

# ISLAND ARTS MAGAZINE

Sept - Oct 2023  
Issue # 66



MADE IN CANADA

DIGITAL  
INTERACTIVE PUBLICATION



Feature Artist  
**LYNNE  
USHER**

## 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**



## Island Arts Magazine

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Sooke Fine Arts Society  
McMillan Arts Centre  
Parksville Senior Centre

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us a donation.

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# ISLAND ARTS MAGAZINE



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Lynne Usher

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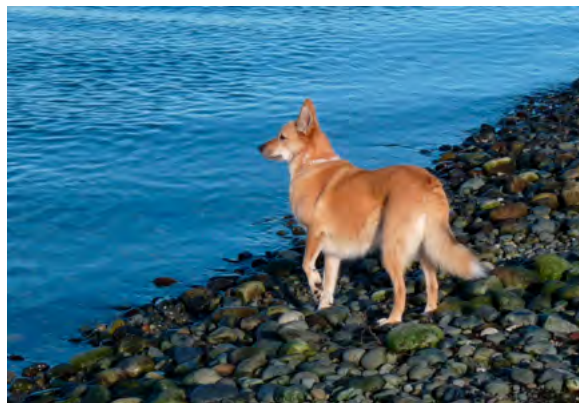
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# **Note**

**from your Editors**

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

**Chace - mascot**



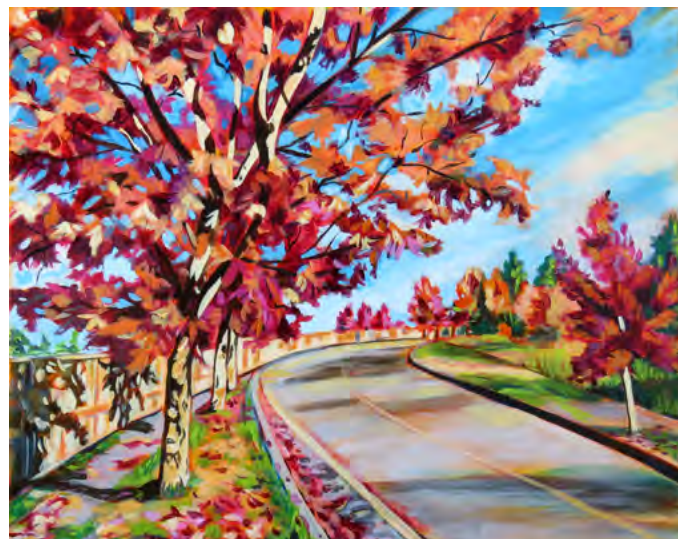
## **Welcome Fall**

We hope everyone enjoyed their Lazy Days of Summer.

Welcome September and all it's colour. Personally September has always been one of my favourite months. The days are still warm and the nights are cool. The summer rush is over and it is the perfect time to travel. We have done our best and most memorable travel holidays during the month of September.

Ah... Tuscany in the fall. We still get that warm feeling whenever we talk about it.

Last year, 2022, we did our epic trip to the east coast. Now there are plenty of great stories that came from that trip.



Ah, where to go this year? Just wait. There might be something great in the works!

As you move forward into the glory of the fall, look toward the arts for solace. Look towards the arts for comfort and joy. Feed your soul with colour and exploration.

The arts will continue to flourish.





**OCT 20-22**  
**2023** EARLS COVE  
TO LANGDALE

Join friends and take a scenic coastal tour to discover 180+ unique artist studios, galleries and more.

Enjoy meeting the artists, watching demos and connecting with other 'Crawlers' along the way.

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COAST  
**ART  
CRAWL**



Sunshine Coast  
CREDIT UNION



SUNSHINECOASTARTCRAWL.COM

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## Sunshine Coast Art Crawl 2023

The 2023 Sunshine Coast Art Crawl, now in its 13th year, has become a signature destination event for travelers, locals, artists, and art lovers to attend. The Crawl is held in the fall when our unique B&B's and other accommodators have more space available for an artful weekend retreat.

From October 20 to 22, take a scenic, self-directed, and free tour from Earl's Cove to Langdale and discover hidden treasures on this beautiful coastline we call home. This year 184 venues and over 290 artists open their doors and share their studios along with galleries and other groupings of artist to provide a variety of styles and mediums for all tastes and price ranges.

The Crawl is a great chance to meet and talk with the artists in their studios and experience the vibrant arts and culture in the community. It becomes a bit of a treasure hunt to discover locations off the beaten track as you follow brochure maps, directional signs, smart phone maps and other Crawlers.

The map/brochure will be available in print and on the website the end of September. You can request a printed copy by emailing [scartcrawl@gmail.com](mailto:scartcrawl@gmail.com). Use the brochure and map to plan your Art Crawl visits in advance or go to [www.sunshinecoastarts.com](http://www.sunshinecoastarts.com) to get the complete list of venues and find out more about each artist. You can also follow us on instagram and facebook @CoastCulturalAlliance.





**ROUTE 19A ARTS FESTIVAL**  
FROM DASHWOOD TO UNION BAY TWO EVENTS TWO WEEKENDS!

**ARTISAN EXHIBITION SALE**  
15 artists showcasing their work in painting, sculpting, photography, textiles, jewellery design, and more. Unique, high-quality, curated designs.  
Saturday Sept. 23rd, 10am - 4pm  
Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay, Vancouver Island

**ROUTE 19A STUDIO TOUR**  
Explore the beauty created by local artists of Lighthouse Country from Dashwood to Union Bay. Private, shared, and group studios showcasing fine artistry, crafts, and handmade treasures.  
Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2023 - 10am - 4pm  
& Sunday, Oct. 1st, 2023 10am - 3pm  
Check the website for studio locations or pick up a map at local vendors

Find out more about the artists and studios at both the Exhibition/Market and the Studio Tour. For more information visit: [www.lighthousehall.ca](http://www.lighthousehall.ca) or email: [route19a.arts@gmail.com](mailto:route19a.arts@gmail.com)

## Maple Bay Painters 2023 Art Show

Maple Bay Painters are hosting a fall show of its members' newest work. Show-goers can mingle with artists, question their art and methods, and see some artist demonstrations.

Maple Bay Painters is a non-profit society for Cowichan Valley visual artists; it provides members with a weekly workspace, forums for art-related discussions, and opportunities for art creation, exhibition and education.

