

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.4

July 2011



Fantastic Visions of Veith House appearing on our VSG Facebook page

*Michael Seary
Carolyn Taylor
Teresa Kilbride*

*Aura Lee Mahoney
Janelle Frail
Sue Smith*

*Ben Hildebrand
Dean Morton
Anna Bogaczewicz*

RECENT EVENTS

Exhibitions

- May 3-26 Blush from a Brush: VSG Paintings by Dean Morton
- May 9-13 Romancing Paths of the Universe: artwork by Justina Dollard and Carolyn Taylor at the Hidden Gallery, Birmingham St, Halifax
- May 31-June 23 Rise and Shine: VSG Guest exhibit by TEAMWORK/The Work Bridge curated by CSE member Janet Thomas-Kendall
- June 28-July 14 Solitude Not Solace: VSG Paintings by Brenda Delorenzo
- July 1 Canada Day Boardwalk Sale at Alderney Landing, Dartmouth
- July 5-16 Outside/Inside: a selection of works by artists of Creative Spirit East curated by Jon David Welland, Eyelevel Gallery, 2159 Gottingen Street. A reception was held on July 9, 2-4 pm

NEWS ITEMS

2011 Nova Scotia Skills Competition

Congratulations to CSE member Susan Smith whose painting of a PEI shoreline placed second in the Disability Services competitions. Her painting was on display at Argyle Fine Art Gallery, Halifax, in late June.

VSG Artists-in-residence

February-June: **Brenda Delorenzo**
May-August: **Kimberley Csilhas**
July-October: **Sue Smith**
September-December: **Noelle Hingley**

Project Curators

Jon David Welland (April-July)
VSG blog; Magic Pen writers group; Outside/Inside curator
Teresa Kilbride (April-July)
Lost Kittens; VSG Facebook page; funding initiatives
Laura Legere (May)
External venues
Carolyn Taylor (August-November)

PPG Feature Artist curator; Photopolis curator

Justina Dollard (June-September)

Our Thyme curator; PPG Facebook page; button-making workshop

Chris Jackson (July-October)

Gallery of Horrors curator; VSG inventory clerk; CSE event photographer

Feature Items

Visit to Bridgeway Academy

On June 24th a small group of CSE members travelled to Bridgeway Academy in Dartmouth to spread the word about the activities of CSE and the Veith Street Gallery.

Bev Lewis, Sue Smith and Sam Wood accompanied Michael Seary, Gerard McNeil and Mike McCarty as they shared with the approx 100 students of Bridgeway the story of our collective and the opportunities and benefits membership provides for artists with disabilities.

Art activities were explored in 'hands-on' sessions with the students who met with the CSE artists in three groups of about 30 each: grade school (up to gr. 6), junior high (7-9) and high school (10-12).

Gerard led the students in exploring drawing themes using a technique for intuitive art-making called the 'exquisite corpse'. In this Surrealist method, drawings are made in separate pieces that have a common thread or related themes which, once completed are brought together to make a single work. Mike coordinated an 'action painting' experience as inspired by the works of Jackson Pollack. Each of the three groups created a large canvas covered with drips and splashes of acrylic colour.

The drawings and paintings were left with Bridgeway Academy as evidence of our visit and hopefully encouragement to the students to remember that art comes in many packages, just like each of us. CSE and VSGSA have been invited for return visits to Bridgeway on an annual basis.

Reviews of the recent exhibitions in the Seary Gallery by Teresa Kilbride and Jon David Welland

Dean Morton's *Blush from a Brush*

■ Teresa described her impressions of the opening of Dean's exhibition on May 3rd: A beautiful robin on a branch being stroked by a brush was our first entry into the art world of Dean Morton. We had an opportunity to see wonderful mixes of mood and expression from the many delightful creatures and figures that filled the walls of the Seary Gallery. They were playful, comical, noble, sweet, fierce, thoughtful, and beautiful--57 works in all, speaking to us in their own unique ways.

Jon tells us that Dean, a resident of Dartmouth who was born in Halifax and has lived in Newfoundland, has done art his entire life. His body of work encompasses drawing, painting, video, animation and cartooning. Some of Dean's cartoons have been published in local papers. His training has included courses, learning techniques through trial and error and experience at VSG. In Dean's own words "Art is something you never complete. There is always something new to learn and perfect. 'Practice, practice, practice' as the old saying goes, especially in the world of art. Art is a big part of my life. It is who I am. I have had a variety of jobs but art has become my vocation. It's in the blood. This is the first arts group I have belonged to, and I find that joining a group where people have things in common is very rewarding. As you can see, my subjects and styles are different, but I think most artists are the same as well."

