

whats on at mahon hall

Fusion Fitness on Mondays. Call Rani 250 653 0019 for information.

Salt Spring Arts Academy: tap, jazz, hip hop, ballet, voice & drawing classes. Details: www.saltspringartsacademy.ca

Easter Art Tour - April 10 - Sunday April 12, 10 - 6 daily. Special Exhibit by Leslie Corry with opening Reception on Friday April 10, from 6 - 8 PM

Salt Spring Potters Guild Spring Show & Sale: May 9th, 2009, 10 - 4
Opening Friday: May 8th, 5 - 9.
Works from the studios of over 15 established, award winning, clay artists & potters. For information: www.saltspringpottersguild.com

ArtCraft Gala Opening Reception: Friday, June 19, 7 - 9 with a Showcase of Judy Weeden's work.

For information on renting Mahon Hall call Trish at 250 537 0899. Special rates for SSAC members.

in the news

Art Tuesdays, 7pm (Pot luck). Contact: Gillian: 250-537-5833 or gmccconnell@shaw.ca for schedule, venues and topics.

Happy bEarthday Cabaret, April 22, 7pm. Ganges, by donation. For info, call Shoshanah: 250 537-8598

Jazz & Blues Society fundraiser concert at ArtSpring May 16, featuring local jazz and blues luminaries, including the Swing Shift big band.

Jamie Callum MacAulay works on paper at SaltSpring Books until May 15. 104 McPhillips Ave, Ganges.

Shows @ The Roasting Co

April: Gillian McConnell
May: Larry Melious
June: Patricia Brown

Toni Onley Artists' Project for Emerging & Professional Artists.

July 18th - 26th, 2009, 9am - 3:30pm.
8-Day = \$924. 4-day = \$472.50. To apply for a scholarship, e-mail: media@imarts.com or phone: 1-800-442-2787. Deadline: May 1st, 2009.



see inside

Up and coming - Salt Spring's galleries. - see page 4



"An Immense and Unexpected Field of View" by Jamie Callum Macaulay

Vision for Salt Spring Arts

- by Rineke Jonker

"Where are we and where do we want to go?" are questions we ask ourselves during the Arts Council's annual strategic planning session. Another question is: "how would the membership like us to answer those questions?" This year, at our AGM, we built in an opportunity for our membership to respond to a list of questions about our direction and vision for the coming year. We were thrilled to see so many of you share with us your very thoughtful and creative ideas. Following is a sampling of what you wrote and what we will be discussing at our 2009 strategic planning session. Thank you all for your input. It is not too late to give us your feedback. If you would like a questionnaire, e-mail Rineke at rineke.jonker@gmail.com.



Photo by Megan Manning

Tango at Mahon Hall

Improvements?

- Community arts events that link with events like the Fall Fair and Apple Festival.
- Increased funding to existing programs.

New initiatives?

- An art school with its own venue.
- An art school that collaborates with existing art schools.
- Summer school for the arts.
- Artist retreats, farm joint ventures.
- Juried art shows in Mahon Hall for artists.

- Fall workshops for artists who want to push their work to a new level.

Changes to Mahon Hall?

- Meeting/workshop space.
- Dark blinds for art exhibits & theater events.
- Hanging system to make hanging shows easier.
- A kitchen and a lounge.
- Improved lighting and sound system.
- Piano.
- Heat!

Continued on Pg 5

Jazz Alive and Kicking on Salt Spring

- by John Moore

The Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society produces a jazz and blues festival on the Island in late June. Much is owed to our founding Artistic Director, saxophonist Monik Nordine, whose vision and familiarity with the music scene has brought quality performers to our shores for the last three years. Although Monik has now moved off island, Jazz Fest 2009 will continue the tradition she established.

The 2009 festival takes place June 18-21 and features a varied program of Canada's West Coast talent. It kicks off June 18 at Moby's Pub with an evening of blues and dancing with Uncle Wiggly's Hot Shoes Blues Band. Friday evening will see a jam session at El Zocalo Café.

