

## whats on at mahon hall

Showcase Gallery Exhibitions  
2011

Family Circus  
June 17--July 6  
Anna Gustafson & Paul Burke  
Opening: Friday 17 June, 6pm-8pm

100 Mile Furniture  
Sam Lightman  
July 8--July 27  
Opening: Friday 8 July, 6pm-8pm

Gerda Lattey  
July 29--August 17  
Opening: Friday 29 July, 6pm-8pm

Julia MacKinnon  
Anna Gustafson  
August 19--August 31  
Opening: Friday 19 August, 6pm-8pm

Barbra Edwards  
Debbie Magnusson  
September 2--September 18  
Opening: Friday 2 September, 6pm-8pm

ArtCraft is open daily 10am to 5pm  
throughout the summer season.

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

## in the news

Members - List your arts  
events on the SSAC Web  
Site Calender. Send your  
info by e-mail to: [news@ssartscouncil.com](mailto:news@ssartscouncil.com)



## Change and continuity



Photographs: Seth Berkowitz

Hello all:

Spring has arrived in her usual beautiful fashion, and all kinds of things are afoot, also as usual, here in our wonderful community, and within the intrepid arts council. First off I would like to welcome four new members to the board. Shelagh Bannister graciously and very competently stepped in as treasurer in January. Rachel Hughes, fabric designer, and Sharon Bloedorn, arts coordinator were inducted

in at our AGM, March 6, and Karen Pedersen added her fine marketing abilities to our table this April. We look forward to their energy and enthusiasm besides the numerous skills and gifts they bring to our dedicated board. We sadly say goodbye to Razali Wahab whose growing art business called him away, Seth Berkowitz who has put in four fantastic years and must now step down, though he carries on his excellent work with the School/Centre for the Arts Steering Committee, and

## - President's Report

Megan Manning whose excellent editorial work and photography will be sorely missed. I have taken Rineke's position and will do my best to fill her capable shoes. One of the main goals I see before us this year is to maintain the momentum of our endeavors of the past year.

So what are these accomplishments and plans we are so excited about?

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## see inside

Easter Art Tour  
see pages 3 to 4

Community  
Conversations, Salt Spring  
School/Centre for the Arts  
see page 6

## our committees:

### Artcraft

Alvaro Sanchez, Chair  
Helen Mears, Manager  
Brigit Sipos  
Jan Smith  
Rachel Hughes  
Judy Goodman

### Artist in the Community

Rineke Jonker, Chair  
Lorna Cammaert  
Joi Freed-Garrod  
Stefanie Denz

### Arts Tourism

Janet Halliwell, SSAC Rep

### School/Centre for the Arts

Liesbeth Leatherbarrow, Chair  
Seth Berkowitz  
Janet Halliwell  
Rineke Jonker  
Bob Leatherbarrow  
Joi Freed-Garrod  
Georgia Taylor  
Sharon Bloedorn

### Communications

Gillian McConnell  
Megan Manning-Burton  
Dana Pennington  
Gail Sibley

### Fundraising

Georgia Proctor Taylor, Chair

### Grants and Awards

Janet Halliwell, Chair  
Illyd Perkins  
Anna Haltrecht  
Gail Sibley

### Mahon Hall Operations

TBA, Chair  
Rod Scotvold, SD 64 Rep  
Trish Wheeler, Mahon Hall Manager

### Membership

Bob Leatherbarrow, Chair  
Ralph Bischoff  
Trish Wheeler

### Programming

TBA, Chair

Get involved: members are invited to join Arts Council Committees as space allows. Contact the President or a Committee Chair for more information.

## President's Report - *continued*



One is a new website with an artist /studio rental/ workshop directory. We have been working with a number of partners on this. The website will eventually boast a calendar of events and e-registration. Our desire is to link with retail galleries, education and PARC, Tourism, the Chamber of Commerce and the Shared Space initiative, to name a few.

Our other big focus is an Island Arts Education Center. Last May we kicked off our fundraising campaign with a fabulous gala dinner at the Hastings House and an auction of almost 60 chairs done up by local artists. The chairs were positioned throughout Ganges for several weeks for public viewing and then collected in Mahon Hall for a well attended exhibit. The ensuing auction was hugely successful. Over all we made \$46,210 netting \$31,550. Since then the steering committee has collected information on the workings of established art schools and local needs and feedback, culminating in community conversations led by Pravin Pillay at Mahon Hall in May. A facebook page was initiated and it enjoys wide reader-

ship and response. We look forward to outcomes of the hard working committee's work.

