 5**  
Artists of the Vancouver Island Surface Design  
Association present an array of fibre art works  
made by artists throughout the BC and Yukon.

**250.746.1633**  
Cowichan Valley Arts Council  
2687 James Street, Duncan, V9L 2X5  
Open: MON - FRI, 11am - 4pm | SAT, 12pm - 4pm  
[cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca](http://cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca)



## Diane Michelin - Canadian artist



Diane Michelin, watercolour artist is creating an art book.

It will contain 80 sketches illustrating personal quotes on life, love, companionship, freedom and other topics.



Available 2024 ~ [dianemichelin.com](http://dianemichelin.com)

## Lynne Usher Original Artwork - Commissions



Arbutus Stretch, 12 x 12", acrylic on canvas

**Artist by Heart - Follow me on Facebook**  
**(604) 951-3403, Surrey BC CAN**

## Canadiana

**A Visual Celebration from  
Coast to Coast**



**[SusanSchaeferFineArt.ca](http://SusanSchaeferFineArt.ca)**

I'm a greater believer in luck, and I find  
the harder I work the more I have of it.

Thomas Jefferson

## HEATHER BROWN, artist - potter



**250-956-4629**  
**[www.heathermarybrown.ca](http://www.heathermarybrown.ca) Port McNeill, BC**

**CALL TO ARTISTS**

ENTRY DATES: March 15 - June 1, 2023

**Sooke**  
FINEARTSSHOW

**EXHIBIT OPEN:**  
July 29 - Aug. 7, 2023

**SUBMIT ONLINE:**  
sookefinearts.com

**\$12,000+**  
Outstanding Artistry Awards

OPEN TO ALL VISUAL  
ARTISTS LIVING ON  
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ISLAND ART

"A WORD TO THE WISE"  
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## CALL TO ARTISTS NOW OPEN FOR SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW

The 2023 Sooke Fine Arts Show Call to Artists is open now through June 1, and artists across Vancouver Island and BC's coastal islands are encouraged to submit their works for this year's exhibition.

This year will mark the 37th time that Sooke's SEAPARC arena is skillfully transformed into a high-end art gallery welcoming seasoned art lovers as well as those new and curious about the world of art.

From July 29 to August 7, the gallery will showcase original works of art amidst a backdrop of live music, art demonstrations, talks, and guided tours. There are hands-on activities for youth and families, events for seniors and a well-stocked gift shop of artists' smaller works. A gallery of the art pieces displayed at the live Show will also be available for viewing online.

*"The Call to Artists is highly anticipated every year and we are already receiving submissions from artists keen to participate in this year's show," said Terrie Moore, Executive Director of the Sooke Fine Arts Society. "Artists and patrons alike are telling us that they're eager to experience and enjoy artworks in person again and we anticipate great exposure for our artists this year, especially after the success of last year's return to the live show format."*

A distinguished jury panel will choose approximately 375 pieces of original fine art created from every imaginable material, in both traditional and contemporary styles, for display and sale. The Show will also award over \$12,000 in prizes in multiple categories, including art excellence, social commentary, designers' choice, and people's choice. In addition, artists can contribute unique gift items for sale in the Show's popular gallery gift shop, and are encouraged to deliver talks, demos, or guided gallery tours at the show.

Submissions to the Sooke Fine Arts Show are open to anyone on BC's coastal islands creating original paintings, sculpture, woodwork, photography, fibre arts, ceramics, and hand-formed jewelry.

Artists are encouraged to submit their works online before the deadline of midnight, Thursday, June 1, 2023, at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)



2022 Sooke Fine Arts Show  
photo by Shannon Lee Rae



## Shambolic Paths by Leroy Boris



Solo show at the Gage Gallery  
19 Bastion Square Victoria BC  
**June 20th to July 9th**

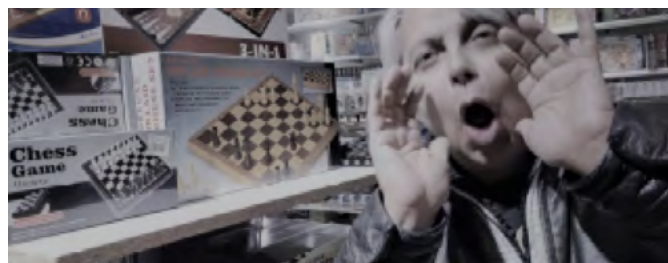
the vernissage (opening reception)  
Friday the 23rd • 5:30 to 8:30 pm  
[www.leroyboris.com](http://www.leroyboris.com)

Also, more generally, I have been influenced by my day job as a certified gemologist, appraiser & designer of luxury jewellery – this profession has given me access to colour, geometrical design, ideas about light & space. Since living in California, 2012-17, I have been influenced by the Light & Space movement of the late 1960s to present: Dan Flavin, Robert Irwin, James Turrell, et al. For example, in a 2022 Victoria Arts Council group show, my painting was curated into the central “vault” room under a fluorescent light, expanding the possibilities of my artwork as “DE-materialized” sculptural installation.

I’m also interested in modern & contemporary art movements about light & photography: impressionism, Dadaism & Op art and in the post-1980s contemporary art theories on whiteness (Althusser) and affect (Kristeva). Finally, I am a keen traveller and Rock & Roller (e.g. in 1980s Montreal, I was the lead singer for a glam punk band).

As I look under my microscope, daily, into the reflections, refraction’s & inclusions in the depths of various fine art gemstones, I bring this with me to my abstract painting genre.

Please join me at The Gage Gallery in Victoria’s Bastion Square on Friday June 23rd , 5:30 -8:30 pm, for the Opening reception (vernissage).



## Artist Leroy Boris

These abstracts, created during the Covid pandemic, were created whilst listening to my favourite music, much like other artists with the condition of synaesthesia. My body of art contains at least a dozen large abstracts, approx. 152cm(5ft)X(3ft)90cm. Across & on-top of each of the artworks’ colourful background schema are jagged black & white calligraphic marks; these linear elements represent an expression of resilience & virility in the face of the unprecedented global lock-down; in a contrary manner: the black & white marks also illustrate the fragility of life itself.



