

SPIRITSPEAK

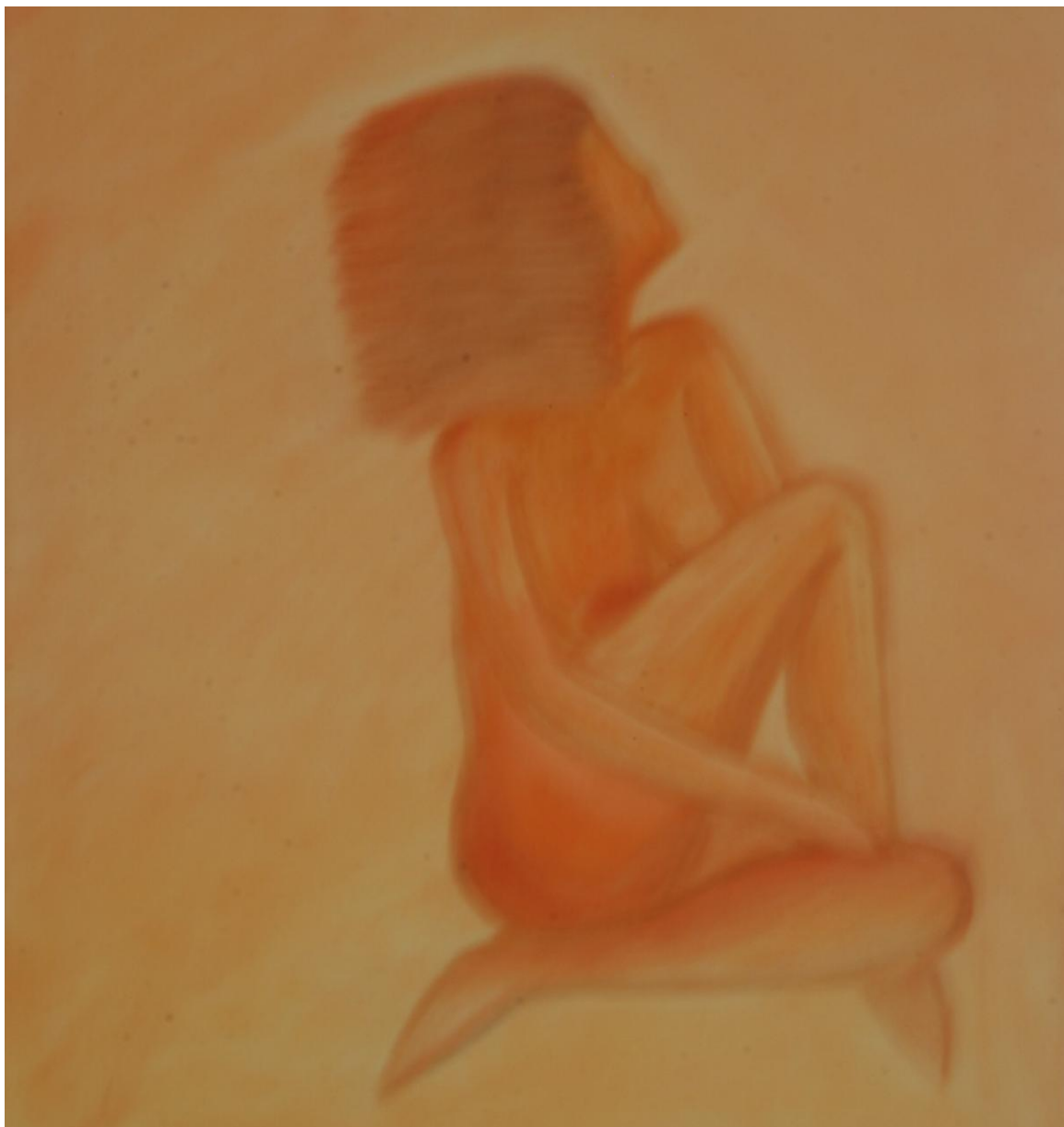
A quarterly newsletter devoted to activities of Creative Spirit East
and the Veith Street Gallery and Studio Association

Our motto: "Art for Everyone"

VSG | VEITH STREET
CSE | GALLERY STUDIO
PPG | ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, No.1

October 2011



"Mother Sun" by Kimberley Csihas Acrylic /canvas 16" x 20"

RECENT EVENTS

Exhibitions

- July 19-August 4 Michael Seary's "Dancing on a Sea of Colour" at VSG
- August 4-27 Laura Legere's "August Whales" at PPG
- August 30-September 29 Artist in Residence Kimberley Csihas' "The Weight of a Woman" at VSG

Community Events

- September 8 Marland United Way kick off at Stadacona
- October 6 Festival of Hope for Mental Illness Awareness Week at Olympic Hall

NEWS ITEMS

Artists in residence

July-October Sue Smith
September- December Noelle Hingley
November-December Gary Wright
January-April Barry Bennett

Artist ex residence

October 2011- January 2012 Conrad

Project curators

Jon David Welland
Carolyn Taylor
Justina Dollard
Chris Jackson

Yoga

For a brief period in September, CSE members were able to enjoy yoga practice on Wednesdays with Chesley Flannery. Thanks, Chesley.

FEATURE ITEMS

Bev Lewis and the Wednesday Art Class

On September 21st the members of the VSG art class gave their rapt attention to their instructor Bev Lewis as she guided them through the use of light and shade for achieving three-dimensionality in drawing. Then they worked on an exercise that consisted of applying these techniques to circles, squares and triangles.

wanted to see if they could make their figures 'jump off the page'.



