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For Immediate Release
Comox Valley Art Gallery
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Subject: Announcing Award Recipients: CVAG Juried Members Show 2011

Comox Valley Art Gallery would like to congratulate all the artists who submitted artwork to the 2011 CVAG Juried Members Show. On Friday March 4, the exhibit opened with an attendance of over 100 people at the evening reception and awards presentation. Since opening, there has been steady traffic through the gallery to view the show, which features over 100 artworks by 50 regional and local artists. This exhibit runs until April 16, 2011 in the Public, Window and Arts & Craft Galleries.

Two awards were presented in each of the five juror's categories:

Award for Landscape went to *Evening Paddle* by **Helen Utsal** (Comox), an acrylic painting with gold and purple hues. Also recognized was *Ferry Crossing* by **Lyndia Terre** (Nanoose Bay), a vertically framed graphite on paper drawing, one of 3 drawings in a series.

The **Award for Innovative Use of Imagery** went to *Fish Farm* by **Robin de Lavis** (Hornby Island), a colourful compact acrylic painting depicting questions about salmon farming. *No Place is Home* by **Paul Bailey** (Denman Island) received the second award for its unconventional use of photography.

Award recipients for **3 Dimensional Artwork** went to *Smoke* by **Catherine Lavelle** (Courtenay), a welded steel sculpture depicting the movement of smoke from a fire. *Zen Flyer (free footed sail protects flower from lightning strike as we fly through clouds of tranquility)* by **Jeff Hartbower** (Courtenay) was also recognized for its skillful and playful woodcraft.

Cathedral and Cross by **Channing Holland** (Comox), received recognition with an **Award for Works on Paper**. It is a collograph print with chine colle which shows technical proficiency and honours the medium of paper. Also recognized was *Reciprocal Nearest Neighbour* by **Kari Glass** (Alert Bay), a colourful grid collage that references science and specimens.

The **Award for Figurative Realism** went to *Gladys and Elizabeth* by **Kate Hansen** (Courtenay). This is a contemporary Madonna and Child portrait giclee print of a drawing with a strong presentation of successful realism. The second award went to *Heather with Peonies* by **Karen Martin Sampson** (Sayward), an evocative, poetic acrylic painting of a portrait on canvas.

Juror's awards were selected by three jurors chosen for their expertise in the visual arts:

David Maclean is a Visual Arts instructor for the North Island College for over 30 years, teaching drawing, painting, printmaking and art history; he is currently Chair of NIC Fine Arts. Megan Wilson is a practicing artist, freelance curator recently re-located to the Comox Valley from Vancouver. She is an instructor for both NIC and Emily Carr University Visual Arts. Robert Moon taught Visual Arts at the University of California, Berkely for decades before working in the Vancouver Film industry painting sets, carving sculpture and creating special effects. Since moving here, he's been involved in the arts community on the Arts Council Board, designing sets for Courtenay Little Theatre and as an active volunteer for many creative organizations.

One award will be reserved for presentation at the close of the exhibit in April; the People's Choice Award. Make sure to attend the opening or visit the gallery during the run of the show to vote on your favourite piece!

This exhibit is programmed as a celebration of the creativity and diversity of the Comox Valley visual arts community. A few months ago, CVAG had released an open invitation to all members (membership is open to the public) of the gallery, which is a non-profit society, to submit artwork for exhibition. Drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and fibre arts are some of the genres that have been submitted. As a fundraiser, all works are for sale with pieces priced from \$49 - \$500, with a portion going to the artist and a portion supporting the gallery's programs.

CVAG is located in downtown Courtenay at 580 Duncan Avenue. Gallery hours are from Mon-Sat. 10am-5pm. This new show runs until April 15, admission to the CVAG is by donation, all ages are welcome. FMI visit comoxvalleyartgallery.com or call 250-338-6211.