Artcraft is abuzz thanks to the skills and vision of our new manager Helen Mears. Last year Helen had the stage refinished and new floors put down in the back room, as well as repainting much of the interior. New artists were added to the roster, displays were fresh and exciting, and despite economic troubles, income remained steady. We saw some fantastic duo or group shows on the stage and this year's line up for the three week spotlights were quickly filled. Helen is organizing sculpture for the hall grounds broadening Artcraft's outside appeal.

The artist in the classroom program continues to be very successful bringing, artists from all disciplines into the school system. We also initiated an artists in the community program, and had adult professional workshops in Mahon Hall this spring. Look for our brochure for more exciting workshops in the fall.

Our free annual Santa day had a long happy line up to the old elf. Hot chocolate, gingerbread men and a variety of crafts were to be had by young and old. Attendance was up from last year.

It was the fifth year for the Easter Arts Tour, another

annual SSAC event-see Anthony Matthews' article on page 3.

On the Mahon Hall front, theatre lighting was upgraded with a generous grant of \$4,400 from the Saltspring Island Foundation. We are extremely grateful to the foundation and the Community Theater group who organized the lights, and contributed \$1000!

In February 2011, we participated in the Spirit Festival, a community child based event made possible with provincial funding. Moe Proctor made beautiful banners with the SSE kids to be hung up outside the school. Mahon Hall hosted a thronging opening for the artwork. And the community was treated to impromptu flash mob dancing led by Anna Haltrecht and Deb Toole's flashmob choral; all in unexpected locales.

Also in February we received, to our delight, an \$8,500 performance award from the BC Arts Council – a testament to the extraordinary engagement of the arts in our community.

We look forward to participating with all of you in our upcoming activities, seeing new and familiar faces sharing creative work and play in our beautiful home.

*Stefanie Denz, SSAC Chair*

# Easter Art Tour 2011

by Anthony Matthews

How many years does it take for an event to be truly called 'annual'? The answer to that question seemed to have been revealed to me this past Easter weekend, celebrated by a group show of almost 50 works in this years now 5th Annual Easter Art Tour, when a group of tourists remarked that their visit had been the 3rd year they had attended.

Feeling somewhat nostalgic, I began to think back to the inception. In 2007, an inaugural exhibit by that *doyenne* of Salt Spring Island artists, Diana Dean, proved to be a near religious experience for many guests. It was a reminder to islanders about the incredible body of work created by this artist, and the collective love we all share for her. Of course we all know well the body of talent these shores hold within, but a gentle reminder spread throughout historic Mahon Hall seems welcome and fitting.

Year two was a change of pace with a group show by three completely diverse artists. Susan Haigh showed her hyper real floral paintings alongside a suite of 13 abstract paintings by Gillian MacConnell. If that contrast were not sharp enough, the triad was completed by a large



painting installation by conceptualist artist hamza bin al wathan. Who can forget the experience of walking into Mahon Hall at the *vernissage* (opening reception), and seeing a live nude model interacting with the guests while adding a layer of meaning to his Chroma Key Blue Boy.

Congratulations were in order in 2009 for the recipient of a grant to Leslie Corry awarded by the Salt Spring Arts Council. Her goal was to have an comprehensive exhibit and realize a new installation work, so being selected as the feature exhibit of the 3rd annual Easter Art Tour fit the bill. Tremendous works on paper from her years sketching cemeteries in Paris, as well as paintings and an installation, once again reinforced the impression of deep talent on this island. I remember fondly the evening the show closed - works were being loaded in a moving truck while a group of islanders met for some tap dancing lessons and fun. Only on Salt Spring!

Another single artist exhibit was on tap for 2010, with a broad survey of the remarkable, often large scale and challenging, photographs of Eric Klemm. Well known as the recipi-

Photographs: Seth Berkowitz

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60 seconds with:

## Hannah Brown

### Type of artist?

Broadcaster, wannabe jazz/blues singer.

### Mac or PC?

Mac, but I am politically correct.

### Best recent arts experience?

GISS production of Molière's *The Imaginary Invalid*.

### Favourite word or phrase?

Too much!

### Artist would you most like to meet?

Katie Mallett, Carol Off.

### Work at home or in a studio?

At home in my "overflowing" den looking out at my treasured riparian area.

### Most recent art purchase or trade?

Horse head sculpted by my granddaughter Keely.

### Current project?

Researching and playing on air all 288 Billie Holiday recordings and interviews.

### Finished or unfinished?

Unfinished. 10 weeks done x 11 recordings per week = 178 to go.

### Any last words?

I love this island ... island in trust.

Listen to **Bubbe's Blues** with Hannah Brown on CFSI 107.9 FM Sundays at 3pm for songs of the Blues Queens from the 1920s to the 1940's.