Together Maple Bay Painters creates synergies for artistic development, increases awareness of Cowichan Valley visual artists and their art and, fundamentally, extends artist-to-artist support and mutual encouragement.

## Lynne Usher Original Artwork - Commissions



"A Path Less Traveled", 24x24 acrylic on canvas

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

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



**Maple Bay Painters**  
**2023**  
**ART SHOW**

September 29 & 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday Reception, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
St. Peter's Church Hall  
5800 Church Rd, Duncan, BC

Facebook: Maple Bay Painters [www.maplebaypainters.ca](http://www.maplebaypainters.ca)

"Sailing in Maple Bay" by Doreen Green

## A Pioneer of Art Glass in Canada Retires



### **After 50 years of creating beautiful glass art Robert Held is putting down his blow pipe.**

by Susan Schaefer

Growing up in a creative home, Robert started drawing things in the 5th grade and has never stopped. His father was a sculptor, his mother was his model. Together they instilled a creative, and supportive environment that has sustained Robert through a few different artistic endeavours. From painter, to potter, to glass blower, he has always tried to make wonderful, beautiful work.

Robert pursued his Master's Degree in Fine Arts at the University of Southern California, and was awarded the graduate assistantship. At that time, he won the prestigious "Glen Lukins Award" for new work in ceramics.

Upon graduating, Robert was offered a position as Head of Ceramics at a college being built in Ontario. He accepted the position becoming the youngest department head at the Sheridan College - School of Design.

In 1968, after a visit to the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, Robert Held discovered a new love: the art of glassblowing. He returned to Sheridan College inspired and succeeded in launching Canada's first college level hot glass program in 1969. This program allowed many Canadian artists to become skilled in this medium, and crowned Robert Held as the pioneer of art glass in Canada.

Ten years ago Robert moved from the mainland of BC to Parksville, where he planned on retiring. Well that didn't happen!

... continued page 8



## Robert Held Retires after 50 Years of Glass Blowing

... continued from page 7

Instead he opened a 4000 square foot studio / gallery where visitors could enjoy watching glass blowers in action, take a class or two and purchase beautiful glass art. The quonset building, just past the orange bridge when entering Parksville became an iconic location and a must stop for visitors to the island and residents.

Robert has been involved in the Oceanside Arts Council for many years. His last installation of 750 glass raindrops was a key feature at the Tales of the Urban Creek installation at the McMillan Arts Centre in 2022. The installation has since been gifted to the Bayside Inn Resort as a permanent art piece.

It's an emotional time for Robert as he says goodbye to a 50 year career.

*"In some respect I feel like I am just getting started. The retail aspect of my business just took off and we became busy filling orders. I have so many more ideas that I would have liked to explore, the most recent, being more painterly with my designs."*



Not sure what his next creative adventure will be, rest assured we have not heard the last of Robert Held.

In the meantime he is focused on acquiring a new bionic knee.

Thank you Robert for all the beautiful work and years of service to the arts. IAM wishes you much joy and good health as you enter the next chapter.

~





*Let the artist's hand be unbound*

**NANAIMOFCA.COM**

Nanaimo Chapter - Federation of Canadian Artists 

*is proud to present*

*The 7th Annual*

**Nanaimo  
Fine Art  
Show**

  
AT THE  
VANCOUVER ISLAND  
CONFERENCE CENTRE

*September 29, 30, Oct 1, 2023*

Opening Hours: **Friday Public Viewing 11:am - 5:pm**  
**Invitational Only Gala 6:pm - 8:pm**  
**Saturday 10:am - 4:pm Sunday 10:am - 4:pm**



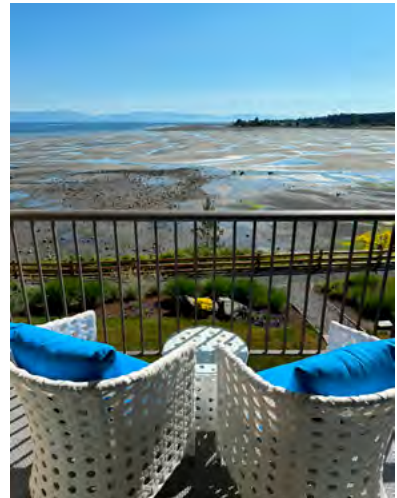
## 7th Annual Nanaimo Fine Art Show

The Nanaimo Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists is pleased to host a Fine Art weekend which will showcase the highest calibre of art in all mediums and styles. This is a juried show, which means each piece has been judged by a panel of three Federation Artists of Signature or Associate status.

The panel chooses the finest and best examples of professional art from the Signature, Associate or Active Status members who submitted for jurying.

The art works that will be on display will reflect the finest art from some of the most skilled and talented artists in our chapter and in Canada. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our passion for, and love of art with you.

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FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS  
Arrowsmith Chapter

## FALL JURIED EXHIBITION

October 31 - December 15, 2023

Award Presentation/Meet the artists Thursday November 9, 4-5 PM



2022 Fall 1st Place Sherry Mitchell  
"Nidus - Sparrow's Nest"



2022 Fall 2nd Place Harold Allanson  
"Alkali Lake Barn"



2022 Fall 3rd Place Donna McDonnell  
"Mossy Shore, Qualicum Beach"

Visit the Gallery at:



THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE  
ARTSCENTRE

122 Fern Rd W, Qualicum Beach, BC

Vote for your favourite "People's Choice" painting

See the VIRTUAL SHOW: [www.arrowsmithfca.ca/show](http://www.arrowsmithfca.ca/show)

### Arrowsmith FCA 2023 Fall Juried Exhibition

By Birgit Coath

The local Arrowsmith Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists (FCA) is presenting its annual Fall Exhibition to be held at the historic location of The Old School House Arts Centre (TOSH) located at 122 Fern Street in the heart of Qualicum Beach, BC. You will be able to enjoy the talent of some of the best local artists.

You are invited to attend the reception where you can meet the artists and witness the Awards Presentation, being held Thursday, November 9, from 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

And....you will be able to participate in the choosing of the coveted "People's Choice Award". Please vote for your personal favourite painting.

The Arrowsmith Chapter of the FCA traditionally hosts two prestigious juried shows per year. All the artwork in these shows, ranging in style from the abstract to representational, in various media such as watercolour, oil, acrylic, pastel, and mixed media, is rigorously selected by three Signature Members of the FCA. When selecting works, these jurors consider such factors as mastery of the artist's chosen medium, use of composition, colour, perspective, light, proportion, and more.

