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For Immediate Release

Comox Valley Art Gallery

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Subject: Artists Focus on Landscape for Summer Exhibits

Comox Valley Art Gallery announces the first summer show of the 2011 season. Everyone is invited to meet the artists and guest curator at the opening reception on Friday June 10th from 7pm-9pm. Artist Blaine Campbell (Vancouver BC) presents DEMARCATION, guest curated by Megan Wilson (Cumberland BC) and local artist Bev Byerley (Courtenay BC) presents VIEWS FROM MY COMOX VALLEY.

Featured in the CVAG Public and Window Galleries, *Demarcation* is a selection of work by Blaine Campbell organized by guest curator Megan Wilson. This series investigate the ethos/mythos of nature in the collective Canadian psyche; the constructed ideal and processes of manipulation. This exhibit runs for 6 weeks from June 11th until July 23.

Blaine Campbell holds a BFA in photography from Emily Carr University as well as a B.Math (Waterloo) and M.Sc. (University of Calgary). The recipient of the National Award in the BMO 1st Art! Invitational juried competition and the Emerging Artist Award from the Contemporary Arts Society in Vancouver, Blaine was recently selected to create a permanent installation in the lobby of the national headquarters of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. His work has been exhibited at the Republic Gallery, The Surrey Art Gallery, the Reach Gallery Museum, and the Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art and in the Netherlands. He is represented by the Republic Gallery in Vancouver.

Megan Wilson is an interdisciplinary visual artist and occasional curator currently residing in Cumberland, BC. Born in Saskatoon, Megan spent much of her childhood in Auroville, India and eventually moved to Vancouver to attend the University of British Columbia (BHK). She later received a BFA from Emily Carr Institute and a MFA from Simon Fraser University. She is a sessional instructor at the North Island College and Emily Carr University of Art and Design. Since 2003, her work has been exhibited in Canada, the USA, England and Wales.

In the Arts & Craft Gallery, *Views from My Comox Valley* is a collection of acrylic paintings on canvas by local artist Bev Byerley. Many of the scenes captured are recognizable places, looking towards Goose Spit from the Courtenay Airpark, a view along the Courtenay River, and many places on the Estuary. Of the Airpark paintings, Bev says they are "scenes from the same path I walk each day, but subtle changes in light, weather, and seasons constantly shape and re-shape the familiar into fresh new imagery". This exhibit runs for 4 weeks from June 3 to June 29th.

To complement this work, **Mussels & More Pottery** was selected from the CVAG Gift Shop to enhance the oceanic theme. In the shapes of giant oysters, clams, and mussels, these ceramic vessels are hand crafted from high fired porcelain clay in Campbell River BC by Jan and Mike Sell, the featured Gift Shop artists until the end of July.

Bev Byerley, a painter and printmaker, was born in Gimli, Manitoba, and became a resident of the Comox Valley in 1965. After graduating from high school in 1977, Bev furthered her studies in an oil painting course at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Alberta. With plans to be an illustrator, Bev was accepted into the commercial arts program at Capilano College in North Vancouver and upon completion of this course, worked for a graphic artist in downtown Vancouver. Bev is best known in the Comox Valley for her acrylic landscapes of the west coast and of Newfoundland.

The Comox Valley Art Gallery is located at 580 Duncan Avenue in downtown Courtenay. FMI, visit us on the web, on Facebook or contact 250-338-6211.