Remember to  
put your  
Country Grocer  
register tapes into  
SSAC's box 93

## Easter Art Tour - *continued*

ent of numerous international photography awards, he is both a relatively recent arrival to the island and to a reinstated career. In 2004, Klemm returned to photography and as the exhibit showed, he is a fountain of ideas, each successive series more intriguing than the last. As a special treat, we were introduced to three pieces from his upcoming book *The Italian Journey*, which recently won a 1st Prize award in Paris.

For this year, our 5th, it was decided that a group show was in order and what a show it was. In all, almost 50 works of art were displayed at Mahon Hall. Sculpture, painting, printmaking and photography were brought together using a handy, newly installed hanging system. Group shows are tricky, and an arts writer (not me I promise), once referred to them as shows of 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'. Without fear, and knowing the talent we have on our island, we simply asked the artists who participated in the Tour to bring in their 'most representative' works, and that simple request was fulfilled with aplomb.

It is too soon to imagine what year 6 will bring, but until then a sincere and warm thank you goes out to all who participated, gave time or services, and attended this years Tour.

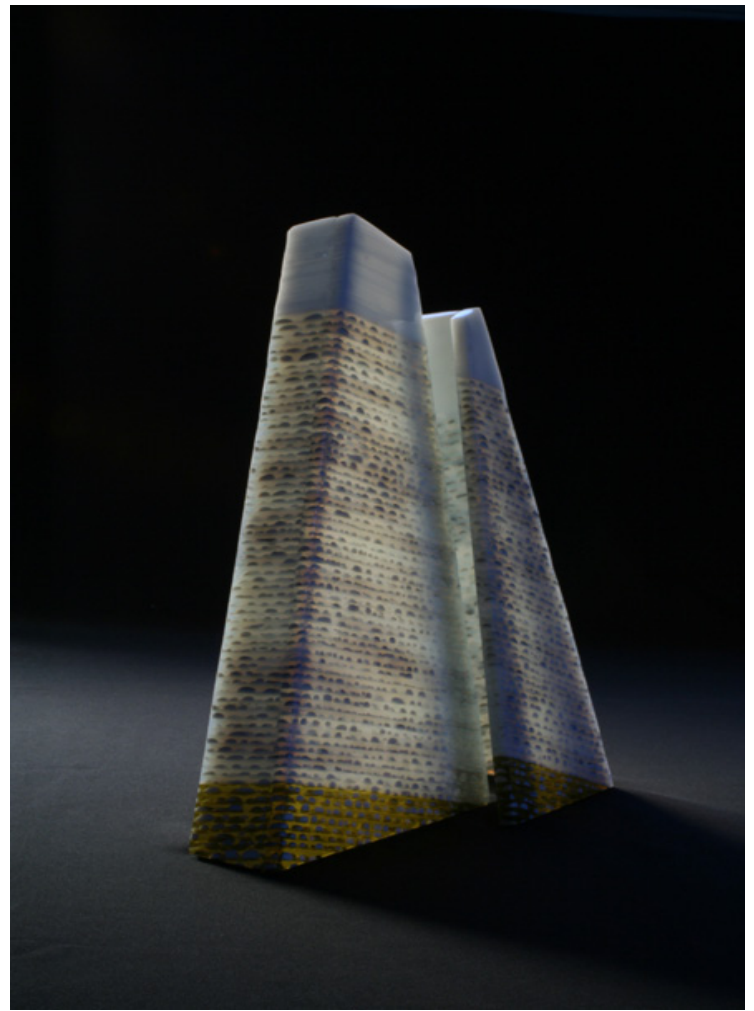


Photographs: Megan Manning

# The Geologist in the Museum

A show of contemporary kiln-formed glass at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner, WA, includes two pieces by local artist Bob Leatherbarrow. The theme of the exhibition titled "Act 2: The Next Track" relates how experiences in other professions have influenced glass artists. Leatherbarrow worked as a geologist for almost 30 years and the natural textures and patterns he saw in rocks are directly expressed in his glass pieces. Other artists in the show include a surgeon, architect, research scientist, physiotherapist, insurance adjuster and an accountant.

One of Leatherbarrow's pieces, a sculpture titled "Mount Harris," expresses a mountain as a few simple lines, planes and colours. The second piece, titled "The Puzzle," consists of a simple array of lines and textures that are carried across 20 wall tiles portraying a geological cross section. These tiles can be arranged in many configurations. The challenge is to find the arrangement that best tells the evolution of the area. Both pieces were derived from residencies at Pilchuck Glass School.