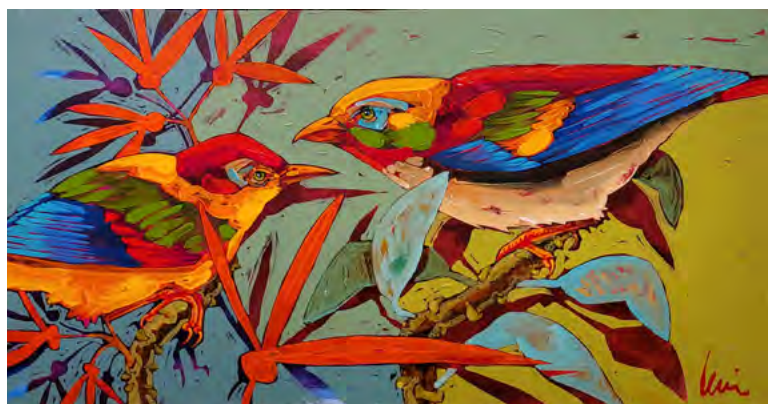




Margo Cooper presents Open to Interpretation II @ the Gage Gallery, Victoria BC

“OPEN TO INTERPRETATION was one of my favourites and I decided to bring it back this year with new work,” says Cooper.

“Paintings are displayed without titles and visitors are invited to write a little or a lot about what they see in these abstract figurative works in acrylic/cold wax on canvas. They can then check a sheet if they want to know my title. Also - 25% of sales will be donated to the Victoria women’s choir, Ensemble Laude, because art isn’t just for looking at.”



GILDING THE LILY - by Grant Leier opening October 7th at the McMillan Arts Centre is a celebration of exhibiting my work for fifty years.

This collection of paintings, shrine constructions and textile assemblages has been an absolute hoot to create over the past eighteen months.

Runs until October 28th.



### DREAMLAND WILDERNESS

36" x 30" Acrylic on Canvas

by Artist Susannah Paranich, Vancouver BC

Dreamland Wilderness, acrylic on canvas abstract, was juried into the Federation of Canadian Artists ON THE EDGE 2023 Exhibition. It was held at Federation Gallery on Granville Island from July 24 - August 13, and was Sold during this prestigious annual show.

Blue, Yellow, Red! Three primaries that work their way and magic into my night time dreams often – and carry over into thoughts and inspiration daytime.



photo by Mark Hume



# **KEN KIRKBY**

**1940-2023**

**Canadian Painter  
Writer, Viking  
and Friend to Many**

If you live on the west coast of Canada, chances are that Ken Kirkby has touched your life in one way or another.

Whether it was in person over a story, by owning one of his paintings, by helping a friend, or him advocating for the salmon population, Ken was there. He donated thousands of dollars worth of paintings to various causes he supported and believed in.

On a more personal note, we at Island Arts Magazine were saddened to hear of Ken's passing. Over the years we have had many fun encounters with Ken, having Ken over for bbq's, running into him at the Sandbar Cafe and sharing a coffee and a story or three. Early in the magazine's history, he was one of our featured artists.

Ken will be truly missed, but never forgotten.



[ken-kirkby.com](http://ken-kirkby.com)



## Fall Workshops



School  
for the  
Creative  
Arts

### Monday Art Gems September Classes

Mondays 10 am-2 pm • Cost \$100  
All materials supplied  
No experience necessary  
These workshops are geared for  
those who want to delve deeper into  
a particular art technique or medium.

The McMillan Arts Centre, Parksville  
Register Online or call 250-248-8185

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*You can't use up creativity.  
The more you use, the more you have.*

*Maya Angelou*

**Registrations are NOW OPEN**

**Scenic Landscapes - in person acrylic class  
Oct. 14 - 15, 2023 • Parksville BC**

**Instructor • Susan Schaefer Fine Art**

#### **In this class Susan will talk about**

- how to make a strong foundation for your painting
- how to keep it simple by looking for shapes and designs
- how to execute your design to canvas

Classes run 10 am - 2 pm each day, giving the student  
plenty of time to relax and enjoy the process.

Susan Schaefer is a well known instructor in the Oceanside  
area. Her strength lies in her use of bold colour and design.

**Register by calling Susan @ 250-586-5510  
email: Susan@youngatart.ca**



## Featured Artist

# Lynne Usher



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

“ A passion for art has always been in my heart. I dabbled over the years, but life and work took so much of my time I wasn't able to settle and focus on art.

Since my retirement it's been a wonderful experience to be able to spend much of my time fulfilling my passion for painting. I'm so appreciative to the wonderful artist friends for all the encouragement and advice over the years, as artists helping artists.



# Featured Artist

## Lynne Usher

By Susan Schaefer

Lynne Usher has been a long time supporter of Island Arts Magazine. We have watched her artwork develop over the years, trying new techniques as her passion for art has grown.

We thought it would fun to ask her a few questions about her art.

*After retirement you decided to take up painting. What prompted you to go for your dream and start creating?*

I thought I would need something to occupy my time after retiring. I knew right away it was going to be painting. A week after my last day of work, I started investing in art supplies and have never looked back.

*You seem to be fearless as you tackle many different subjects from heritage buildings, street scenes, landscapes and aviation. Have you found a favourite subject?*

I love being versatile with my subjects, and I will attempt to paint anything that I'm drawn to.



continued on page 16...

## Featured Artist Lynne Usher

I love to challenge myself as I constantly grow and learn. I really don't have a favorite subject, but I do enjoy painting landscapes, as there is more artistic freedom. Structures are somewhat restrictive, as they need to be recognizable.

*You have strong family ties to the Canadian Armed Forces. Over the years have made some generous donations of your art for their fundraisers.*

*Can you please explain your connection?*

My family has been and are heavily involved with the Canadian Armed Forces.

My brother is a retired Major member of the Canadian Air Force, all of my brothers were in the Militia and my dad and a brother were in the NWPD department. The service of my family to the Canadian Armed Forces is something I'm very proud of.

I'm very pleased to donate paintings every year to raise money at auction for several charities, including our Armed Forces, local Fire Department and Hospital.