The centrepiece of the Festival will be Two Much Guitar, at Artspring, on June 20. The concert features star Vancouver jazz guitarists Oliver Gannon and Bill Coon, backed by the superb rhythms of Darren Radtke on bass and Dave Robbins on drums.

Also on offer, will be music in the Centennial Park bandshell, and on the Artspring patio to complement the Masterpiece Weekend exhibit mounted by Salt Spring Fine Art at Artspring.

The Festival winds up on Sunday with performances by Vancouver vocalist June Katz, accompanied by Norris Clement on piano, at Salt Spring Winery, evening music in town and a late night jam.

The Festival is funded partly by the SS Arts Council and relies on donations and sponsorships to balance the books. There will be a fundraiser concert at ArtSpring on May 16, featuring local jazz and blues luminaries, including the Swing Shift big band.

On Sight On - Creativity - by Megan Manning



Channel Ridge by Megan Manning

At a recent costume party, it struck me how creative people on this island are. The hall was awash with costumes, from a bunch of ferns stuck on someone's head, to an impressive 8ft tall scarecrow with flashing red eyes. My roommate and I spent hours getting our costumes ready. The house was strewn with bits of material, leaves, seaweed and green glitter. I spent the day avoiding other tasks, like writing this article, the passion to create driving me, spending money I didn't have at thrift stores, so that I could create a spectacular costume.

Creating is a basic, unconscious urge. To paraphrase from Eric Maisel's brilliant book "A Writer's San Francisco":- The Big Bang is in our genetic memory: worlds arising out of nuclear explosions and flying gas. Out of nothing much - strings and process - a world arises. Because of this genetic understanding, we feel a peculiar pressure to replicate

creation. Itchy desire gets us thinking that we should make a world too. The next step in creating this new world is to collect some matter. For writers, matter is comprised of ideas, images, feelings, words & other building blocks.

The genetic based desire to build a world translates into a pushing & pulling of mind matter. It's taffy and electrons; We say "GO BRAIN" The machine turns on and at some point having stretched the taffy and collected electrons into meaning, it produces a Book or a Painting. It's likely the pieces do not fit together perfectly and your world creating skills are tested. The mosquitoes you invented fly, but don't bite, the taffy is sickly and yellow instead of pink. Because of these difficulties, your desire wanes, your strings stop vibrating and you slip from world builder to TV watcher. The solution? Rekindle desire.

One way could be to go to a costume party, spend a day collecting leaves and entwining them in your hair with green hairspray, or to take a walk in the woods? Rekindling desire may be a process rather than an event.

Whatever you do, Do It! I know it sounds obvious, but the real artists are in their studios making art, or at their desks writing novels, not at the coffee shop talking about it.

Focus On The Positive - ask yourself if something gives you energy or drains you. What makes you feel lighter, energized and excited?

Say It Out Loud - talking is a form of reflection, a way to check in with the feelings that help determine what is essential.

Visualize A Simpler Life - make a list of things you spend too much time, energy and money on. Then make a list of things you wish you could do, have or be. Imagine ways to create your authentic life ~ one that will bring you the most joy.

Photos of 2008 Jazz Festival - by Seth Berkowitz



Valdy performs at the fundraiser



Monik Nordine with Swing Shift

ArtCraft 2009 dates are:
June 12 - September 12

Gala Opening Reception
Friday, June 19, 7 - 9pm
with a Showcase
Retrospective Exhibition of
Judy Weeden's work.

This year, our cultural organizations will be partnering to celebrate the arts on Salt Spring through a "Masterpiece" kick-off weekend. ArtCraft's Gala Opening Reception on June 19 will align with other exhibition activities taking place concurrently at ArtSpring and private galleries in Ganges. We anticipate a strong start to the 2009 summer season for everyone.

