

SPIRITSPEAK

A quarterly newsletter devoted to activities of Creative Spirits East
and the Veith Street Gallery and Studio Association

Our motto: "Art for Everyone"

Volume 1, No.3

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Photo: Mike McCarty

CSE artists-in-residence Brenda DeLorenzo and Dean Morton return to Veith Street Gallery after a shopping trip

RECENT EVENTS

Kittens in Mittens Campaign



Teresa Kilbride reports that during this year's Lost Kitten campaign, 13 kitten artists created over 170 kittens in mittens that were 'lost' in HRM. Kittens made their way to Mount St. Vincent University, University of King's College, Dartmouth High School, and over 40 other locations in Downtown Halifax and Dartmouth. They were lost in restaurants, libraries, coffee shops, galleries, government buildings, businesses, and countless sheltered doorways and alcoves. Kittens could often be seen in odd places, such as phone booths and magazine racks. They waited in armchairs, hung around yoga studios and the theatre, and were a welcome sight in hospitals and on lonely benches. They were also lost in London, England and Cape Town, South Africa. We have heard from several delighted people who have found kittens, and we look forward to hearing from more. This was a joyful campaign and plans are already underway for next year!

Exhibitions

- February 1-24 VSG Giddy Up: artworks by Aura-Lee Mahoney
- March 1-24 VSG The Shapes of Life: artworks by Ruthmarie Adams
- March Feature Artist PPG: Justina Dollard; project curator: Carolyn Taylor
- March 8-31 Lakeside Community Centre Exhibition of 21 CSE pieces to mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day; project curator: Teresa Kilbride
- March 29-April 21 VSG Blam & Glam: portrait photography by Chris Jackson
- April Feature Artist PPG: Sheila Smith, Watching the Time (begins April 7)

NEWS ITEMS

Funding

United Way

We are pleased to announce that effective April 1st, 2011 VSGSA will receive an increase in our funding from the United

Way of Halifax Region. A significant portion of the new funding will provide honoraria to CSE members participating in the Feature Artist program (\$50), in the Artist-in-Residence program (4 month term: \$200), and in the Project Curator program (4 month term: \$400).

At University of King's College, VSGSA was this year's "designated charity" of the Young Alexandra Society. On January 21st Mike McCarty and Teresa Kilbride attended a formal dinner at King's and exhibited CSE works at the YAS Charity Ball held at the Westin Hotel. YAS made a donation of \$1500. Our sincere thanks go to YAS President Phoebe Mannell and UKC President Bill Barker.

New Exhibition Venue

CSE artists now have an exhibition space in the reception area and corridors at MetroWorks, 7071 Bayers Road. The selection from the VSG collection in this space will be changed every couple of months by project curator (external venues) Laura Legere. Bravo MetroWorks!

Revived Program

The Feature Artist program has been resumed at the Pedway Picture Gallery with Carolyn Taylor as project curator.

Feature Items

Pandemonium: a prose-poem by Jon David Welland

- On a solid stone edifice, deep within the sleeping mind, stands pandemonium, a building containing a never-ending labyrinth of chambers, corridors, entranceways and stairwells. An hour can be an eternity in the dream realms and it is there that I spend this vast span of relative time, wandering from room to room, passing through an endless maze of hallways, in search of some

ephemeral prize, the nature of which always disappears upon awakening. If I try to turn around, to trace my steps back to consciousness, the layout of the maze will change and all hope of a swift escape will vanish. It is a place where sleeping souls wander forever, where there is no sense or reason, an architectural riddle to all those who dare to enter. ●

VSGSA/ Visual Connections Project Outreach programs

The United Way funding will enable Education and Outreach Curator Gerard McNeil to pursue two Community Education Programs starting in the autumn. We welcome early expressions of interest.

- The two-year-old Creative Start Open Studio Program is a cross disability program that targets youth between the ages of 17 and 21. It is offered at no cost in an accessible location one afternoon a week for 10 weeks. Participants are encouraged to pursue their preferred medium for the purpose of exploring their artistic talent. Gerard will guide each participant and the members of the group will celebrate their achievements with a show at the Pedway Picture Gallery and the chance to become a Creative Spirit East.



Painting created by Creative Start participant

- A new initiative known as the Time Frames Program is open to adults with disabilities and interested seniors. It is also a 10-week workshop program offered one afternoon a week. The idea is to explore and map three experiences beginning with the past and personal history, followed by the present and the sense of place, and

concluding with the future conceived as an intergenerational community project developed with young people. It will also feature a public art exhibition.