## New Gallery in Cowichan Valley

### Cowichan Public Art Gallery

We are a diverse group of local artists and Arts lovers who desire to add to the existing cultural richness of the Cowichan Valley.

Our non-profit Cowichan Public Art Gallery Society (CPAG) intends to create a World-class public art gallery in the Cowichan Valley to host ongoing international, national and local art exhibitions and associated programming currently not available..

We are a dedicated team, intent on raising awareness and funding in order to realize this project.

The Cowichan Public Art Gallery Society (CPAG) is pleased to announce the opening of its interim home.

CPAG has taken over the lower level of the Green Door Building, located at 126 Ingram Street in downtown Duncan BC.

The Cowichan Public Art Gallery opened its doors on March 16th with a retrospective exhibition of the work of Maggie Hazell-Rosen.



Maggie was one of the first women to exhibit abstract Hazell-Rosen expressionist art in both Vancouver and San Francisco. Her earliest exhibitions, to which she primarily contributed portraits, were in Vancouver in the mid-1940's, but in 1953, after spending five years in San Francisco where she studied at both the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the California School of Fine Arts, she contributed several abstract works to the 9th group show at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Maggie's work is distinctly feminine, with a warm colour palette and often displaying a strong sense of humour. It's easy to recognize these qualities in the work that has been assembled for this retrospective exhibition, which is a very small sample of her total oeuvre. Maggie's show is on until May 13th, Tues. - Sat – 10am – 4pm

Founded in 2017, CPAG is working to build a world-class art gallery in the town of Duncan in the Cowichan Valley. Once completed, the Gallery will welcome exhibitions from British Columbia, Canada and the world — including engagement and educational events for the public. More than 400 individuals have signed our petition in favour of the project and it enjoys support from all levels of government. CPAG is a registered charity.

[cowichangallery.ca](http://cowichangallery.ca)



## Mosaic Artists of Canada

### 2023 Canadian Mosaic Exhibition: Transitions July 1st - August 27th, 2023

This exhibition is presented in partnership between the Mosaic Artists of Canada and the McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville, BC.

From coast to coast, Mosaic Artists of Canada acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territory of all the Inuit, Metis, and First Nations people that call this land home. As visitors on this land and in the spirit of reconciliation, we recognize, respect, and are responsible to the Indigenous Peoples and Territories in which we reside.

All people from all places, races, genders, and identities are welcome and safe here.

Our vision is to welcome Canadian mosaic artists from different communities and create dynamic and inspiring meeting places. The opportunity to build ties between local and remote communities brings us all together and motivates our actions.

[www.mosaicartistsofcanada.com](http://www.mosaicartistsofcanada.com)



"All Summer Long", by Cathy Taylor  
Viewers Choice 2017

The MAC is excited and honoured to host the 2023 National Mosaic Conference. We will be welcoming mosaic artists from across Canada to showcase their work in this juried exhibition, running July 1- August 27, 2023.

We are thrilled to present a series of Artist Talks, July 2 & 3, 2023 featuring some of Canada's most celebrated mosaic artists, and in addition, they will be stewarding an amazing community mosaic mural project all summer long, for our visitors to participate in.

Mark your calendars and bring your summer visitors to see Transitions!

# TRANSITIONS

**MOSAIC ARTISTS OF CANADA  
2023 EXHIBITION**

[www.mosaicartistsofcanada.com](http://www.mosaicartistsofcanada.com)



**JULY 1 – AUGUST 27, 2023**

**Mosaics Exhibit, Workshops, Events**

**McMillan Arts Centre**  
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level, Parksville, BC  
(250)248-8185  
[www.mcmillanartscentre.com](http://www.mcmillanartscentre.com)  
GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY – SUNDAY, 11-3PM

**Featured Artist**  
**Jock Hildebrand**



[jockhildebrand.com](http://jockhildebrand.com)



## Featured Artist

### Jock Hildebrand DFA

By Susan Schaefer



Jock Hildebrand is an internationally exhibited artist of monumental public sculptures, and of dynamic paintings and drawings in private collections. His public art stands in Asia, Europe, North and Central American. Hildebrand's vision of sculpture has been gathered from his almost 40 years as a professional artist.

"Many of my works stem from my interest in anthropology and ethnology, as well as extensive travels. I believe that form itself has a more universal, cross-cultural understanding."

Jock is a graduate of Emily Carr University. After graduating he became an artist-in-residence at the Van Dusen Gardens.

In addition to creating sculpture, Jock is also an accomplished painter in oils, acrylic and watercolour. In the 1990's he was cited by Dr. Edward Gibson, Curator at the Simon Fraser University Gallery, as one of the three best watercolour artists on the West Coast, along with Toni Onley and Mark Tobey.

"Great art must create a poetic universe in which all elements have the rhythm and consistency of authenticity. Great art is magic."



In 2014, Jock and his wife Carmen moved to Maple Bay BC. They have grown a gallery and sculpture garden, called Shibui Gallery. Shibui is Japanese meaning 'complexity in simplicity'. Shibui seeds Jock's creative with a poetic landscape where nothing distracts from the "honest" love of the artist.

continued on page 16...

**Featured Artist**  
**Jock Hildebrand DFA**  
By Susan Schaefer

*Of all the mediums and ways to express yourself in art, why sculpture?*

I love abstract or referential sculpture making as it (rather like abstract painting) seems to me to be a totally authentic medium. No illusions, just allusions.

*You've recently received two international invitations.*

The first was to the XIV Biennale of Contemporary Art and Design in Florence Italy. The second invitation came from the Moon Art Fair in Hamburg Germany.

*How do you feel about being invited without application to these prestigious art expositions?*

I was first informed by email that this invitation had been forwarded from the Biennial committee and just a few days later from Dr Barbara Aus-Wegemund from the Hamburg Moon Art Fair.