*Working only in acrylic paints, what is it about this medium that you prefer over others?*

I prefer acrylics as my medium. I'm rather an impatient painter, and acrylics dry quickly, allowing my focus to stay put, while layering can be continued almost immediately.

*What do you like to do when you are not painting?*

When I'm not painting, I love to spend time with my family and take road trips. I've spent a lot of time travelling and have enjoyed many years in Central America. I've traveled almost all of Canada and the States, but there is nowhere in the world like beautiful British Columbia. ~



Follow Lynne on Facebook



## Places We Are Found

by Mike Fantuz

"I am a part of all that I have met"  
Tennyson, Ulysses

Places We Are Found is a two-person exhibition of oil painting on canvas and serigraphy by Vancouver based artists Emilie Fantuz and Mike Fantuz, exploring relationship to place as a means of navigating the discovery of self.

Our sense of cultural identity can be closely tied to a wide variety of elements. Things like language, traditions, foods, shared experiences, even the geography or landscape and its structures all contribute to an individual's connection to community.

In our exhibition, "Places We Are Found", my wife Emilie and I explore the cityscape of St John's, the capital city of Newfoundland and Labrador through a variety of perspectives including aerial, night, and day imagery as well as window reflections and street views to explore our individual and collective interest in discovering who we are.

The city of St John's became the focal point for our exhibition after our trip to the city post pandemic.

As we were living and working in Vancouver through the pandemic, we each recognized a strong desire to visit Newfoundland together. It was where I was living in the 2010's while Emilie was living in Hawaii. We fortunately discovered each other through a common art hash tag on Instagram (#paletteknifepainting). The island came to partially represent a place where we had discovered each other. The opportunity to jointly explore a place from unique perspectives and associations of that place, was a powerful discovery of realization.

As a first time visitor to Newfoundland, Emilie's paintings take on a surprising intimacy by immersing the viewer in reflected imagery of places that are familiar, but often overlooked. My paintings take a wider angle approach to encompass the larger scale of the city, acting like a geographical map of streets, parks, shoreline and structure. Together, our individual perspectives tell a unique story that invites viewers to discover what a place represents for them, and how it represents what can be found.

Places We Are Found is exhibiting at the Christina Parker Gallery in St John's Newfoundland and Labrador on until September 16 2023.

[christinaparkergallery.com](http://christinaparkergallery.com)  
[www.mikefantuz.com](http://www.mikefantuz.com)





## What is Sacred?

Coast Salish Art Revitalization Exhibit at Nanaimo Museum **on until Saturday, November 18, 2023**

This exhibit is a partnership with Exhibit Curator Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun, and was created in collaboration with Snuneymuxw FN Administration and a cross-section of local Coast Salish artisans.

Nanaimo - Coast Salish art is a distinct style among the art of the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest. The feature exhibit, What is Sacred?, explores the past, present and future of Coast Salish art, highlighting a selection of artists from Snuneymuxw and other Nations of the mid-island region.

The art in the exhibit - wool and cedar weavings, stone sculpture, wood carvings - reflect cultural teachings that have been passed down for thousands of years. *"This exhibit honours Coast Salish art,"* says Exhibit Curator, Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun. *"The ancestors who left it for us, our Elders who did the work to make sure*

*it continued, the contemporary Coast Salish artists who innovate and expand, and the future generations for whom we all work."*

Interactive activities for all ages guide learning about unique qualities of Coast Salish art. Experience how the art form is now flourishing, in a celebration of the richness and vitality of Coast Salish art.

Exhibit Curator Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun, is a visual artist and storyteller from the Snuneymuxw First Nation, one of many Coast Salish nations. He is also descended from families in the Hupacasath and Penelakut First Nations. In 2021, Eliot received the Emerging Cultural Leader award from the City of Nanaimo and his public art in Nanaimo can be seen at Beban Pool and the Vancouver Island University Library.

The museum is open Tuesday -Saturday 10am – 4pm and admission is by donation. The Nanaimo Museum is located in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, beside Serious Coffee.

[www.nanaimomuseum.ca](http://www.nanaimomuseum.ca)







## Exquisite Corpse 2023

The Exquisite Corpse was invented in 1925 in Paris by the surrealists Yves Tanguy, Jacques Prévert, André Breton and Marcel Duchamp. The name 'cadavre exquis' was derived from a phrase that resulted when they first played the game, 'le cadavre exquis boira le vin nouveau' ('the exquisite corpse will drink the new wine').

Artist, Pattiann Withapea introduced the Parksville area to this fun and 'exquisite' creative event. "I first learned about the Exquisite Corpse game several years ago while reading about the Surrealism Artist, Salvador Dali. I was fascinated by the whole idea."

This year's Exquisite Corpse Unveiling Gala event is Friday, September 29th, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at The Bayside Resort, Parksville BC. Everyone Welcomed!





**ADINA MARIE BARUGOLO**

[www.adina-art.ca](http://www.adina-art.ca)



- Painting in acrylic and watercolour, Adina captures places she's lived from Canada to Italy.
- She explores her creativity through mixed media.
- She brings to life what she sees and imagines.

~ commissions available ~ call (250) 752-5847  
open studio by appointment

## Susan Schaefer Fine Arts Recommends Tri-Art Liquid Acrylic Paints

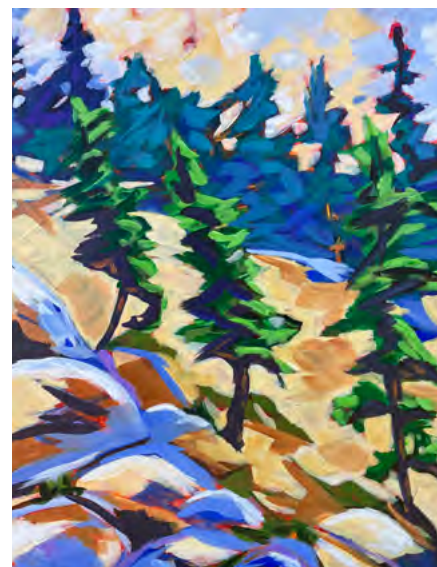
Tri-Art is based out of Kingston Ontario and they are working on expanding their awareness into western Canada. As a courtesy Tri-Art sent me a box of paints to try and review.



I found the Tri-Art fluid paints to be extremely concentrated. They are very intense, colourful and a joy to work with. Just a tiny dab will do ya. I did add plenty of titanium white to the colours.