Photograph: Bob Leatherbarrow

## Salt Spring Craft

The **Salt Spring Craft** website features information about Salt Spring Island arts and crafts, artisans, galleries, shops and studios. This is a FREE service created by Cheyenne Goh, Black Sheep Books owner and arts promoter in her spare time. Visit the site for more information or to sign up at:

<http://saltspringcraft.blogspot.com/>



Photographs: Megan Manning

## Community Conversations



May 12th marked the successful conclusion of a series of Community Conversations for the Salt Spring School/Centre for the Arts initiative.

These sessions provided a place to share new ideas and what had been learned to date. The discussions

ranged far and wide, and many creative and imaginative ideas were shared, providing food for thought and inspiration for the steering committee.

All interested individuals were invited to the Opening and Closing conversations. Targeted sessions

were scheduled for specific stakeholder groups, including Tourism and Regulatory groups, Artists, Arts Administrators and Educators, and Art Galleries.

The next step for the committee is to finalize a report summarizing the outcomes of the conversations, and to

make recommendations to the Salt Spring Arts Council Board.

A vigorous discussion is continuing on our Facebook page. For more information or for a link to our Facebook page, please visit [www.ssac-artschool.ca/](http://www.ssac-artschool.ca/).

# George Wallace at the Point Gallery

by Stefanie Denz

Review: George Wallace at the Point Gallery

Curator Margaret Day had the good fortune of spying some wonderful sculptures in the home of a neighbour (Wallace' son) and eventually finagling a show for her cutting edge Fulford gallery The Point. The result was a gripping exhibit of prints and welded steel sculptures by the acclaimed Hamilton artist George Wallace.

On entering the greater room of the gallery I saw ahead of me "Hanging Thief"; a man strung helplessly from the ceiling, his toes pointing downwards, and arms dangling like stuffed tube socks. His hollow eyes stare resignedly through the viewer. Beyond him "Man on a Broken Cot", slides out of an encasement of wrappings, broken insect-like, head first past the crum-

pled cot legs, onto a battlefield perhaps. He seemed an homage to the bondage of war and neglect. In the center of the floor is 'Legless Man in a Wheelchair'. With medal pinned to his chest, his amputated legs keep him immobile though his upper body is strong. Arms stretched, he is shouting, one might think for joy at still being alive, but this appears more like "Look at me! Look at what I have sacrificed for war!" as he becomes an unnoticed and unheard cripple. Against the wall "Man on a Cot" lies shrunken and withered, a sly almost comical corpse. Death has the last laugh.

On the walls strut stunning prints in bold black strokes. A number of them revolve around the Biblical story of Peter's three betrayals of Christ by the cock's crow. The bird looms large, often on Peter's head as he griev-

ously realizes his denials of Christ. Icarus was also a favourite theme of Wallace' and there was a superb print of Icarus, head down, toes pointed as the thief's, only this time up, and body folded into large, dark unkempt feathers. 'Lazarus Awakened' shows stark shoulders and a staring head silhouetted against a light background like a rocky prominence. The prints have an intimate and mythical quality

Wallace' work brings some of our most human qualities to the fore-guilt, shame, pride, despair and fear. In this lack of guise his figures present a certain heroism. They do not pretend or hide their vulnerabilities and helpless rage. Biographer and champion Robert Clarke Yates writes, "... (he) addresses the heart and soul of what concerns us individually when we face the



Great Mystery that is being alive, our lone nakedness in the face of the universe and our having come to be. .... It is charged with a mood and feeling that make it part of something that has always been" (Hamilton Arts and Letters, #3, 2010).

George Wallace was born in Ireland in 1920. He immigrated to Canada in 1957 and taught at the MacMaster University for 25 years. He retired to Victoria in 1985 and died in 2009.

The Point Gallery will be showing more of Wallace' work this summer. A definite destination for art lovers.



Photographs: Stefanie Denz



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Easter Art Tour - see page 3



## 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 - Phone 250-537-0899 for assistance or visit our website [www.ssartscouncil.com](http://www.ssartscouncil.com) - New members are always welcome!

<p>Salt Spring Arts Council 114 Rainbow Road Salt Spring Island, BC V8K2V5</p> <p>Please submit to addressee:</p>	<p>Publications Mail Agreement # 40044147</p>
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The SSAC newsletter is published 4 times a year. Please submit ideas and articles by email to: [news@ssartscouncil.com](mailto:news@ssartscouncil.com), headed "newsletter item".

Continuity and Change: in the future the newsletter will primarily be published online. As a result, the format and content will undergo some changes over the next few editions. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed!

Arts Council Board

President: Stefanie Denz  
Vice-President: vacant  
Treasurer: Shelagh Bannister  
Secretary: Janet Halliwell  
Past President: Rineke Jonker

Directors:

Sharon Bloedorn  
Rachel Hughes  
Bob Leatherbarrow  
Gillian McConnell  
Karen Pedersen  
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