To say I was surprised would be an understatement. Both Organizations said that the invitation was because of the quality and depth of my work - something every artist wishes to hear.



As I am now in the more latter stage of my career, this means a lot to have such international attention.

*10 years ago you had a vision of developing a world class art gallery in the Cowichan Valley.*

*Having recently opened the Cowichan Public Art Gallery with it's first exhibition, you must be very proud of seeing that dream come to fruition. Please comment.*

I love to take on this kind of project that brings the arts to a community.

I have a long background as a consultant for large art projects, so it is very satisfying to see the first phase of our multi-phase program come alive. Although I did start the project and set the direction, it was our

extraordinary people on the board that pulled this together.

The real excitement for us will be when the project is complete and national, international and historical art will be available to everyone on the island enjoy and ponder.

~







The Old School House Arts Centre  
122 Fern Rd W. Qualicum Beach, BC

[www.theoldschoolhouse.org](http://www.theoldschoolhouse.org)

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designing a home search  
just for you is my goal.

**Deborah Nicol**

Associate Broker, Macdonald Realty

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### Brian Buckrell - Comox Valley Artist



**For Zoom Classes and Mentorship**

[www.BrianBuckrell.com](http://www.BrianBuckrell.com) email: [bbuckrell@shaw.ca](mailto:bbuckrell@shaw.ca)



A creative life is an amplified life. It's a bigger life, a happier  
life, an expanded life, and a hell of a lot more interesting life"

- Elizabeth Gilbert



'Painting Japanese Lanterns', Oil on Canvas 12 x 48"

artist Trudy Broadley, Nanaimo BC

Painting these lanterns made me and visitors to my studio happy.

## What is Botanical Printing

Botanical printing has been the rage for the past few years. But what is it?

Botanical Printing (also called Leaf Printing and Eco Dyeing) is a form of natural dyeing where the colours or natural dyes from plant materials such as pigments and tannins are transferred to another object such as paper or fabric via steaming or boiling.

In medieval times, the technique was used to illustrate plants. During the Renaissance, a print of a sage leaf appeared in a manuscript by Leonardo da Vinci, along with instructions for botanical printing.



Botanical printing did not re-emerge in popular culture until the early 1990s when artist, India Flint started working with eucalyptus and fabric. Flint is credited with reviving and developing the process now widely referred to as 'eco-printing'.

For any textile design enthusiast botanical printing offers a world of possibilities. With it, you can decorate items of clothing, paper, fashion accessories, wall hangings, jewelry, decorative items for your home, and much more.



India Flint

## Connie Chaplin

**Botanical  
Printing Artist  
Potter  
Gallery Owner**



"I was fortunate to work at the Hansen-Ross Pottery Studio in Fort Qu'Appelle SK in my early 20's. When Folmer Hansen decided to retire, I purchased the house, renovations began and it opened in May 2018. Hansen-Ross House Gallery and Artists in Residence is now open.

I am currently working on a new line of clothing, scarves and shawls that are dyed, designed and sewn using only Saskatchewan craftsmanship and organic materials."

### Classes Available

**Connie Chaplin (306) 332-7494**  
**[www.hansenrosshouse.com](http://www.hansenrosshouse.com)**





# The Last Hurrah

by Lynn Orriss

I moved to Parksville with my husband and dog in May of 1996. There was an advertisement in the local paper about an upcoming AGM for the District 69 Community Arts Council in early June. I thought it would be an opportunity to meet some local artists so I attended.

I was elected to the Board of Directors, a position that I held for many years. At the time, the building that we now know as the MAC (McMillan Arts Gallery), was a ballet school. There was no public space in Parksville for artists to hold meetings, exhibitions, workshops, recitals or other artistic endeavours. Our small but feisty group finally negotiated for a space which is now the Oceanside Gallery.

I became a member of TOSH (The Old School House Arts Centre) and was a resident artist for 25 years, retiring in 2021. I taught art classes for children and adults for many years at the MAC and TOSH.



## About the exhibition, The Last Hurrah!

One of the issues with aging is that the energy that you think you have seems to dissipate very quickly and is replaced with the proverbial aches and pains. Despite this, I decided to apply for a solo exhibition to celebrate my 80th birthday and showcase some of the artwork that I have done over a period of years.

The exhibition will be held in the Oceanside Gallery at the MAC. This has special significance for me as it was the first gallery space that we had here in Parksville. In 2010, it hosted our exhibition called Orriss x 3; my son Christopher who passed away in 2012, my daughter in law, Dixie and myself.

I will present a few paintings representing work from the mid 80's as well as my current work. It is quite a mixed bag!

The Last Hurrah! • May 2 - 27, 2023  
Opening Reception Saturday, May 6th, 1:00 - 3:00  
McMillan Arts Center  
133 McMillan Street, Parksville BC

Enjoy the show!

### Galleries Bring them Together

by Rebecca Hazell

Do you own a pair of jeans? Eat from dishes? Live in a dwelling? Then you have contact with art. Someone designed those jeans, dishes, homes, and though they may call themselves clothing designers, artisans or architects, what these people do is make practical art that allows you to enjoy and appreciate your life.

Art galleries do the same thing: they too beckon you to enjoy and appreciate your life. But you might think, "Oh, art. That's just stuff on walls. It has nothing to do with me. Besides, I can't even draw a straight line." In school, you might have doodled on margins but felt that math and science were the real things. In an art gallery, you learn otherwise, and your world gets bigger and more interesting.

Here's what art galleries do and how they do it. They have stuff on walls, often in the middle of the floor (sculpture), and sometimes even on the ceilings (installations). Some art includes writing, music or video. Some invites you to get inside and interact with it. Every piece of art is like a window on a new world that says, "You could see this in a new way!"

Children 'get' art right away. They know that art is both play and work in happy balance. Galleries offer many ways for children to participate in both making and understanding art as a way of leading fuller, more creative lives—art is a form of problem solving that engages both brain hemispheres.