In conclusion, I love the fluid paints and I can't wait to dig into their heavy body paints.

I have signed up to be an affiliate of Tri-Art. If you plan to order some paint, you can use my code and get 10% off. Give them a try!



**Tri-Art**  
MANUFACTURING

**Shop Now**





## Blue Jeans and Rubber Boots

By *Susan Schaefer*

### Back to School

Summer holidays! Yippy! How I use to long for those lazy days of summer, staying up late and watching old black and white movies and then sleeping until noon. I would spend the summer reading Nancy Drew mystery novels, suntanning using baby oil and driving my one speed bike over to my friends house for a dip in their field pond. But by mid August I was yearning to go back to school, hang out with my friends and get back into the swing of things. After all, a person can only sit around shucking peas for so long before they go a bit stir-crazy.

In August we would make the trip to the big city of Weyburn Sask. to purchase my 'back to school' supplies. I can't remember if we had an actual list, but I would buy a number of Hilroy writing books, the one with the three holes in them that could easily

fit into a binder. I usually got a new binder, nothing fancy, just big enough to fit my Hilroy books – one for each subject. A new pencil case and brand new pens and pencils were in order. Just the basics. There were no back packs, but if I was very lucky, I might even get a new book bag. I remember getting a nice leather attache case (like a professor would carry) which I looked after and loved for most of my high school years. We didn't have computers, cell phones or even calculators. We had to use our brains. What a concept!

I would lay all these treasures out on my bed, and looking at them one by one, organizing them and thinking about what my year would be like. Each Hilroy book would be carefully marked with the subject name on the front cover. One by one I would repack them into my attache.

A few days before school started I would conspire with a girlfriend or two that who ever got to school first, would pick the perfect desk in the classroom and save the seat behind or in front of them for their friend. If you got to school too late, everything would be picked over and you would spend the year in a desk right at the front of the classroom, or (I shudder) at the back. Somewhere mid section would be perfect, preferably with a nice window view. In our small

town country school, we had a home room where we 'lived' for the entire year. The teachers were the ones who moved about changing rooms as they taught.

What to wear on the first day of school? Not that we had plenty of cloths, remember we were farm kids, but you had to make a first good impression. And as my mother would say "you always went to school with clean cloths."

Then the day finally came – the first day of school. Everyone would scramble to grab a desk, coming in all with their freshly polished face, brand new (often too short) hair cuts, squeaky new runners and freshly ironed cloths.

Then the school bell would ring and everyone quickly settled in for another year, as we went 'back to school.'



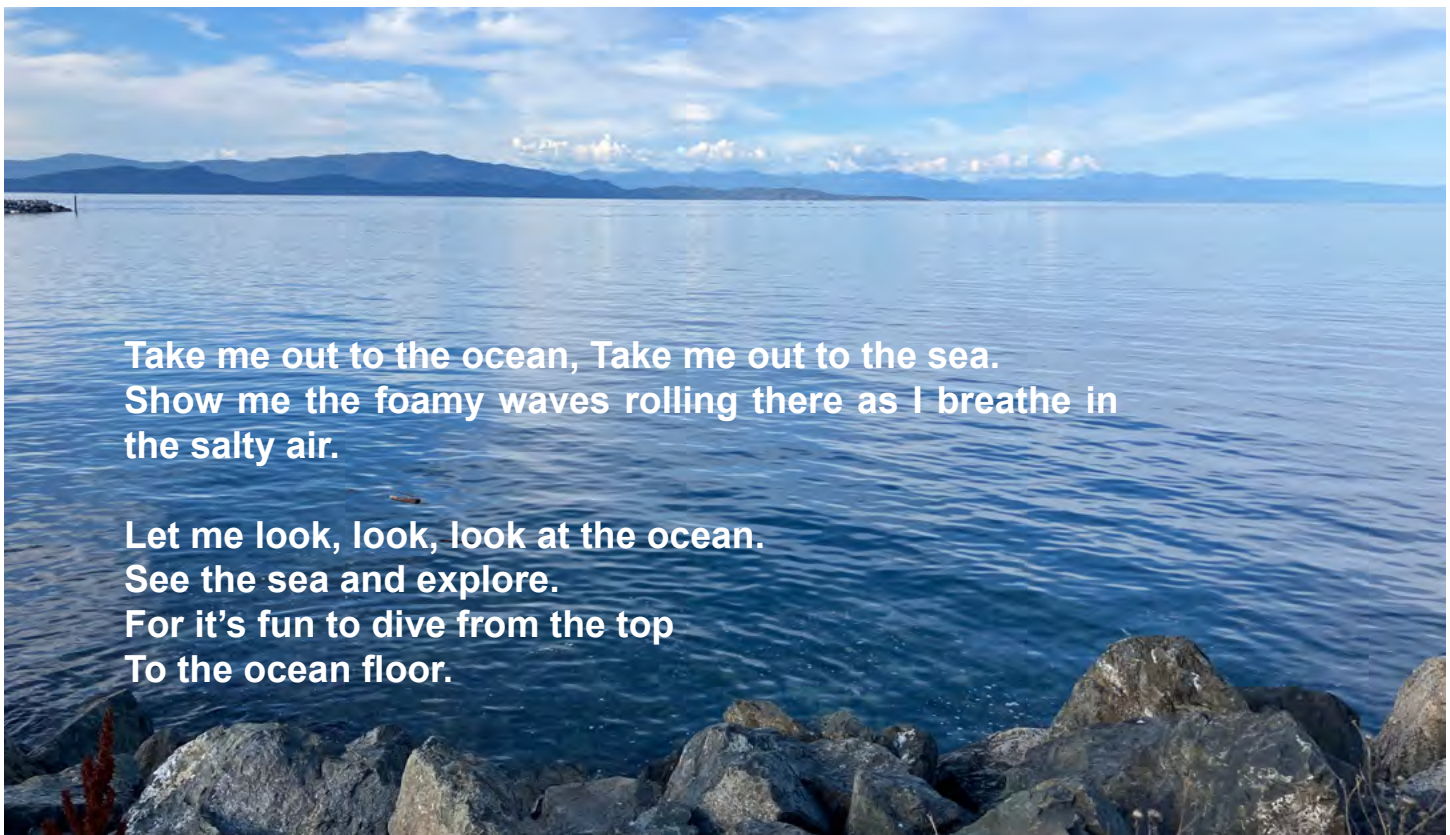




ARTWRX STUDIO GALLERY presents  
**SQUARE FOOT SHOW 2023**  
**Artist Call for Submissions**  
 Deadline October 22, 2023  
[artwrxstudio.ca/sq-foot-show](http://artwrxstudio.ca/sq-foot-show)  
**NOVEMBER 17 - 19** **SQuARE FOOT Show 2023**  
 OPENING Nov 17 6 pm - 9 pm  
 Nov 18 & 19 10 am - 4 pm  
 Online Show Nov 17 - Dec 17

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 @artwrx.studio







## Sept 12th – Dec 01st, Fall In Love with ART! Group Exhibit at DRAW Gallery

Our 'Gallery Beyond Walls' offers contemporary Canadian West Coast Art in an intimate setting. Celebrating the diversity and talent of local and regional artists, works can be viewed and purchased online or on location.

