

SPIRITSPEAK

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

Our motto: "Art for Everyone"

VSG | VEITH STREET
CSE | GALLERY STUDIO
PPG | ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, No.2

January 2012



"Be Your Own Elf"

The December image in our 2012 CSE Calendar

Elves (clockwise from Left): Brenda Delorenzo, Aura-Lee Mahoney, Kirby Smart, Michael Seary, Jennifer Smart, Helen Morrison, Chris Jackson, Sam Wood, Mike McCarty, Bev Lewis

RECENT EVENTS

Exhibitions

- November 8-24: Artist in residence Sue Smith's "A Shore Thing" at VSG
- December 6-15: "Embracing the Body", an exhibit of the figure by CSE members curated by Carolyn Taylor at VSG
- December: Group show by CSE members Carolyn Taylor, Justina Dollard and Teresa Kilbride at the Nova Scotia Archives

Community Events

- December 1: VSGSA exhibited CSE works at the "Inclusive Education and Employment Conference, at the Halifax Marriott Waterfront Hotel
- December 14: Eastlink did a TV filming at VSG for an Eastlink Magazine story that was aired the week of January 8th. It is available for viewing on the VSGSA website.

NEWS ITEMS

2012 Photography Calendar

After successful showings of "Macabre" during *Nocturne* at PPG and "Gallery of Horrors", the Halloween exhibit and costume party at VSG, both curated by Chris Jackson, CSE photographers and other CSE members created a 2012 calendar for VSGSA during November and December. Copies are now available at both VSG and PPG for \$10 each. The creative team will continue their activities through the newly formed Photo Club which plans to meet at VSG at least once a month.

Artists in residence

December- March Jon Welland
January-April Barry Bennett

Artist ex residence

October 2011- January 2012 Tina Conrad

Project curators (Chris Jackson and Justina Dollard, and, starting in February, Sean Dewitt and Carolyn Taylor)

Chris Jackson

Chris manages the CSE inventory of artworks, coordinates the new Photo Club, and serves as our official "events photographer". He has also taken over as our facebook editor

Justina Dollard

Justina coordinates PPG's Feature Artist program and the on-going exhibit at Our Thyme Café. She also trains new staff for the PPG.

Sean Dewitt

Sean will be making greeting cards and postcards showcasing artworks by CSE

Carolyn Taylor

Carolyn will be curating most of our external venues: two MetroWorks offices, TEAM Work, APSEA, and Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission

Substitute attendants at PPG

As a result of the illness of Jack Merrell, longtime attendant at the Alderney Landing site, Chris Jackson, Carolyn Taylor and Sharon Earle will take turns acting as substitute attendants. We wish Jack a speedy recovery.

Resignation of Mike McCarty

Mike is stepping down as VSG curator. A new curator will be sought to replace Mike by the end of January with priority being given first to CSE members and Kindred Spirits. Mike plans to continue at VSG until March 31 in order to train his successor. In the future he hopes to actively support VSGSA through new roles, both artistic and administrative. We wish Mike well with his new ventures.

FEATURE ITEMS

Volunteering at special galleries like Veith Street Gallery



Drawing: Dean Morton Photo: Mike McCarty

Steve Bornemann, one of our volunteers, can be found in the framing room at VSG at least once a week where he pursues the essential role of picture framer. He is a committed supporter of opportunities for both artistic expression and volunteer participation. He brings to VSG considerable experience of similar galleries in Vancouver where he lived, worked and volunteered before returning to Halifax in 2009 after a twenty-year absence. He describes his association with one such gallery in Vancouver and his hopes for VSG as follows:

“While in Vancouver, I was for several years affiliated with the Gallery Gachet, named after Vincent van Gogh’s doctor and located in a storefront in the heart of our country’s poorest postal code district. My first impressions of Gallery Gachet were lasting ones. For example, the arrangements for volunteer involvement were well developed. Every volunteer was asked to complete a job application and to attend an orientation session. The volunteer would then choose from a variety of job roles, each one accompanied by a job description that specified shift days, hours and duties. The volunteer signed in on arrival for the arranged shift. On leaving and signing out the volunteer made brief notation of the duties performed and any observations, including suggestions for making the experience more rewarding.