Galleries serve every age group. Young parents bring babies to be surrounded by colour and to enjoy the calm of a place dedicated to appreciating. Galleries offer programs that show us how to see and experience art more fully. A gallery inspires and challenges us to grow bigger and to appreciate life.

A commercial gallery represents a handful of artists and promotes and sells their work. It's a private business and entry is free. Another kind of gallery is member-run by artists. It's partly commercial and it may offer excellent programs to the public. These galleries showcase members' art, exposing artists to the public eye, but members pay to participate in shows and then hope for sales.

A third kind is a public gallery. It is funded by a general membership and also partly funded by government in countries like Canada where art is recognized as a true form of wealth and as part of their heritage. A public art gallery hosts traveling exhibits of international status and also creates a collection that represents the best of local and international art. Public galleries pay artists, honouring what artists contribute to society. They also run educational programs, host events, store archival materials, and sometimes offer cafes and gift/book shops. You often pay to get in, but you would pay more for a movie with treats.

Other galleries are government owned and operated, with supplemental memberships. They exhibit the best of their country's or city's art and run on the same lines as public art galleries. You generally pay to get in there but the cost helps support all those galleries and their programming.

There is one last kind of gallery: an art museum. Often found in major cities, they generally focus on a particular kind of art like Asian, modern, First Nations or medieval European. They are similar to public galleries and offer the same services. Wealthy art lovers often fill them with their private collections.

It doesn't much matter what kind of gallery you go to: just go! Discover your inner artist, who is begging for attention. Your life will be enriched beyond measure. ~





## Blue Jeans and Rubber Boots

By *Susan Schaefer*

### Cutting Grass

May on the farm meant that the days were warmer and the ground was dry and warm. My dad would be driving rectangles in the field trying to get his crop in, always with one eye on the neighbours, to see who was in the lead. My mother would plant her huge garden, trying to grow enough produce to keep her family of seven fed throughout another calendar year.

And it was also the time of year when the grass would grow like a weed and needed constant mowing.

Let me just give you some background. We had a large farm yard. There were no riding mowers, electric lawn mowers, or even quick, easy start mowers. No. We had a graveyard of old lawnmowers piled high in one of the sheds, and out of there you would drag

out a mower that was the least rusted up and could possibly make it through another season.

You would check it for gas and oil. Then, wearing a glove, you would pull and pull until your shoulder was almost out of it's socket until you heard a little cough, choke and a sputter. Oh come on baby, you can do it. A few more pulls and a few more sputters. There was a trick to this and perfect timing was needed as you had to move the lever that controlled the speed up just a bit until it would sputter, kick out a spray of dark smoke and then start. Once you got the mower started, you ran like a 'bat out of hell' around the yard cutting the grass, not daring to stop, in fear of the lawn mower quitting. No bathroom breaks allowed, or you may never get it started again. Hopefully you could swatch a fair bit of grass before it ran out of gas.

Once that happened, you'd drag your tired little body into the house, parched and overcome with heat stroke to have some ice cold kool-aid. There's nothing like a brain freeze to shake you up. Looking out the window you could see your accomplishment, as you realize the blade was dull and only cutting every second blade. Here's hoping nobody notices.

It was truly a blessing when Monday morning came around and you had a few hours break as we were off to school. After school you were grateful to have a little homework. "Sorry I would love to cut grass tonight, but I have way too much school work to do." Then the parents would send some other poor little foundling out to get it done. Snicker, snicker.

And wouldn't you know it, just as the last siblings started to leave the nest, a riding mower magically appeared on the farm.

Now I hardly ever cut the grass, as that is my spouse's domain. But there is camaraderie in joining him for a beer after it is all cut. Except in May when we practice No Mow May.





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**DRAW Gallery** is pleased to open our 'Gallery Beyond Walls' offering contemporary Canadian West Coast Art in an intimate setting. Celebrating the diversity and talent of local and regional artists. Works by gallery artists can be viewed and purchased online or on location.

May 9th – Jun 30th, Our Creative Nature - Group Exhibit

DRAW Gallery continues in our tradition of showcasing work from a variety of our gallery artists with originals & prints including paintings, photographs, mixed media, glass and copper featuring work by local and Island Artists such as Cecil Dawson, Karen MacRae, Patricia Mansell, Jillian Mayne, Ann McIvor, Shannon McWhinney, Emma Paveley, Mark Penney, Sarah Platenius, Todd Robinson, Susan Schaefer, Sue Thomas, Gordon Wilson among others.

Works exhibited in the Gallery are available for viewing from home with our Online 'Gallery Beyond Walls' and onLocation, too!

Visit us onLocation at the corner of Melrose & 8th Ave in the dynamic Alberni Valley.

Open Tuesday thru Friday 12-5 pm and by Appointment, too! Call 250-724-2056 or toll free 855-755-0566 [www.drawgallery.com](http://www.drawgallery.com)

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Pool Party Bear, 36 x 48"

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[www.jordanperkins.ca](http://www.jordanperkins.ca)  
250-304-4906



"Charlie Imbibes". 9x12 Coloured pencil, pastel background on UArt 600, artist Brenda Hughes [www.bjayhuspetportraits.ca](http://www.bjayhuspetportraits.ca)

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## Nova Scotia invests in the Arts



Nova Scotia: Province's cultural organizations applaud "generational investment" in the arts.

The provincial budget adopted the sector's recommendations to address a 16-year budget freeze and ensure the vitality and well-being of communities across Nova Scotia.

(Kjipuktuk/Halifax) Cultural organizations from across Nova Scotia are applauding the provincial government's commitment to "broad, critical, urgent support for the arts" in the 2023-2024 provincial budget.

"The provincial commitment to doubled funding of operating support programs will bring the cultural sector up to a level that enables not just survival but growth, leading to increased employment, programming, and the health, social, and economic benefits inherent in living in a province with a vibrant arts scene," said Chris O'Neill, Executive Director at the Ross Creek Centre for the Arts.

"Bringing funding up to 2023 levels means that cultural organizations can spend less time stressing about making ends meet and more time focused on providing meaningful and essential programming for our communities," said Janet Larkman, president of the Atlantic Presenters Association and executive director of King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal.