Registration fees have not increased this year and ArtCraft registration packages will be mailed out mid-March. **The registration deadline is May 8!**



"sit.stand.run" sculpture by
Deborah Gainer & drawings
by Martin Herbert. August 2008
ArtCraft Showcase

ArtCraft 2009

- from the ArtCraft Manager's Desk



ArtCraft 2008

The Assembly of BC Arts Council's definition
of An Arts Council:

"An arts council is a government or private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the arts mainly by funding local artists, awarding prizes, and organizing events at home and abroad. They are often arms length from the government to prevent political interference in their decisions. . . . Most countries also have a government ministry or department for arts and culture; the typical arts council therefore lives in quite a complex environment, wedged between the arts sector and government."

The British Columbia Arts Council is the agency of the government of the Province of British Columbia committed to ensuring that all British Columbians are able to participate in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for its excellence. Our mission is to support the arts and cultural community to achieve its creative, social and economic potential.
www.bcartscouncil.ca

Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's national, arm's-length arts funding agency. The main areas of activity are grants, endowments and prizes, and research, communications and arts promotion activities also further their mandate to support, promote and celebrate the arts.
www.canadacouncil.ca

saltspringisland
artcraft

Call for Entry

The SSAC **display case on the Queen of Nanaimo is available** for rent by SSAC members until June 1st. Call Trish for details 537-0899.

Performers wanted for bEarthday Cabaret 22 April. Theme is "bEarthday Wish". Contact Shoshanah: 537-8598 or shoshanahray@gmail.com

2010 organizers **call for 4,500 volunteers** for the ceremonies of the Winter Games. Application: www.vancouver2010.com Deadline May 1.

ArtCraft call for artists. Show runs June 12 - Sept 12, 2009. Deadline for entry is May 8. Call: 250 537 0899 for info & application form.

BC Museum of Mining call for proposals from Visual Artists for COPPER & FIRE, Sundays in August, 2009. Deadline is May 15, 2009. Please contact Carol Watts: 800-896-4044 ext. 225 or email: carol@bcmuseumofmining.org

2010: Unity & Diversity in BC Contemporary Craft. Vancouver Museum, January - April 2010 deadline for applications May 15, 2009. Info: www.cabc.net

Mother Tongue Seeks Great BC Novel. Deadline: May 31, 2009 www.movertonguepublishing.com mona@movertonguepublishing.com

Our Island, Our World Film Festival and **Gulf Islands Film and Television School** team up to provide one adult and one youth full **scholarship** for week long intensives on Galiano Island. Applications from: www.saltspringfilmfestival.com

Banff Centre **Production Residencies for B.C. Artists** offering B.C. based professional artists the opportunity to create a new work in dance, music, opera, theatre or interdisciplinary. Info: www.bcartscouncil.ca

BC Arts Council Grant deadlines: www.bcartscouncil.ca/programs

The Canada Council for the Arts For grants, & submission instructions, go to: www.canadacouncil.ca/grants/calendar/Deadline.

Up & Coming- by Anthony Matthews

Upon hearing the sad news of the impending closure of the J. Mitchell Gallery in Ganges, a number of things ran through my mind simultaneously. What will she do now? Will she stay engaged in art related activities? What of the artists represented in her stable? What of the Salt Spring Fine Art Group, of which J. Mitchell is a charter member, and its efforts to promote Salt Spring Island as a Fine Art tourist destination? The Fine Art Tour? Hell, where am I going to gaze upon the phenomenal basketry and ceramics of Pat Bennett and Bill Boyd now?

In informal musings with artists and gallery directors over the last few days, reactions have ranged from disbelief, to grief, to mere head shaking. No one wants to predict how this will impact the remaining galleries in what is sure to be a telling year with the current state of the economy. In this case, a smaller field of gallery offering does not necessarily equate to a bigger piece of the pie for the remaining players. On the contrary, it can be likened to removing the leg of a table. I have always believed that there were not enough galleries to go around, to accurately represent the number of artists living and working



Work by Mikaela Heydemann at Barb's Buns

on our island, and now there is one less.