Like Veith Street Gallery, Gallery Gachet kept volunteers informed by email about regular events (e.g. openings, classes, committee meetings and the like) and special happenings (e.g. visiting artists). Each volunteer was encouraged, verbally and in writing, to participate in these activities. Opportunities for involvement were plentiful. Efforts were made to make each volunteer feel comfortable in his/her job. In addition to the opportunities to provide written feedback and to be involved with activities, there were volunteer recognition events and ample expressions of verbal appreciation.

Characteristics such as I experienced at Gallery Gachet tend to flow and ebb. In November 2011 when I returned to

Vancouver for a brief visit, Gallery Gachet appeared to be in the doldrums. My three attempts to re-visit it were thwarted by a locked door and absence of a notice of its current hours of operation. My emails also went unacknowledged. In other words, best practices are no guarantee of survival. In the meantime, here in Halifax, Veith Street Gallery has impressed me with its warmth of reception, supportive atmosphere, and skilled and talented organizers and artists. VSG can be proud of its achievements. Its future looks bright. I welcome the opportunity to be part of this healthy and growing organization.”

Nature’s creatures



Noelle(left) with family and friends at her opening.
Photo: Chris Jackson

A feature of Noelle Hingley’s exhibition “Anuran Song” was Noelle’s written statement on art. As members of CSE may know, Noelle’s interest in “Nature’s creatures” goes back to her childhood in the countryside and her subsequent work with the SPCA and veterinarians. She was particularly drawn to exotic animals and her sculpting reflects this passion. She writes: “I consider it a great privilege to be able to

share these wonderful creatures who share our world with us, with others, through my art.” More generally she reflects on the place of art in our culture. “A world without art or artists would be a bland world indeed. A world without art would be missed. How could we live without the visual treat for human eyes? How could we live without music? Art speaks to all creeds. It’s universal. It’s a universal language whether you paint, play music or sculpt. It is a look into fantastical, mystical and mythological worlds. It’s a look into the eyes of the artists who create it. It’s a gift to share with everyone. It captures the beauty around us. It captures the eye, ear, mind and heart. Art is poetry on canvas, written in words, presented in books. It can be poetry in motion, players on a stage, sculptures that speak of days gone by. Without the hands of those who are gifted in all types of art, there would be none to enjoy, collect or love. The artist is a necessity in a world where a little relaxation and peace is needed. It is God’s way to speak to the world’s people through the gift he’s given to the artist’s hand.”

Calendar, January- March 2012

(For updates: www.veithstreetgallery.org)

Veith Street Gallery

- January “Auran Song”: artist in residence Noelle Hingley’s show
- February “Romancing Paths”: CSE members Justina Dollard and Carolyn Taylor’s exhibit of paintings
- March Photography show by artist ex residence Tina Conrad
- March Exhibit of selection of works from the VSG art class
- Wednesdays, 1-3 pm VSG art classes with Bev Lewis

Pedway Picture Gallery

Feature Artists

December-January Sean Dewitt
February Melissa Pollock

Alderney Gate Library

January 26-March 29: Gerard McNeil, VSGSA education and outreach curator, is again offering the Times Frames Program for older adults once a week for a ten-week period

CSE 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 6 other venues:

- **TEAM Work The WorkBridge** 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**, 1) 7071 Bayers Road and 2) Lakeside Community Centre
- **Old Thyme Café** (run by Elizabeth Fry Society) 98 Portland Street, Dartmouth

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 If you are on Facebook you can visit Veith Street Gallery and Pedway Picture Gallery. Our Blog is veithstreetgallery.tumblr.com



United Way of Halifax Region