"Many arts and culture organizations in Nova Scotia have never been able to access operational funding, because the funding envelope has been frozen since 2006," said Stephanie Domet, co-founder and co-executive director of AfterWords Literary Festival.

source: Press Release Thurs. March 23, 2023  
MS. CHRIS O'NEILL, Executive Director  
Ross Creek Centre for the Arts Canning NS,  
[www.artscentre.ca](http://www.artscentre.ca)



"The Simple Things"  
12"x24" Acrylic on Canvas  
by Sabine Kearns, Nova Scotia

What makes me smile? Cheeky crows and quilts in the ocean breeze!

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## Lloyd Major

1939 - 2023

Saying Goodbye to  
Lloyd Major

Fine Artist, Mentor,  
Instructor and Friend



## ANATOMY OF A CRIME THE NORVAL MORRISSEAU ART FORGERIES

Investigators are calling it “the biggest art fraud in world history.” The primary victim is the “grandfather” of contemporary Indigenous art in Canada, Norval Morrisseau.

After a two-and-a-half year investigation, in early March OPP and TBPS charged eight individuals in connection with the decades-long forgery ring and seized more than 1,000 works. The investigators say there are likely thousands more imitation Morrisseau paintings still to be found. The accused, ranging in age from forty-seven to eighty-one, face a total of forty charges related to forgery, fraud, and criminal organization.

source: Art Canada Institute

## Cindy Seto



Photographer  
of Traditional  
Chinese Fan  
Dance

647-230-0421  
cindyseto26@gmail.com

Folk dance has a long history in traditional Chinese culture and has taken diverse forms over millennia. Dance has always been closely connected with the common people, reflecting their ideas, their labour, and their daily lives.

Dancing female figures are the main subject of my artwork. My intention is to reflect on connections between ancient Chinese dance traditions and contemporary forms of dance. My work is inspired by memories from my childhood where I performed Chinese dance with a group of dancers in front of an audience. My photos seek to capture the flexibility and strength of the human body, while at the same time commenting on what human beings are capable of, not just in dance and the arts, but more profoundly.

~ by Cindy Seto



By David Essig

### Roast Lemon Chicken with Potatoes

Here is a classic Italian springtime dinner - tasty goodness for Easter, Passover, or any special occasion. This recipe uses the old Roman technique of roasting whole fowl with fruit in the cavity. In this case, a single lemon turns simple roast chicken into an elegant dinner.

Start with the potatoes. Cut into quarters about a pound of Yukon golds or small red potatoes. Cover with cold water, add a little salt and an entire lemon, stuck through several times with a chopstick or other pointed utensil. Set the burner on high and bring to a boil. Once boiling, turn down the heat to medium, so that the water still bubbles a little and cook for 10-12 minutes. Drain the water off, remove the lemon, but leave the potatoes in the pan. Return the pan to the stove and, with the burner on medium, shake the pan so that the heat drives off the steam and dries the potatoes. Add a tablespoon or two of olive oil and stir well. Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Rinse the whole chicken, inside and out, with cold water. Pat dry with towels and rub the exterior with olive oil. Sprinkle salt and pepper over both the interior and exterior of the bird. Place the boiled lemon from the potatoes inside the cavity and add several sprigs of thyme or rosemary, if you have them. If you don't have fresh herbs, dried will work but use sparingly. Truss the legs together with some string and place the chicken breast-down in a large roasting pan. Place in the oven and roast for 30 minutes.



Remove the pan from the oven and flip the chicken over on its back. Surround it with the potatoes, stirring in any juice that has accumulated in the bottom of the pan. If there isn't much juice, maybe drizzle a bit more olive oil over everything. Return to the oven for another 30 minutes. Now turn up the oven to 400 F and cook for an additional 15 minutes or until the thighs move easily and the juice from the dark meat runs clear.

When finished cooking, remove the lemon and herbs from the cavity. Place the chicken on a cutting board or serving platter and tent in aluminum foil for 10 minutes before carving. Stir the potatoes around in the juice in the roasting pan and add them to the board or platter.

Slice at the table, serve and enjoy one of the great classics of the la cucina Italiana. This dinner pairs well with a simple crisp salad and a bottle of good red wine, like a Valpolicella from Italy, or closer to home, a Syrah from Road 13 in the Okanagan.



**The Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley is excited to present 3 acrylic workshops by instructor Susan Schaefer**



### **MAY 6 – THROUGH THE FOREST INTO THE LIGHT**

In this workshop we will loosen up and use bold and bright colours to paint the background light as it shimmers through the forest. You will have fun working on the foreground with the tangle of twisted branches and play with light and dark.



### **JUNE 10 - WEST COAST TREES**

A fun day of exploring west coast trees. Susan will have you looking for the shapes and patterns, simplifying the lines while exaggerating the flow and curves of the trees. Let loose, paint big and let's have some fun.



### **JULY 15 – SUNFLOWERS / FUN FLOWERS**

What says summer more than brightly coloured sun-flowers? They are the perfect subject to paint offering showy colours, curvy lines and forgiving designs.

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**Location: #7 - 5440 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, BC**  
**Cost: \$125. per class. All levels welcomed.**  
**Register: 250-724-3412 or**  
**online at [www.alberniarts.com](http://www.alberniarts.com)**

**Yvonne Maximchuk**

**Author - Artist - Potter**

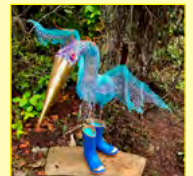
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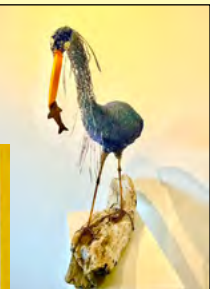
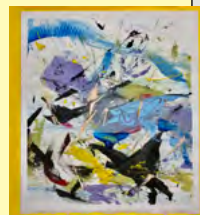
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# TECH TALK

By Jeff Shields [yaadev.com](http://yaadev.com)

## How accurate is AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is making its mark in all kinds of endeavours including writing, art, technology, science, search engines and the list goes on. It begs the question, "how accurate is AI".

