

what's on at mahon hall

Stagecoach School for the Performing Arts dance classes for children continue on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.**

Wednesdays - Sue Newman's adult tap dance class 5 - 6 pm. Call 537-5289 for information.

"Earth & Fire" Salt Spring Potter's Guild Mother's Day Show and Sale. **Saturday, May 10th 10 - 4 pm.** Bring your mother and friends. Refreshments

Mayfair Book, Art, Antiques and Collectible Sale. Appraisals Available. **Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18**

Swing Shift Big Band Featuring Bruce Hurn. **Friday, May 23, 8pm.** \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. *"Don't play the saxophone. Let it play you."* - Charlie Parker

"Mary's Matinee" fundraising performance for the Mary Williamson scholarship fund. **Sunday, May 25th**

"Aesop's Fables" presented by the children of The Salt Spring Centre School. **Friday, and Saturday, May 30 & 31** evening performances. Call 537-9130 for information.

in the news

Donna Cochran, Louise Harker, Barbara McCaffery, Gail Sibley will be exhibiting in a show entitled: Beneath the Surface - A Sea of Possibilities. The show runs 27 May - 15 June at ArtSpring Gallery and Open Space. **Opening Friday, 30 May 5-7pm.**



salt spring arts council

may2008 newsletter
volumetwo.issue two

see inside

New Hastings House Sculpture Walk

see page 2



ArtCraft - Year of Change

by Anthony Matthews



Photo: Megan Manning

This will be an exciting year for ArtCraft, a year of changes, new visions and fresh faces. Building on the successes of last year, 2008 promises more of the same but with some significant differences.

Notably, we have a new ArtCraft Managing Director (see February newsletter). We are all looking forward to working with Vivienne Pearson. Another top spot replacement is the appointment of Anthony Matthews as chair of the ArtCraft committee. This committee

works closely between the Salt Spring Arts Council Board of Directors and the ArtCraft Managing Director. It's here that we discuss policy, changes and their implementation.

There will be some changes to the biweekly 'Showcases' on the stage at ArtCraft this summer. Building on their success so far, we hope to make them even more enticing, with ever-higher quality. We are still accepting 'Showcase' proposals, so talk amongst yourselves, group together and present a

theme. Limited to a handful of artists/artisans, each 'Showcase' is linked with a common thread - be it material or attitude - and presented as a curatorial entity.

Registration forms are in the mail, call us if you did not get one. (537-0899)

Have a happy ArtCraft Season!

Artcraft
Registration forms
must be returned
by
May 15th 2008!

New Board Members & News:

Rineke Jonker: has lived on SSI since 1985. She is a recently retired elementary school teacher and principal. During the 10 years teaching, she was instrumental in creating the Exploration Program, bringing the community and students together in exchanges of learning through the arts. She would love to see the Artist in the Classroom program expand with more opportunities for bringing children and artists together on long term projects.

Illytd Perkins: is a self employed craftsman, maker of Fine Furniture and long time resident of Salt Spring. He has been involved in the

Arts Council for at least 25 years. He has previously served on the board and was at one time president. Illytd has a long history of organizing shows & events. He also has a strong interest in music, sailing and soccer.

Bridget Sipos: moved to Salt Spring in 2007, having lived in Prince George for 27 years. She established the gallery shop at the Two Rivers Gallery. Prior to 2000 she was co-owner of Mosquito Books. In the 1980's she was an active weaver. Her interest in visual arts goes back to study at art college in Britain in the 1970's. Currently she works at Salt Spring Books.



Deborah Gainer, Susan Haigh and friend at Mahon Hall

Georgia Taylor: is an independent Interior Designer. Former CEO of The Burrard Design Complex, Designers International and Georgia Taylor Interior Design Ltd. Other boards and organizations included the New Play Centre, where over a million dollars was raised for the production of plays by new playwrights; the Carousel Theatre for burgeoning young actors, and the Thomas Foundation, an organization dedicated to children suffering from Leukemia.

The Easter Art Tour

24 galleries participated with open artist studios, and special exhibits, including two cafes, a bookstore, and the Ganges Yoga studio as well as the exhibit at Mahon Hall by Susan Haigh, Gillian McConnell and Hamza bin al-wathan.



Hamza installs his piece: Chroma Key Blue Boy, triptych #1, 12' x 8', 2008 at Mahon Hall.



generously provided part of their property for a public Sculpture Walk, opening May 8th. To view works, purchase any piece, or for more information, please enquire at Salt Spring Woodworks: 250 537-9606 or Hastings House: 250 537-2362 or email: info@saltspringwoodworks.com.

Salt Spring Woodworks is opening their season in thier sculpture garden with a one-man exhibition of Michael Dennis outdoor works.

UP..... and coming *by Celia Duthie*



Islanders may have noticed the striking art installation in the field at Churchill Rd. & Upper Ganges Rd. The Gatherers is the work of Michael Dennis and is part of a new partnership between Hastings House and Salt Spring Woodworks to create a sculpture garden on the grounds of the resort.