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 Courtney Anderson, Cynthia Bonesky, Cecil Dawson, D.F. Gray, Guy Langlois, Karen MacRae, Patricia M. Mansell, Miriam Manuel, Ann McIvor, Shannon McWhinney, Emma Paveley, Mark Penney, Sarah Platenius, Todd Robinson, Susan Schaefer, Marla Thirsk, Sue Thomas, Tamas Zalathnai among others.

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## Little Things

Oh, it's just the little, homely things,  
The unobtrusive, friendly things,  
The "Won't-you-let-me-help-you" things  
That make the pathway light.  
And it's just the jolly, joking things,  
The "Laugh-with-me-it's-funny" things,  
The "Never-mind-the-trouble" things  
That make our world seem bright.

For all the countless, famous things,  
The wondrous, record-breaking things,  
Those never-can-be-equaled things  
That all the papers cite.

Can't match the little, human things,  
The "Just-because-I-like-you" things,  
Those "Oh-it's-simply-nothing" things,  
That make us happy, quite.

So here's to all the little things,  
The everyday encountered things,  
The "Smile-and-face-your-trouble" things,  
"Trust God to put it right,"

The done-and-then-forgotten things,  
The "Can't-you-see-I-love-you!" things,  
The hearty "I-am-with-you!" things  
That make life worth the fight.

by Grace Haines, 1922



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## Colourful Cuisine

by David Essig

In Florentine Italian, “Guazzetto” means “stew,” so we’ve labeled this dish, combining fresh and pantry ingredients, as “Yesterday and Tomorrow Stew.” At its base are two versions of the great Tuscan favourite: beans and more beans! Traditionally, stew made with dried beans is a winter dish - we’ve brought it into the late summer by topping it with a saute` of fresh beans and seafood.

For the Guazzetto, soak a cup or more of your favourite dried beans overnight in cold water to cover. The next day, drain the beans and put them in a deep pot - preferably earthenware. Cover with fresh water, add a bit of salt, an optional bay leaf and maybe a fresh clove of garlic and a dried hot red pepper pod. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook slowly until the beans are soft and creamy.

Drain the beans into one small bowl and put their cooking liquid in a second bowl. Wipe out the cooking pot, film the bottom with a thin coating of olive oil and return to the stove at medium heat. Add chopped vegetables: one onion, one peeled potato, two tomatoes, a clove of garlic and some fresh herbs. Saute until soft but not coloured - 4-5 minutes. Add the drained beans and stir to coat with oil. Add water to cover by about 3 inches and bring slowly to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until everything is fork-tender.

Use a hand-held immersion blender to blend the soup lightly, so that some of the beans are still intact. Or, blend half the soup in a blender and then return it to the remainder. In a small pan warm 2 TBS of olive oil. Add a whole clove of garlic and a sprig of fresh rosemary. Saute until it sizzles, remove the aromatics and stir the oil into the soup. Correct the seasoning with salt and pepper and keep the soup warm on a back burner.



For the Topping: warm some olive oil in a medium saute pan. Add fresh prepared fava beans. If fava are not in season, substitute green beans cut into inch-long pieces or frozen peas. Saute a few minutes until soft. Add fresh or frozen cleaned small pieces of seafood. Shrimp, lobster and/or squid all work well. Keep on medium heat until the seafood is cooked to taste. Season with a bit of salt and then add a half-glass of dry white wine, turn up the heat to reduce the wine slightly - being careful not to overcook the seafood.

To serve, ladle some Guazzetto into large soup plates or pasta bowls and top each serving with a smaller ladle full of the seafood/fresh greens mixture. Garnish with fresh herbs and optional dried red pepper flakes. Serve with a green salad, some good Italian bread and a chilled bottle of Pinot Grigio or other dry Italian white wine. Buon appetito!



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

### Open Source Software

#### What is it? Why use it? Should I use it?

I am a big fan of the open source community. It has made the internet what it is today.

#### What is open source software?

Open source is publicly available for anyone to inspect, make modifications and use freely. Originally the term applied to software but now it is more a concept of working together and sharing our efforts. The stipulation is if you create new something for the project and wish to contribute to the project, you must make it available to everyone under the same terms as the original license.

#### Why would I use open source software?

With large communities behind popular projects, getting support is usually fast and comprehensive. Cost is a big factor as the software is free to use, although you might pay for installation and customization.

Active projects are continually being updated and new features being added. That being said, many projects do get abandoned by the original developers, although someone else can jump in and take it on.

#### Should I use it?

To me, it is a resounding yes. Much of the web runs on open source. Linux for the operating system, apache for the web server and MySQL for database are all open source. There are many front end open source applications that take

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advantage of the above technologies to produce a unique experience for the user.

One product I like to use for my artist client galleries is called Piwigo. Piwigo originated in France but now has a worldwide community of users and developers. It is actively maintained and has a plug-in ecosystem for additional functionality, themes and tools. It is highly customizable right out of the box.

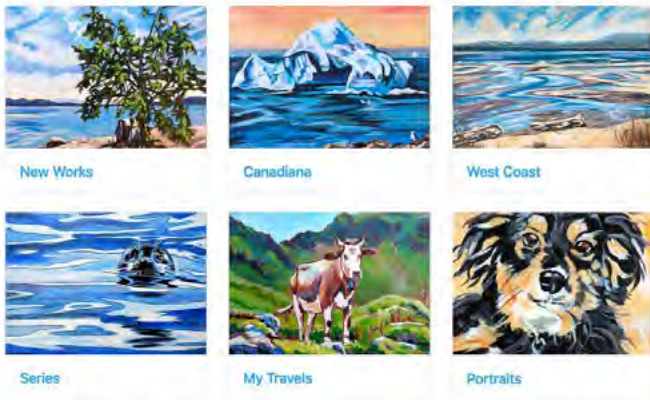
With hundreds of plug-ins (632 at last count), a large number of themes and all free to use, make it an enticing opportunity for my clients.