The published answer to this is 95%. However, accuracy is not a term that can be used without prior definition. Currently AI accuracy is defined as an average by comparing right vs wrong answers. When you use averages to generate results, the answer can be skewed.

For instance, AI will always answer 'no' to the question, "do I have Covid?" The reason is that the number of cases of Covid compared to the world population is very small. There are approximately 19 million cases of Covid world wide in a total population of 7.7 billion. So statistically there is only a 0.24% chance you have Covid. The 'no' answer would have an accuracy greater than 99%. It is the 0.24% positive cases it misses that are important. You could die based on this answer, not an ideal outcome. I would label it a failure.

Also AI is not capable of determining if the underlying data used to make some prediction is accurate or not or even true. The saying "garbage in, garbage out" springs to mind.

That being said, there are areas where AI can be very useful as long as the question is not a "yes/no" scenario. Analyzing computer code and fixing errors and improving performance have been very successful.

Give AI the right data and the right question, then accuracy increases exponentially. AI does not "think" but uses statistical analysis to predict its outcome. As seen in the above Covid example, accuracy can be high but the answer may not be helpful. It will take some human interpretation to discern if the answer AI provides is correct, accurate and useful.

AI can learn at an incredible rate. It is even at the point where it is re-writing its own algorithms. It will be necessary to increase and improve the underlying data and re-evaluate the questions and responses produced.

If your need for AI is critical in nature, be aware that you will need to make your own judgements on its responses. Non-critical needs such as analyzing computer code, generating text or art, or researching a subject, then AI can be and is a very powerful tool.

There are a number of websites where you can play with AI for free so you can experiment with it yourself. Have fun.

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## Next Edition Island Arts Magazine

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Photograph by Jacqueline Kumar, Campbell River BC  
The Bees are hardest at work during springtime.  
[jacquelinekumarphotography.mypixieset.com](http://jacquelinekumarphotography.mypixieset.com)



City Summer by the Sea,  
36 x 40 inches, oil on canvas  
Artist: Terrill Welch  
Mayne Island BC

There are places that become boomerangs for decades of memories even at first glance. Trafalgar Park lookout along King George Terrace in Victoria, British Columbia is one of those places. I wandered in and just wanted to stay and paint us a window into time.

[TerrillWelchArtist.com](http://TerrillWelchArtist.com)

# Perspectives by John Warden

## A Taste of the Wild

I got to spend some time with a peregrine falcon recently and it was an awesome experience. 'Be drawn into my gaze and taste the wild', said the falcon, and so I let myself go, falling into eyes that seemed to be as old and deep as the universe.

Such a wonderful experience, though, carries with it a red flag of warning: Nearly exterminated! Six pairs of falcons, only twelve birds, was the estimated number of peregrines left in the wild in Alberta in 1970. The agricultural insecticide DDT was the culprit. Fortunately, it was banned in Canada the following year.

Hoping to help recover the decimated peregrine population, Richard Fyfe, a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, initiated a captive breeding program. By 1976, the first pair of captive born falcon chicks were released back into nature. By the time the program ended twenty years later, 1,550 chicks, hatched and raised at the Endangered Species Breeding Facility at Wainwright, Alberta, had been freed to repopulate the environment.

Fyfe, who became known as the man who saved the peregrine falcon, would, in the year 2000, receive the Order of Canada for his conservation efforts.

The Peregrine is a symbol of wildness...the peak of evolution...the grand design of the creator. – Richard Fyfe

Thankfully, due to the work of Fyfe, his team, and similar programs across North America, peregrines are no longer considered endangered, or even 'at risk'. But it's easy to forget, or perhaps, never to have known that this symbol of wildness was once perched on the precipice of extinction.

What a privilege, then, to spend some time with a wild falcon and to be able to share my peregrine portrait with the Island Arts community and, via social media, with the global community. Like all artists, I appreciate comments about my work and Andrew Ferguson of Sooke, BC, took the time to offer a particularly poignant comment. 'You can see a spark from the big bang in those eyes'.

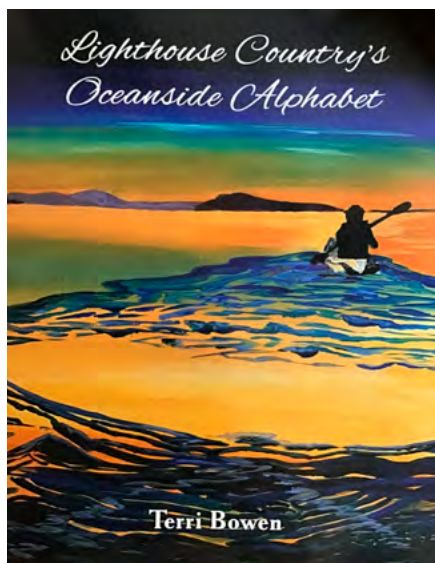
What more could an artist want?





## Oceanside Alphabet

Lighthouse Country's Oceanside Alphabet – a Children's Illustrated Book of Local Flora and Fauna by Terri Bowen



I love this area of our island! The sea, the greenery, all the activities! To share my love of our local flora, fauna and happenings, I was longing to share my enthusiasm by publishing a playful and vibrant alphabet book which highlighted for kids our Salish Sea, Vancouver Island and their many splendours.

During my 30 plus years of teaching, I facilitated school divisions, individual schools and my writing clubs in publishing dozens of illustrated student writing anthologies of poetry and short stories. Many school libraries hold the book published by my largest club of 130 students. Before I “graduated”, I coached a Grade 4 writing

club to publish the illustrated book “I Want to Go Where the Wild Flowers Grow”, which was recognized as one of the top 10 in Canada in Scholastics “KidsCanWrite” competition. It was great fun seeing how these young writers were so motivated to record their thoughts and dreams and use paint to make their words come even more alive. So I was itching to carry on some of this work during my retirement.