Perhaps then, this seems to be a good opportunity to bring some focus to the alternative art showing locations around Ganges. These diverse locations have provided some measure of success in showing emerging artists, or artists who are currently not represented by Island galleries for one reason or another. While there is still some stigma as to how important a show is at one of these spaces, they do provide an alternative and a walk around to some of these will reveal that a number of well respected and admired artists are currently on exhibit.

Starting at Café Talia on Hereford Avenue, the owner has been putting on regular exhibits, fine ones at that, since opening last summer. Currently on view is Hilario Gutierrez. Walk through the church park to McPhillips

Avenue which is literally awash in these spaces with no less than five exhibits. Island Savings has new shows four times a year and currently has a show of paintings by Cody Conner.

Head on over to Barbs Buns for a show of paintings by Mikaela Heydemann. Cross the handsome new footbridge over the creek to the Salt Spring Roasting Company to view 'A Mother and Daughter Paint: Patricia M. MacDonald and Alex MacDonald'. These paintings will make you smile. Head on over to Salt Spring Books and look up, way up, to see 'An Immense and Unexpected Field of View', ten new drawings by the exciting young artist Jamie Callum Macaulay. Before leaving the street, stop in TJ Beans for a continuing exhibit of photographs by Osman Phillips. His work is quintessential Salt Spring.

If a yoga session is in your routine, a stop at the Ganges Yoga Studio will reveal a small show in the lobby and stairs of photographic collage of Salt Spring scenes. Jana's Bake Shop is the last stop and there this month are photographs by the well-known and loved Shari Macdonald.

While you are out running errands, take a moment to stop by any of these places and thank them for the support they give in encouraging the arts on our fine island. I invite other businesses to join in and initiate a program of rotating art exhibits.



Work by Patricia Murphy MacDonald at SS Roasting Co

Continued from Front page

A vision for Arts on SSI?

- An arts centre for visual and performing arts.
- An effective voice for artists re: tourism/planning/marketing/sustainability.
- More celebration of our strengths.
- Exchanges with off-island artists and sister communities.
- A public gallery.
- Monthly themed workshops at the hall.

Further comments?

- Fundraising event for a Mahon Hall kitchen, sound system and theater equipment.
- Courses in film making, computer editing etc.
- Using the hall for art school.
- Talks by artists about their work/careers.

Most people wanted to receive communication via e-mail, however other means of communications requested were: the Arts Council newsletter; e-mail bulletin; events calendar on the website – regularly updated; bulletin board at Mahon Hall. Members wanted to hear about programs, events, opportunities, new initiatives, classes, workshops, artist run galleries, including those in Vancouver and Victoria, and art competitions.

Creative Vessels - by Gillian McConnell, BFA

Creative Vessels incorporates a variety of events and activities related to the subject of creativity, including Creativity Coaching, Creativity Workshops and Art Classes and Workshops.

Louise Goodman and Gillian McConnell started the Creative Vessels program to meet the needs of creative people on Salt Spring Island. Creative people encounter certain challenges at each stage of the creative process – no matter which field they work in, no matter how experienced or successful they are, no matter how productive, nor how mentally or emotionally stable. Many creative people are unaware that the difficulties they experience are normal. They think their blocks are evidence of their weakness, incompetence or lack of talent. They conclude that there must be something inherently wrong with them.

Louise and Gillian are currently facilitating a support group for creative people called the Creative Vessels Process Group. The Group is designed to help participants become aware of and understand the significance of the challenges they face, provide strategies to deal with those challenges and create a vehicle for community support. Through a mixed format of verbal and visual presentation, group



Louise Goodman & Gillian McConnell

brainstorming and individual journaling/art therapy activities, participants explore a specific aspect of the creative process in each session, which allows ample time for participants to ask questions, share ideas and provide and receive support with specific creativity issues.

The Group which runs from 7 - 9pm on alternate Monday evenings, is designed to meet the needs of people who create, irrespective of their fields of endeavour. Visual artists, craftspeople, songwriters, performing artists, poets, writers, designers – even scientists will benefit from participation in this group. Anyone who could benefit from the application of creative thinking in the workplace will find the support group helpful.