Over the years I have used other open source gallery software, but they were abandoned when technology advanced and the time to maintain it took too much time. Since the developers don't get paid, it is done in free time.

Piwigo is a great choice for artists and photographers to display their images. It uses an album to organize the images and an image can belong to many albums. You can also create sub-albums with no limit to the depth. You can also control permissions as to who can see the work such as everyone, specific groups of registered user or no one. You can also set separate permissions on who can upload new images to specific galleries.

...continued page 27





Piwigo comes with a built in slide show so you can view entire albums. It also supports meta data which is especially useful for photographers showing everything from camera make and model, shutter speed, aperture settings and even location.

With a variety of themes and plug-ins you can control how the albums are displayed - in grid or list mode; with or without descriptions, with thumbnails or not. The options are endless.

Some the plug-ins include adding additional pages, using a wysiwyg editor, custom header and footer and things like site-maps, statistics, and import from other gallery software. The last one is especially useful for recovering images from abandoned projects.

Bottom Line?

The internet would not be where it is today without open source. Is it safe to use - yes. Is it cost effective - definitely. Should I use it - you likely are.

**You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."**

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### A Few Stories

I'd met the man who'd become known as 'Canada's Storyteller' one afternoon at the CBC studios in downtown Edmonton. Stuart McLean was doing a book signing and I stood in line to have him sign one for me. When it was my turn, we had a short conversation.

"What sort of career have you had," he asked, "how have you been spending your time"?

"Well", I replied, "I've been a policeman for thirty years".

"I bet that's been interesting," he commented, "you've probably got a few stories to tell."

I went home and told my wife Debra about my conversation with Stuart. "You do have some stories to tell," she said. "You're always telling me stories about your photography field trips. Why don't you write a story about one of those"?

So, I did. My first article, Mountain Goats of the Icefield Parkway, was published in the Fall of 2007. I've been writing ever since and have had

the honour of being published in Nature Alberta Magazine, BC Nature Magazine and most recently, Island Arts Magazine. Both Debra and Stuart McLean had the insight to realize that I had a few stories to tell. What fun I've had following their advice.

The memory of my conversation with Stuart McLean came back to me over the last Canada Day long weekend. We were all gathered in our sun room, grandparents, parents, and grandchildren, listening to podcasts of Stuart McLean's Vinyl Café series. If you know his stories, I think you'd agree that they are heart warming and heart felt. I felt a few tears well up in my eyes that afternoon, but more important was the laughter. There we were, three generations, smiling and laughing together about the foibles and fancies of Dave, Morley, Stephanie and Sam.

A master and a mentor, Stuart died in 2017 but his storytelling remains current and poignant, a legacy of humour, love and family values. Thank-you Stuart McLean, I miss you.



## Book Review

by Susan Schaefer

### **117+1/2 Ways to Make Money as an Artist**

author Linda Finstad

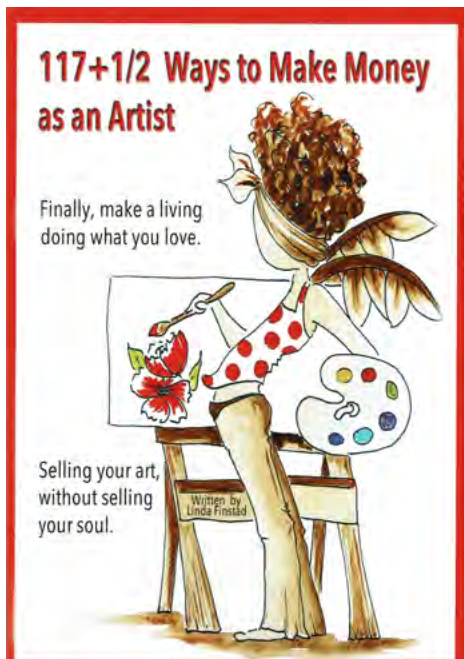
I liked this book from the minute I tore through the packing paper. The cover is colourful, fun and sassy.

During CoVid, Linda starting creating coffee illustrations. She used instant coffee as her medium to illustrate angels. She posted daily on social media and was overwhelmed with the response. These quirky illustrations run throughout the book.

I was able to get through the contents quite easily, stopping to make notes, underlining quotes and looking things up.

As an artist you can use this book as a workbook, picking up some great ideas about how to market and sell your artwork.

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





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you must keep moving.**

**Albert Einstein**

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## Sooke Fine Arts Show Update

The Sooke Fine Arts Show's 10-day arts festival returned in spectacular style on July 28, carrying through to its successful conclusion on August 7. Record-breaking numbers of people came to view more than 370 diverse and inspiring art pieces at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke, thanks to well-curated artworks, enthusiastic public support, and a focus on supporting and promoting regional artists. Well over 8,500 guests, some of them from around the world, also enjoyed the daily tours, demos, talks, and musical performances that are signature Show events.

The 2023 Show continued its 37-year legacy with unprecedented numbers of both visitors and art sales. The phenomenal success of this year's show can be attributed to several elements, including the trio of talented local art professionals who made up this year's jury. Kathleen Prince, Mike Svob and David MacWilliam selected pieces that were described by attendees as "uplifting," "well-balanced and thoughtful," and "world-class pieces of art." Show Designer, Mike McLean's, and the experienced Design Team's, placement of the artworks created small stories of connected works around every corner. As well, visitors were eager for the opportunity to experience art up close and in person again.

The Show's increased focus on its Youth Art Gallery also contributed to its success in 2023. Local youth engagement led to more than double the number of pieces shown in the Youth Art Gallery, which frames, showcases, and awards phenomenal talent by Sooke School District 62 students.

In addition to the awards chosen by the Jury, visitors were keen to vote on their favourite art pieces.

"This year's show was an outstanding success on so many levels. We welcomed more than 40 new artists who had not previously shown with us. More visitors than ever before attended the show, from the UK, the US, and across Canada and most importantly, from right here at home," said Terrie Moore, Sooke Fine Arts Society Executive Director.