In my book, each alphabet letter has a three or four word alliterative text and features four unique kid-friendly paintings of mine which are printed on a black background. There is a glossary which helps children and adults identify unknown images and a little quiz at the end for them to test their memory.

Many birds such as the gull, Stellar's Jay and Oyster catcher are featured and favourite mammals such as the Orca, dolphin, sea lion and otter are highlighted. Artists' tools and paintings of our awe-inspiring landscapes are sprinkled within the book.

I think you will enjoy sharing this book with your grandkids or children or students. They might even be motivated to draw or paint their own illustrations of

related images or make up their own pages of alphabet-related animals, plants and activities of our island and its surroundings.

My volunteer teaching for Vancouver Island University's Elder College and Courtenay's North Island College has grown my continued love for sharing unique and interesting aspects of our island and for encouraging others to grow their creativity through painting their dreams and favourite images. I hope in sharing this book, that others will become more knowledgeable about Vancouver Island and the Salish Sea's phenomenal breadth of nature and possibilities.

The book can be purchased through most on-line publishing companies such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble and independent stores.



## PQB Fruit Tree Project

The McMillan Arts Centre is very pleased to announce that, in partnership with the PQB Fruit Tree Project, has received a grant through Agriculture Canada Local Food and Infrastructure Fund and are now breaking ground on a wonderful new Community Art Garden beside the McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville BC.

This garden will feature fruit and berry trees, raised garden beds plus picnic tables, that will be wheelchair accessible, and a paved pathway meandering through this welcome and creative garden. A 16 X 20' greenhouse will provide a teaching area, dehydration station and hydroponic areas to grow produce year round and host workshops and classes in all things garden: flower arranging, bonsai, herb gardens, small garden urban spaces.

Our neighbours, and co-owners of the property, Inclusion Parksville, are thrilled to now start programming for their adult participants, fun activities using the raised garden beds, to grow, harvest and prepare food from the garden.



The MAC will run summer Creative Kids classes and Art Therapy in the garden and encourage artists to bring their easels and paint. The PQB Fruit Tree Project will continue their mission to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to our neighbours in downtown Parksville.

For more information please contact:  
Dan Larocque, PQB Fruit Tree Project  
[pqbfruit@gmail.com](mailto:pqbfruit@gmail.com)

Jennifer Bate, McMillan Arts Centre  
[info@mcmillanartscentre.com](mailto:info@mcmillanartscentre.com)



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# Marketplace - Artists / Galleries



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# Marketplace Events

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**SAT MAY 6, 1:00 - 3:00**



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**MAY**  
**20-21-22**

Consciousness Art Studio  
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**Mother's Day Weekend**  
**Sat May 13 - Sun May 14**  
**10 am - 4 pm daily**



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**MOTHER'S DAY  
ART SHOW & SALE**

**May 13 & 14, 2023**  
**(Sat & Sun)**

**Costin Hall, Lantzville**  
**11:00 - 4:00 pm**



## Life in Dance

Bec Gombar is a Canadian contemporary dance artist currently living in New York City. This is her story.

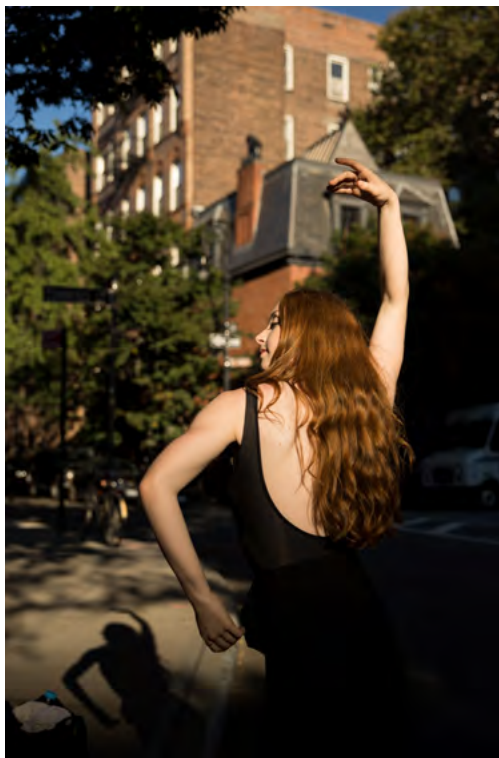
"I was literally dancing before birth. My mother is a ballet teacher and studio owner. I began my official training at her studio at the tender age of three. My very first dance recital was not a success. I ran off the stage crying! Thankfully, the stage has become a much more comfortable place in the years since.

I grew up studying the Royal Academy of Dance ballet exam syllabus, completing all of my exams to Advanced level where I received Distinction. I also trained in jazz, tap, musical theatre, contemporary and hip hop styles. Jazz was always my favourite as a child. I competed my first jazz solo routine at age six!

My dance studio was my second home and a sanctuary of sorts. My father passed away from cancer when I was ten years old and dance was a way that I could process my grief. I believe it saved me on so many levels.

Whenever my mother wanted to try out a dance competition or convention, I was the one who was the experiment for the rest of the studio. I had some wonderful, and some crazy, experiences!

While my studio had always attended dance competitions, we began to attend weekend dance conventions as well. These often involved national and international travel, with rigorous schedules of class beginning early in the morning, followed by competition until midnight, and then back to school on Monday.



My favourite convention was Nuvo. I developed wonderful relationships with many of the teaching faculty, especially Stacey Tookey and Kristen Gorski. Both are leading female dance artists and educators that have remarkable careers in the dance industry.

During my summer breaks, from the age of ten, I attended the Dance Awards, the national championship of dance conventions, as a Best Dancer from its inception until I graduated high school. I attended numerous other summer programs including, Joffrey Ballet School, Northwest Dance Project, DancerPalooza, and Stacey Tookey's inaugural Camp Protégé. My experience at Camp gave me clarity in my path of pursuing a professional dance career. I was greatly influenced by Franco Nieto and Ching Ching Wong, both former artists and teachers at Northwest Dance Project. These programs shaped both my outlook and artistry.