“The Gatherers” by Michael Dennis of Denman Island is a gathering of nine figures made from found cedar trunks, clad in capes of salvaged car hoods. They form a bold slash across the hillside and are a blaze of red in the afternoon sun. “Sandstone & Red Brick Pillar” by Ron Crawford is visually engaging and metaphorically referenced,

each pillar takes shape in the particular contours of the landscape. ‘Ghost Salmon’ by Paul Burke, three carved wood salmon finished with milk paint and encaustic, swim over the lawn to the sea. “Here & Here” by Kathy Venter, a terra cotta and hydrostone sculpture merges out of an imagined mold. The beauty of the figure's deep inward gaze, is revealed. “Ponticus” by Michael Robb, mixed salvaged metals welded and molded, evoke an ancient familiar, dog/jackal/anubis figure. “Pas de Deux”, a pair of bronze chairs by Peter Pierobon, balanced off balance in a moment in time, captured in bronze.

The Hastings House have

Committee Reports:-

Grants & Awards

The Salt Spring Arts Council gives scholarships of approximately \$2000 per year to artists wishing to pursue further education in the arts. It is always nice to hear how our funding is being used and that it is appreciated by artists. Following is a letter from a recent recipient of one of our bursaries.

I would like to thank you very much for the final installment on the bursary that you awarded me this past year. The funds will be put to good use. I am now in my last semester of a BFA program at Emily Carr Institute in Vancouver. This term is very busy with all the courses and studios as well as meeting all the grad requirements and deadlines.

In less than 2 months this stage of my education will be over and I will be a certified Visual Artist. (hmm) I have been working on my "art practice" and thought you might like to be updated on my activities of this year. In September I participated in a group show at the J. Mitchell Gallery on Salt Spring Island. In November, I participated in the annual ECIAD show and sale, and joined the ECIAD online studioshop web site which was up and running in December. I am pleased to say that I was chosen to be their first featured artist. I've made a number of sales and have had some wonderful feedback, and exposure from some of my customers who have written very flattering comments on their blogs. The new website

features work by current students, alumni, and faculty, thus I will always be able to have a page on this site. I have a small solo show coming up in March, and a two person show in May, both in Vancouver.

I joined a band a year ago called Ice Cream. We have played a few venues and have a small tour lined up. I play synthesizer and vocals. We are currently working on a demo and Ramesh from Salt Spring has offered to help produce the CD. Another band member and myself will do all the graphic work for the CD cover, posters, tee shirts etc, and we have similar work to do for another band.

As you can see my current life is very full. I am not



Untitled: collage on paper by Aja Robb

sure what my future employment may be, but I plan on taking the next year working on it--at least I know it involves both music and art, and most probably grad school in the future.

Once again I really want to thank you for your generous help.

Sincerely,

Aja Robb



Untitled: collage on paper by Aja Robb

Call for entries

Artists to submit work for The Rotary Club of Nanaimo North 2009 Art Calender. Oil, watercolour, pastel, print-makes, or mixed media. www.rotarycalendar.org
Deadline is April 30th, 2008.

Exhibition Proposals from visual artists in all media are invited throughout the year from Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and Science. Visit the website: www.kootenaygallery.com, call (250)365-3337 or email info@kootenaygallery.com

Island Mountain Arts & ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art, Aug 1 - 4, 2008. Contact: Julie Fowler, Artistic Director: media@imarts.com. www.imarts.com or www.artswells.com 800-442-2787

Art in the Park 2008 is accepting applications in all styles and media. To apply, please see: www.ArtInTheParkMapleRidge.com

The Vancouver Asian Film Festival, is now accepting submissions for its 12th annual festival, November 6-9, 2008. **Deadline is May 31st.** All films must include a North American Asian in a key creative role (writer, director, producer). For information: www.vaff.org email: programming@vaff.org

Recycled Plastic Art: for new book Lark Books in North Carolina, is looking for artists who work with recycled plastic for consideration in a new book they are developing entitled "Fantastic Plastic." Written by David and Robin Edgar
Deadline: July 7, 2008
e-mail: beth@larkbooks.com.

Painting on the Edge - Visual Artists. **Deadline: June 5, 2008.** The Federation of Canadian Artists, Vancouver. See: www.artists.ca 604.681.2744 email: fcagallery@artists.ca

The Blackberry Gallery juries proposals once a year, submissions are **due May 18, 2008.** www.pomoartscentre.ca/pages

salt spring arts council

May2008 **newsletter**
volumetwo.issuetwo

see inside

Art by Gillian McConnell
see Easter
Art
Tour
page 2



Become a member

Enjoy this newsletter regularly and other great benefits by becoming a member of the Salt Spring Arts Council - Support the arts in your community and apply for membership - individual \$20, full time student \$15, supporting group or guild \$35, friend - up to \$99, contributor - \$100-249, sustainer - \$250-499, patron - \$500-999. Phone 250-537-0899 for assistance or visit our website www.ssartscouncil.com - New members are always welcome!

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Please submit to addressee:

The SSAC newsletter is published 4 times a year. Please submit your ideas & articles by email to: newsletter@ssartscouncil.com, headed "newsletter item"

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SSAC newsletter

Editor: Megan Manning
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Welcome new and returning members:

Beth Bastien; Alexandra Bell;
Seth Berkowitz; Lynn Bischoff;
Ralph Bischoff; Merle Box;
Laurent Boucher; Lorna Cammaert; Dawn Davies; Ben Goodman; Judy Goodman;
Janet Halliwell; Wendy Hartnett; Garth Hendren;
Marilyn Hood; Rineke Jonker;
Terry Leonard; John McMahon;
Megan Manning-Burton; John Moore; Suzanne Prendergast;
Gail Sibley; Candace Sikorski;
Bridget Sipos; Hal Stone; Betty Taylor; Heather Webb