The Sooke Fine Arts Society returns to its preparation for next year's show, with plans to welcome and accommodate the increasing interest in accessible and high-quality art from outstanding regional artists.

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



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## “Face It” Exhibition

by Nancy Wardle

“Face It” Exhibition at Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre exploring the animated face and celebrating community by artist Nancy Wardle.

The “Face It” exhibition was on display in August 2023 at the Joyner Gallery of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

“I am a portrait painter capturing emotions and personalities with the use of vivid colours using both oils and acrylics. My solo show called Face It focused on the themes of happiness, resilience, hope and the human spirit.

I have always been creative and in 2017, I became passionate about painting. I took many classes studying architecture, landscapes, florals and even figurative. Since the beginning of 2022, I have been exploring painting portraits and it is with portraiture I have found my love. I paint faces I find intriguing: family, friends, acquaintances, strangers, young, old, happy or sad.

What really catches my interest is how the light plays on the faces and what the subject may be thinking. I paint what I love. It's that simple and that difficult.

It is a challenge as an artist to capture a human's individual features and likeness while revealing the subject's personality and character. My goal was to complete at least 60 portraits for the show and that I have done.

It is my hope these paintings create a space from the commotion of reality for the viewer to gaze at the faces with curiosity and ponder “what is their story?”. Because Face It, we all have a story.

Here's a quick self portrait story.

In January 2006, the Art Gallery of Ontario did an art call out to the public for self portraits for their In Your Face exhibit which was an exhibition of portraits to celebrate the individuality and diversity of Canada. My mother who was a painter encouraged me to submit my self portrait based on scribbles I had created. So I did! They received over 9,000 pieces from all over the world! They were all displayed in Zack's gallery on the 2nd floor at the AGO. My husband and I went to see the exhibit to find mine and sure enough there I was hanging with the other thousands! The show hung for about 8 months and during that time an article was written about the exhibit with the curator being interviewed sitting in front of some of the portraits.

The article was in the Toronto Star and there I was hanging over the curators shoulder! Never ever in all my dreams did I think I would have my self portrait hanging in the Art Gallery of Ontario. And it doesn't stop there – the In Your Face exhibit is archived at the National Gallery in Ottawa. My portrait now resides there! So not only have I had my self portrait in the AGO, I'm also in the National Gallery! I just love this fun claim to fame story. And at that time, I never ever imagined I would become a portrait artist.”



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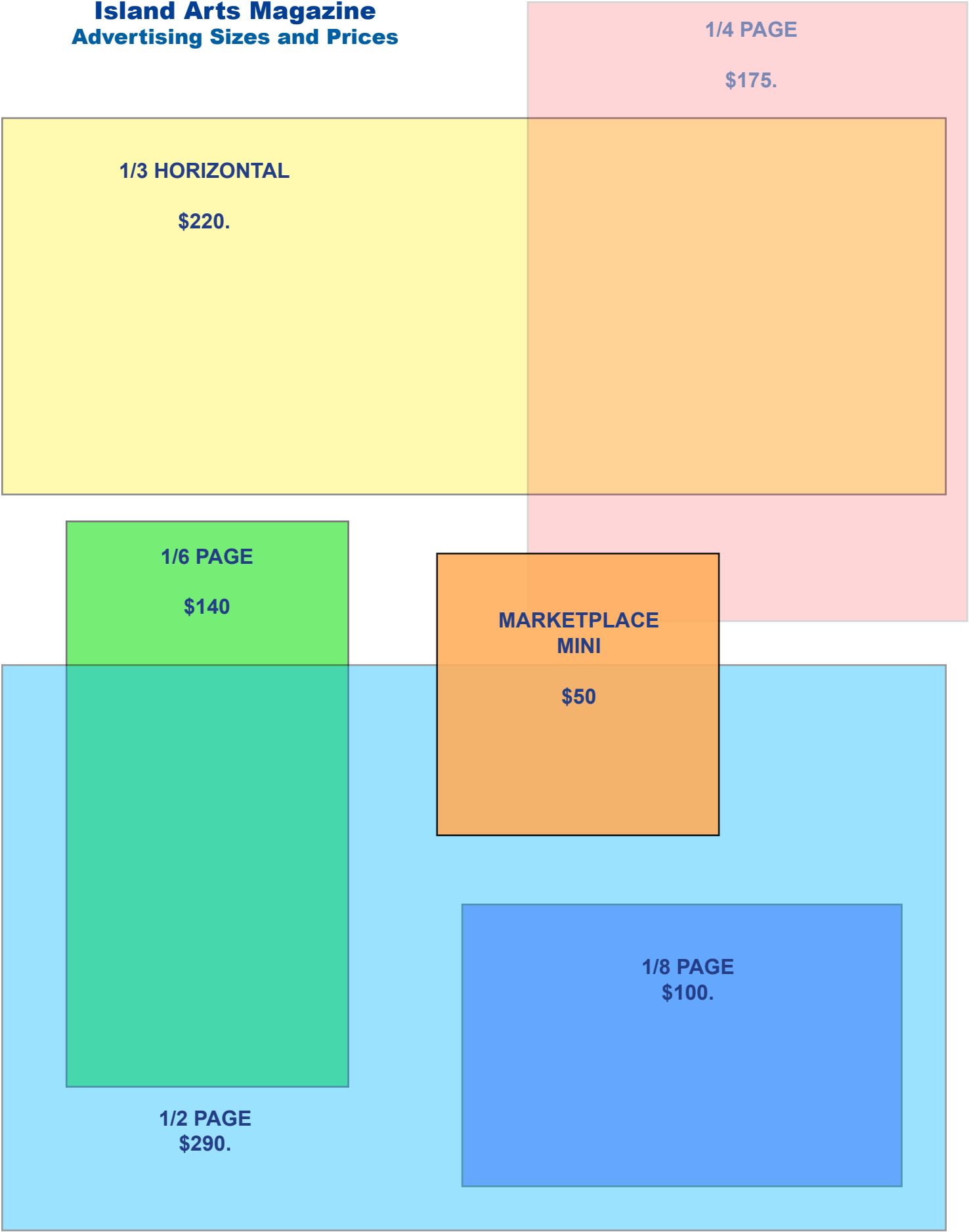
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