Upon graduation and at the recommendation of Kate Harpootlian, another mentor in my life, I auditioned and was accepted to the Ballet/Contemporary Certificate Program at Peridance Center under the direction of Nikki Holck and Igal Perry.

I moved to New York City alone at 18 years old, with little life experience. My experience in this program changed my life. The abundance of knowledge and growth that I received is immense. I received countless tools and opportunities from my teachers and the choreographers that I worked with.



## Life in Dance ... continued

One such person is Steven Blandino, who believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. Steven trusted me to take on a lead role in his creation of "Bridesmaids: A dance narrative," that began as a five minute piece and went on to be performed in multiple theaters as a full-length show, and was my first true professional performance in NYC.

Fast forward three years amongst a global pandemic with very few opportunities in the dance community, I am now a Company member with Steven's newly established treadFAST Dance Co.

In the fall of 2021, I auditioned successfully for an apprentice position with Peridance Contemporary Dance Company and began my first professional dance company contract. The director of PCDC, Igal Perry, provides nourishing leadership and his mentorship throughout my time in the company has completely enhanced my understanding of dance and what it means to exist in a professional company setting.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to perform numerous works by world-renowned choreographers, alongside the incredible and truly inspiring company members of PCDC. I experienced a pure 'pinch me, I'm dreaming' moment when performing Igal's new creation

of 'Oceans' during my first season with the company. That confirmed that I had made the right choice in profession. I am eternally grateful for every day that I spend in the PCDC environment and presently rehearse and train with them until I depart back to Canada.

Recently in NYC, I won the International MAB competition where I performed a solo piece choreographed by Alex Anderson and was coached by Igal.

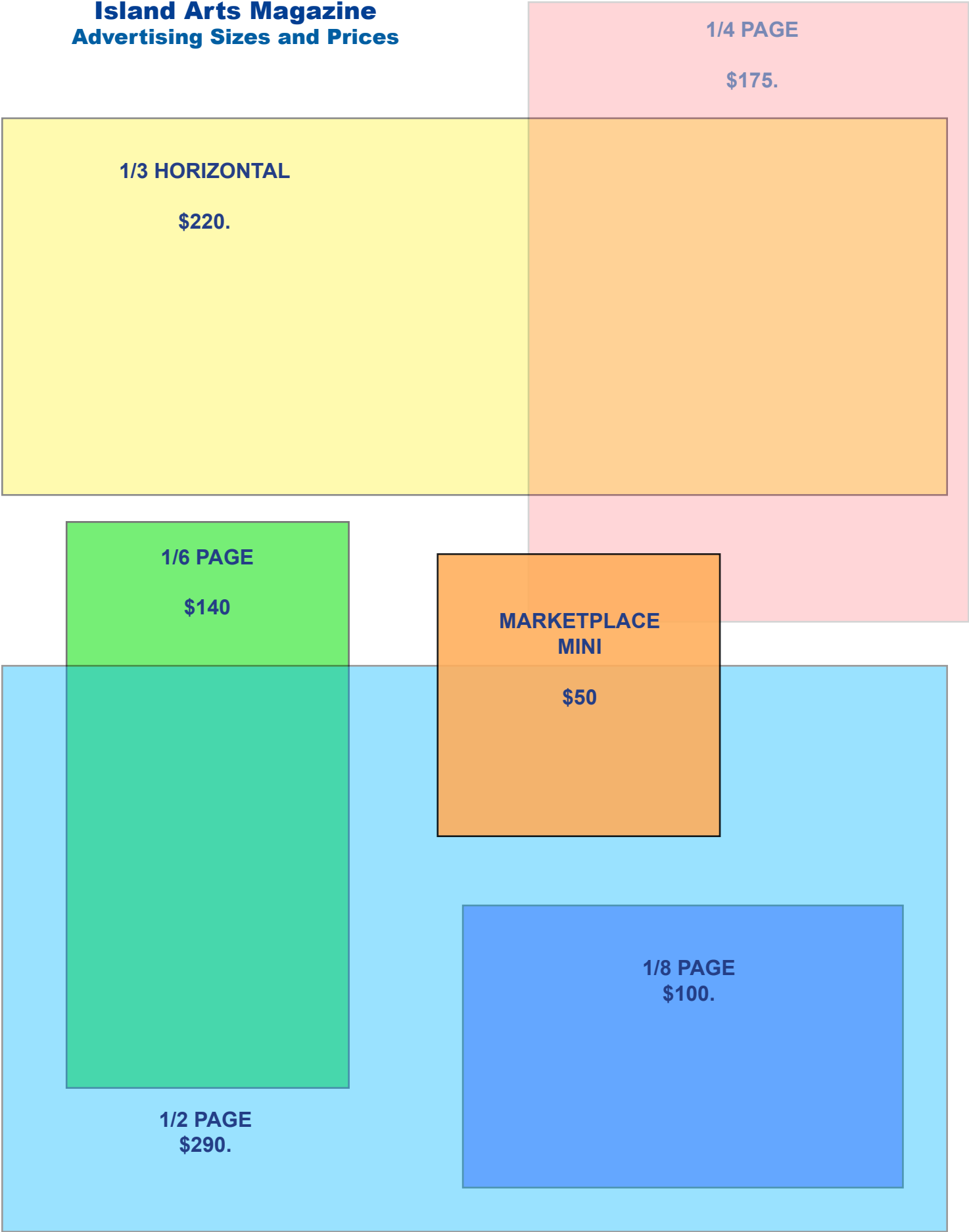
As I prepare to move back to Vancouver, I realize how much I have been lucky to experience and learn in dance thus far, and am so excited for more. It has not been always been easy!

If I could provide advice to young artists, it would be to follow your dreams and passion. Find mentors, take risks, and share art in places it lacks.

[ggombarg.wixsite.com/becgombar](http://ggombarg.wixsite.com/becgombar)



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