

April 15, 2011

For Immediate Release  
Comox Valley Art Gallery  
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**Subject: New exhibits showcase the work of local Emily Carr University Graduates, some whimsical ceramics and paintings and a design for sustainable living in the Comox Valley**

One of the most highly anticipated visual arts exhibits of the year opens at Comox Valley Art Gallery: the BFA graduates' show from Emily Carr University who study here at the CV Campus of North Island College. The exhibit is titled "**dimensions variable**" and opens alongside "**Dimpled Creatures from Unknown Places**" and an exhibit called "**the Comox Valley Living City Challenge**". All exhibits open at 7pm – 10pm on Saturday April 23rd with a reception; artists will be in attendance and everyone is welcome. These exhibits run until June 4, Dimpled Creatures until May 31.

"**dimensions variable**", the **Emily Carr University** at North Island College External Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree Grad Show is featured in the Public and Window Galleries. The completion of a Bachelor's degree is one of the most exciting and anticipated events in a student's life. For this graduating class, it means preparing to exhibit the best artworks of their studies, concurrently at the Comox Valley Art Gallery and the Emily Carr University in Vancouver. This year there are seven students working in a variety of themes, subject matter and media:

"**Maddy**" **Elia** seeks to challenge the way we think about 'art'. She believes that artwork can be poignant, heartfelt and carefree. In her recent work *Madelaine* explores her imagination through her memories making them physical. *Madelaine* is an interdisciplinary artist working in the Comox Valley since 2007, when she moved to the Island with her family.

**Catherine Lavelle** says "The experience of embodiment and the relationship to my surroundings is of paramount importance to me. My work is deliberately ambiguous and often ephemeral, resisting a single reading." She has led a peripatetic existence, having lived in thirty-five homes in six countries. She is now contentedly living and working in Courtenay BC.

**Anne Palmer's** [artwork is a ...] continual investigation of the smallest component of drawing – the line - and its constant reiteration and reaction to itself, and presupposed confines. Working within photography, writing and drawing, she is interested in navigating gaps created by material, representation and communication.

**Sareh Puetz** is an interdisciplinary artist who is at present focusing on drawing. Her work focuses on consumerism and the social issues relating to advertising and female sexuality in North American culture. She completed the two year Fine Arts Diploma from North Island College in 2009 before continuing to a BFA from Emily Carr University.

**Deborah Sears** was raised in Raymond Alberta, educated in Calgary and lives with her husband in Canmore with her husband Don when she's not away at school on Vancouver Island or spending her summers in Utrecht, Holland. Home base was Parksville while attending VIU in Nanaimo (2007-09) and ECUAD (2009-11) in Courtenay.

**Sarah Stein's** art work spans different media including video, photography, drawing, and sculpture. Her installations explore gaps between language and visual metaphor, creating conceptual spaces that hover between the psychological and the material. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from UVic and now a BFA from Emily Carr University.

**Leaitta Thompson** says "My work deals primarily with exploration of technology and our classifications of memory. I am fascinated with the notion of memory and how it can affect our awareness of present events." Lea Thompson is an interdisciplinary artist. She has traveled extensively in Europe and lived in Switzerland.

**In the Arts & Craft Gallery, artist Ramona Gregory** (Merville BC) opens "Dimpled Creatures from Unknown Places". This show features ceramic forms, tea pots, tea cups and paintings based on shapes from nature's flora, fauna and Ramona's ponderings of science and technology. The artist maintains a belief in things unknown and undiscovered – the strangeness and perfection of nature's spectacles fuel her curiosity. Ramona has been working with ceramics since studying at Emily Carr Institute in 2001. She completed her BFA there in 2005 and has been dedicated to her practice ever since. She established Elementerra Art Studio in the Comox Valley after studying in Vancouver and travelling abroad. This show runs until May 31.

**The George Sawchuk Gallery features the "Comox Valley Living City Challenge"**, a project which addresses the question: *What if every single act of design and construction made the world a better place?* This design concept exposition is a collaboration by Jay Dahlgren, Tom Dishlevoy, William Marsh and Alison Mewett, members of our design, engineering and urban planning community. They have successfully planned and designed a model of sustainable living for the Valley. The end result, rooted in solid ecological and architectural principles, is a thought provoking and engaging reimaging of our 3 municipalities and surrounding regions.

**The CVAG Gift Shop feature artist is Ted Jolda** (Parksville BC). Currently he is one of Canada's best known glass artists. Working in wood, metal, fabric, and glass, Ted Jolda has been a creative individual all his life. He has attended classes at Simon Fraser University, Western Washington University, and Sheridan College School of Craft and Design. Ted has been called the nation's preeminent ornament maker. Working primarily in glass since 1985, Ted has received international recognition for his work.

CVAG is located in downtown Courtenay at 580 Duncan Avenue. Gallery hours are from Mon-Sat. 10am-5pm. This new show runs from April 23 – June 4, admission to the CVAG is by donation, all ages are welcome. FMI visit [comoxvalleyartgallery.com](http://comoxvalleyartgallery.com) or call 250-338-6211.