

June 28, 2011

For Immediate Release

CVAG July art exhibit features fine art portraiture by Perrin Sparks (Quadra Island BC)

For the month of July, Comox Valley Art Gallery welcomes artist Perrin Sparks from Quadra Island, BC. Her portraits will be featured in the Arts & Crafts Gallery from July 2 – 27. Please join us for a special welcoming day on Wednesday July 2nd during which Perrin will be drawing live portraits in charcoal from 1pm – 3pm (call to reserve a spot). The same afternoon, the gallery will host a reception from 4pm – 7pm so that you have the opportunity to view the artwork and meet her while she is present to converse and answer questions.

Perri (only her mother calls her Perrin!) honed her skills based on the background of BA in Fine Art from Syracuse University (Syracuse NY), Master's in Medical Illustration from the Johns Hopkins University Medical School (Baltimore, MD) and 27 years as a medical artist specializing in surgical illustration. Perri worked at Stanford Medical School (Palo Alto, CA) and Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX) before moving to Dallas, TX, to take on the job as Director of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School's Art Department. For 17 years she served there on the faculty in the Graduate School Program in Biomedical Communication.

After this career of working as a surgical artist and portraying anatomy for limited color production, Perrin Sparks now enjoys creating full-sized figurative paintings and working with a live model. She works in pastels, due to the colourful quality. Pastels have also forced her to think in terms of bolder gestures due to the constraints of the medium. She was introduced to oil painting driven by portrait commission requests. In November 2005, she and her new husband moved from Texas to their lakeside home on Quadra Island, BC and in 2006 they opened Lake Haven Atelier and Art Retreat.

To reserve a spot to sit for Perrin Sparks' charcoal portrait drawing session on Wed. July 6th, please contact the CV Art Gallery. We look forward to seeing you at the reception from 4pm - 7pm. CVAG is located at 580 Duncan Avenue in downtown Courtenay. FMI 250-338-6211.