To Teresa a blush made from a brush was the central theme of the exhibition. It told us much about how Dean makes art. He applies a gentle hand and the energy around his deliberate and skilled work draws the viewer into delight. His animal subjects have a slightly human expression which suggests that Dean is there somewhere.

Jon has come to see Dean as an animal lover who walks dogs for a living, and this quality shines out through his work. Some people

have the ability to see the spirit that dwells within all living things. Animals have feelings and have distinct personalities, and are more like us than many people would care to admit.

Teresa was fortunate to occupy a space next door to Dean during his artist's residency at VSG. He was a steadfast, hard-working artist who welcomed visitors to his studio. As his walls filled up, the studio became a small gallery in itself.

Teresa on the Guest show: *Rise and Shine*

■ On the evening of the opening reception for Rise & Shine, the works in the Seary Gallery were full of life, evoking thoughts and feelings about Spring time, gardens, growth of new life, beauty, and the natural world. There were photographs, paintings, mixed media pieces, and sculpture. The works were created by a collection of talented artists who are members of TEAM Work Cooperative / The Workbridge, a non-profit organization that assists people with disabilities in becoming employed. Veith Street Gallery has a long history of partnership with this organization, which made this a very special event. Several of the artists belong to both groups, and there was excitement throughout this project, which was the second show hosted by VSG for artists members of TWC/WB. CSE and TWC/WB member Janet Thomas-Kendell curated Rise & Shine. Janet is an upbeat and yet also well-grounded person. She did a wonderful job, and we are lucky to have her as an active member at VSG.

The unique work in the exhibit reflected the unique individuals who took part in this special event. Included in the group were Marlene Brown, Nancy Blair, Leslie Ferguson, Tina Flindall, Ken Wilt, Chris Jackson, Rose Kreutz, Helen Morrison, Jodie Richardson, Taggart Romkey, Jacqueline Smith, Doug Murphy and other TWC/WB artists.

Congratulations to all those who made Rise & Shine such a joyful exhibition. Let's look forward to doing it again next year.

Jon's review of Brenda Delorenzo's
Solitude not Solace

■ Brenda Delorenzo's exhibit was a collection of works from her residency here at the gallery. By nature a quiet person, her work uses bold, expressive brush strokes and vibrant, earthy colors. She finds inspiration and beauty in the people she sees everyday on the street, on the bus or in the park. She captures the spirit of these people in a glance and then evokes it in artwork that is completely her own.

This is Brenda's story, told in her own words: "I paint to survive, to connect, to make sense of the world. I had strange foundations, and still have a very wobbly house! My beginnings were not great, but they helped shape me into an artist with curiosity, imagination, humour and guts. I worked with little children at a day care in my early adulthood. My work history is brief. Over bleak periods of my life I never stopped drawing or painting. I went to NSCAD as a mature student in 1988, but I didn't finish the degree. I am happy to say I am still here and making art. I also write poetry, read a lot, swim and dance."

Calendar, July-September (For updates:
www.veithstreetgallery.org)

Veith Street Gallery

- July 19-August 4 Dancing on a Sea of Colour: Exhibition of work by Michael Seary
- July 29 Gallery of Horrors photo shoot coordinated by Chris Jackson. This all-day event will explore themes of film noir horror. The photographs will be shown at the VSG Halloween party on October 31.
- August 9-25 Exhibition of work by Patsy Wallace
- August 30- September 29 Exhibition of works by AiR Kimberley Csihas
- Tuesdays, 2-3 pm VSG Magic Pen writers' group with Jon Welland
- Wednesdays, 1-3 pm VSG art classes with Bev Lewis

Pedway Picture Gallery: Feature Artists

- July Jean Archer's hooked rugs
- August Laura Legere
- September Dean Morton

Halifax Waterfront

- August 13 CSE artists group shoot for Photopolis images

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
- **MetroWorks**, Lakeside Community Centre
- **Our Thyme Café** Portland St. 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, visit Veith Street Gallery and Pedway Picture Gallery. Our Blog is ????

Comments/ suggestions to editor,
Judith Fingard, c/o of VSG

VSG | **VEITH STREET**
CSE | **GALLERY STUDIO**
PPG | **ASSOCIATION**