Bev's afternoon art class usually attracts between six and twelve participants who have a range of experience, talents and interests. Bev herself is teaching the class for a second year, a responsibility she approaches with great enthusiasm, professionalism and warmth. She learned about the VSGSA through her son Sammy. He was told about it by CMHA Dartmouth folk who promoted the facility as a resource for people not well served by the traditional art community.

Bev brings to Veith Street copious experience as an artist and a teacher. A native of Manitoba, Bev settled in Nova Scotia in the 1960s and became a student at NSCAD. After considering and rejecting fashion design as a career, she took the teaching option in the fine arts program. For many years she served as a short-term substitute art teacher and sometimes did a longer stint as a locum in the public school system, all the while continuing to be productive as a working artist, especially in the field of film making between 1991 and 2004. Her four films began with *True Confessions of the All-Canadian Girl* and concluded with *Drive*. For her cinematography she was funded by the Centre for Art Tapes, AFSCOOP, the Canada Council and Telefilm Canada.

Bev Lewis loves her teaching at VSG. She has enjoyed developing her own curriculum after the many years of having to use the lesson plans of school teachers. Bev sees art history as the foundation for learning about the evolution of different artistic styles. This approach

includes creating art based on particular movements (like the Group of Seven) and influential individual artists (like Klimt). Imitating the masters is only one of her approaches. Other classes focus on techniques involved in figure painting, still life, portraiture, and drawing out of doors, as well as the exploration of other media such as collage and puppetry.

Bev passionately endorses the role of the gallery and Creative Spirit East in our community. They fill a very real need by providing fledgling and more experienced artists, who have not been well served, with a space to work, encouragement in the development of their talents, and help with marketing their artwork.

Outreach Education programs

Two VSGSA Visual Connections Projects, each of ten-week duration, were initiated in September by Gerard McNeil. The Creative Start Open Studio Program for young people is being held at the William Spry Recreation Centre and the Time Frames Program for older adults is located at the Bloomfield Centre.

Educating and Exhibiting

Michael Seary's recent summer exhibition at VSG, "Dancing on a Sea of Colour", can be interpreted as part of his promotion of art education, an enthusiasm he has pursued for many years with schoolchildren, adults, and individuals of all ages with challenges. His approach has been central to the mission of CSE, an organization he founded. It has meant the teaching of art "in a large sense—a way of life—not just a picture on the wall". That teaching includes not only subject matter and style but also practical skills like framing and exhibiting. Through his interest in sharing his artwork and his example of living art, Michael communicates with other CSE members and shows that making art is also teaching art.



Review of "Seeing the Eye through Different Worlds" by Jon David Welland

"Seeing the Eye through Different Worlds" at VSG is about seeing things you might not notice on your everyday walk through the park, city, burb or wherever. Perhaps you're in some kind of other world and catching different rays of information that would not come on a regular day, or maybe you're on another plane of existence in the same world which is cleverly disguised as a different world. What is real?" - Project curator, Carolyn Taylor

Many of the photos included in this exhibit create abstract images by focusing on a particular aspect of the actual subject. Others choose fairly representational images of objects and scenes which most people would walk by and ignore. Others take us to places that are not familiar to the average person, some of them beautiful, some of them disturbing.

Here I mention the work of only a few of artists participating in this group show:

In "Another Day at the Office", Gavin Quinn takes us to a world that few have ever seen, a stark world of contrasting black and white, a world that can only be seen once you have hit rock bottom, and see the darkness that is the underpinning of our society, our culture.

In "Out There" and "Golden Ocean" by Chris Jackson, fluid tones of gold and bronze flow like water through the images, evoking the mysteries of what may lie beneath.

In “Halifax Ice Cave” by Carolyn Taylor, deep blue lines dribble and drip down the wall of some unknown cavern where few have ever ventured. In “Aerial View” she takes the same colours and patterns and abstracts them by obscuring the source of the image.

Many other images from emerging and noted artists are included in the show. New works will be rotated on the gallery walls on a weekly basis. This exhibit is also part of the city’s Nocturne show on October 15th.

- Jon David Welland

Calendar, October-December 2011 (For updates: www.veithstreetgallery.org)

Veith Street Gallery

- October: Photopolis “Seeing the Eye through Different Worlds”, project curator Carolyn Taylor. Twelve CSE members exhibit 10 photographs each during a four-week period on a rotating basis of 30 new photos each week. Opening October 1; reception October 13, 2-4 p.m.
- October 13 Day of Caring. Come and say thanks to United Way volunteers who will be painting our corridor gallery and fixing the front room wall.
- October 31 “Gallery of Horrors” Last day of Photopolis featuring an exhibit of photographs inspired by 1950s and 60s horror films and a costume party on the theme, 3-9 p.m., project curator Chris Jackson.
- November 8-24 “A Shore Thing” Artist in Residence Sue Smith’s exhibition
- Tuesdays, 2-3 pm VSG Magic Pen writers’ group with Jon David Welland
- Wednesdays, 1-3 pm VSG art classes with Bev Lewis

Pedway Picture Gallery

- October 15, 6 p.m. to midnight, as part of Nocturne (www.nocturnehalifax.ca), “Macabre”: an advance showing of images from the Gallery of Horrors photo shoots in July and September inspired by 1950s and 60s horror films, project curator Chris Jackson

- December 17, 1-3 p.m. Annual CSE celebration and membership renewal event at the Pedway Picture Gallery

Public Events

- October 13-30, 13th Annual Mosaic for Mental Health Art Exhibition and Sale, Craig Gallery, Alderney Landing
- October 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Halifax Connects, Citadel High
- October 28 Tools for Life, Wolfville

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 4 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**, two locations: 7071 Bayers Road and Lakeside
 - **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 you can visit Veith Street Gallery and Pedway Picture Gallery. Our Blog is veithstreetgallery.tumblr.com