- Gerard also has two Professional Development Programs in his art education portfolio, one of which aims to integrate the visual arts into adult education and the other suggests how the arts can inform the human services field. He can be contacted at 456-0861 or visualconnectionsproj@gmail.com. He would welcome help from volunteers with an arts background.

Reviews of the winter exhibitions by Sheila Morrison

VSGSA has hosted three wonderful shows that exemplify the growth that happens when artists are able to develop and exhibit their work. Attendance was high at all three shows.

Aura Lee Mahoney has painted her heart out for months in the Open Studio space and as resident artist. Her deep love of horses came through in **Giddy Up** (Feb 1-24). Using a mix of media she makes hooves fly, hair blow and eyes speak. Some horses seem to engage the viewer while others enjoy their freedom. A horse with sunglasses makes us laugh. As one who does not ride and is fearful of such large animals I was particularly taken in by Mane Mare which puts the viewer in the position of rider.

Ruth Marie Adams is another artist whose work has developed at an amazing pace and in many new directions. Her love of nature and contemplative moments is always there, but in this show **The Shapes of Life** (Mar 1-24) she moved beyond her previous acrylics of trees and water to a variety of media, subjects and styles, including photography. We wish her well as she moves into the Dalhousie graduate program in Social Work – may the brushes keep flying as fast as the fingers on the keyboard!

Chris Jackson can be said to have moved into a very professional phase of his work. He has been very focused on camera and entrepreneurial skills development and it is heartwarming to see him present his work with pride. He has moved on from the expected black and white portraiture to some astounding artistic poses and colour. In **Blam and Glam** (Mar 30 - Apr 21) Chris has given us exquisite beauty, laugh-out-loud humour, sexy, and just plain sweet. I can't wait to see what his next phase will be – undoubtedly a studio with a queue of models.

No show is complete without the involvement of a talented curator. Kudos to Mike McCarty who always seems to come up with just the right spot for everything. Mike is always encouraging and brings out the best in all of us. Thanks Mike from all the artists and viewers!

Calendar, May-June

(For updates: www.veithstreetgallery.org)

- May 3-26 VSG Paintings by Artist-in-Residence Dean Morton
- May 31-June 23 VSG Guest exhibit by TEAMWORK/The Work Bridge curated by CSE member Janet Thomas-Kendall, including an artist talk by the group on June 14 at VSG
- June 28-July 14 VSG Paintings by Brenda DeLorenzo
- Tuesdays, 2-3 pm VSG Magic Pen writers' group with Jon Welland
- Wednesdays, 1-3 pm VSG art classes with Bev Lewis
- PPG Feature Artist lineup:

April:	Sheila Smith	various works
May:	Chris Jackson	photography
June:	Lisa Richard	watercolours

Exhibition Locations

■ **Veith Street Gallery (VSG)** is located on the third floor of Veith House at 3115 Veith Street, Halifax, at the intersection of Young and Devonshire Streets, one block up from Barrington. It is open on Tuesday-Thursday, 11am- 4pm, or by appointment. Park on Veith Street. The nearest buses are 7 and 9.

■ **Pedway Picture Gallery (PPG)** is located in Alderney Landing, Dartmouth, on the pedway between the ferry terminal and the public library. It is open Thursday-Saturday, 11am-4pm, and features a rotating exhibition of CSE members' work. Additional rotating exhibits can be seen at four other venues:

■ **TEAMWORK/ The Work Bridge** Suite M-278 boardroom, The Village at Bayers Road, Halifax

■ **Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority**, 5940 South Street, Halifax

■ **Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission**, Suite 104, 277 Pleasant Street, Dartmouth

■ **MetroWorks**, 7071 Bayers Road, Halifax

Ways to get involved

The Kindred Spirits program provides volunteers and contributors with advance notices, discounts and other privileges. Become a Kindred Spirit through a donation of \$20 or more. VSGSA is a registered charity which issues tax receipts for donations.

Supporters can help the artists in a number of ways by providing transportation for our artists; donating art supplies at the VSG site, including used picture frames, or helping out at one of the galleries

We encourage interested persons to contact Veith Street Gallery : (902) 446-6010, veithgallery@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.veithstreetgallery.org



Comments/ suggestions to editor,
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