Louise Goodman (BA) is a practising Artist, Art Therapist and Creativity Coach. Gillian McConnell (BFA) is a practising Artist, Designer and Art Teacher. For more information, contact Louise: 250 537 4521, email: louisegoodman1950@yahoo.ca or Gillian: 250 537 5833, email: gmccconnell@shaw.ca

New Board Members:

Stefanie Denz grew up in Duncan, B.C. and is a long time resident of Salt Spring island. She has a BFA and an MFA in painting. She has exhibited all over the world and has received numerous awards and grants. She is extremely active in the community and teaches drawing and painting. Her work can be seen at the SaltSpring WoodWorks gallery, Winchester gallery and at her studio.

Janet Halliwell was Executive Vice President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Following her retirement in 2007, she moved to Salt Spring Island. Janet and her husband have collected West Coast Indian art for over 30 years and are avid consumers of ceramics and "furniture as art". Janet is a consultant with a focus on post-secondary education and research and development policy.

Bob Leatherbarrow has been working in kiln-formed glass since 1988. He teaches workshops throughout North America and Europe. He served on the Board of Directors for the Glass Art Association of Canada (GAAC) from 2000 to 2006 where he was responsible for communication via the association's web site and developed an artist directory to promote members' work.

Gillian McConnell has a BFA and has been involved in areas of design and publishing, including textile, fashion design and production of screen printed batik and hand-dyed textiles. Her art practice includes painting and mixed media. She teaches workshops in drawing and composition and has recently begun co-facilitating creativity workshops with an Art Therapist.

Robert Steinbach has a Bachelor of Architecture and an MBA. He was senior architect with E. George Knieder Associates of Toronto, was a founder and managing director of McCutcheon Steinbach Comber Investment Management, and founded The Art Company in Toronto. He is also a painter. Currently he engages individuals and business teams in his self designed process "from Chaos to Genius" - coaching them in productive time management.



see inside

Jazz & Blues Festival update
- see 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 \$32.10, friend - up to \$99, contributor - \$100-249, sustainer - \$250-499, patron - \$500-999. Phone 250-537-0899 for assistance or visit our website www.gulfislandsartsCouncil.com - New members are always welcome!

Salt Spring Arts Council
114 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K2V5

Publications mail agreement
#1796224

Please submit to addressee:

The SSAC newsletter is published 4 times a year. Please submit your ideas and articles at least 3 weeks prior to publication date. Submit by email to: manningburton@gmail.com, headed "newsletter item"

Arts Council Board

President - Rineke Jonker 537-1923
Vice-President - tba
Treasurer - Robert Steinbach 538-8502
Secretary - Janet Halliwell 537-5383
Past President - Celia Duthie 537-9606
Directors:
Seth Berkowitz 538-0182
Megan Manning 537-8598
Anthony Matthews 537-8414
John Moore 653-9763
Bridget Sipos 537-1314
Stephanie Denz - 653-2018
Bob Leatherbarrow - 537-8587
Gillian McConnell - 537-5833

SSAC contact information

Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island BC V8K2V5
Phone: 250-537-0899
Facsimile: 250-537-1678
Email: gicac@saltspring.com
www.gulfislandsartsCouncil.com

SSAC newsletter

Editor & Layout: Megan Manning
Design: Diane Weatherby
Printing: Barnyard Grafix
Other Photographs: Megan Manning

Welcome new & returning members:

Delaine Faulkner; Jeannie Paynter; Sallie Stanley-Adams; Bob McKay; Penny Jones; Julie MacKinnon; Laurie Steffler; Christy Cook; Amy Melious; Laurent Boucher; Patricia Hewett; Alan Micelli; Wendy Cutler; Deborah Hart Akiko Odagawa; Matthew Schoenfeld.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the BC Arts Council

"A writer should write with his eyes and a painter paint with his ears."

- Gertrude Stein -