

July 22, 2011

For Immediate Release
Comox Valley Art Gallery
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Subject: Liz Carter “On Reserve” and Megan Dulci Dill “Food Source”

Everyone is invited to the opening reception for Liz Carter’s **On Reserve** and Megan Dulci Dill’s **Food Source** on Friday July 29 from 7pm to 9pm. Come and meet the artists, CVAG staff, board and members of the local arts scene.

Featured in the CVAG Public and Window Galleries, On Reserve, July 30th to September 10, 2011:

On Reserve is a digital photo essay (made up of large format photographs, video and sculpture) of commercial activity on Indian Reserve land. Carter has inserted herself into the images playing the part of the ‘Indian Princess’ who is consistently employed in commerce in order to sell, brand or just add humour. Her reasoning is the latter, provoking a discussion with inserted humour opening a safe place for an analytical look at perceptions of the North American Indian and how product labeling and stereotypes affect it. The ‘Indian Princess’ is out of place in the context of Carter’s images; it makes no sense, juxtaposing a historical non-native view with a contemporary one. Why is the ‘Indian Princess’ shopping in a present-day store? Why is she not fishing out of her canoe or tracking deer with her bow and arrow? While these methods of hunting and fishing are still in use today, most Indigenous people get their food and other items the same way non-natives do, by shopping at commercial outlets.

Liz Carter is a person of First Nations ancestry who has been displaced from her cultural roots, this has had profound effect upon Carter’s work as an artist. Carter says, “*It is a life riddle*” that has taken her upon a biographical journey full of unanswered questions about displacement and loss of tradition. Carter’s search has uncovered a realm of commercial images of the ‘Imaginary Indian’ that profoundly impacts our perception. It has also revealed the determined struggle of Kwakwaka’wakw culture to carry forward ancient symbols and meanings into a contemporary life. Originally from Alert Bay, Carter currently resides with her family in Campbell River. She is a graduate of North Island College’s Fine Arts program. She has received numerous awards including the VADA, (visual arts development award) A First Peoples, Heritage, Language and Cultural Award, BC Arts Council Award, and recently had work purchased by the Canadian Art Bank in Ottawa and awarded a commission of a permanent piece for the 2010 Olympics.

Featured in the CVAG Arts & Craft Galley, Food Source, July 30th to August 27, 2011:

Food Source is made up of small scale oil paintings that reflect the vibrant diversity of local area food sources and their growth cycles. Megan Dulcie Dill explores current thoughts on food today in her abstract versions of shellfish, salmon, berries and other offerings in the food-chain. Dill is concerned with finding a balance between natural occurrences and controlled actions through her artistic process. Luminous shapes emerge and come alive in her paintings through texture, colour and shifting lines. Often the painting titles are translations from Sliammon First Nations language spoken in the area where the artist lives and references the local area food sources.

Megan Dulcie Dill is a full time painter who incorporates her love for the natural world in her paintings. She is a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and the University of Toronto and is involved with various community arts initiatives while dividing her time between Powell River and Savary Island. She has participated in shows across Canada and her work can be found in collections across North America.

Featured Artists in the CVAG Gift Shop for August and September will be a selection of potters, woodworkers, and cookbook authors: The pottery of **Susan Crowe** (Hornby Island) is both beautiful and functional, with embossed motifs of blackberry, asparagus, and fern on celadon-green glazed stoneware. Sensuous wooden serving bowls by **Karl Sarap** (Nanaimo) and hand-carved utensils by **Ron Bazar**

(Cortes Island) incorporate the natural grain of local and exotic woods as design elements that compliment any table setting. Featuring luscious reproductions of artwork by **Shawn Shepherd** (Victoria) and recipes by chef **Mary Patterson** (Victoria), the **Special Cookbook** provides a feast for the eyes and taste buds. Closer to home, **Rose Vasile** (Comox Valley) provides an in-depth guide to using raw foods in her best-selling book, **Uncooking with Raw Rose**.

Comox Valley Art Gallery Notice of Special General Meeting, July 29, 2011, 6:30pm at CVAG:

The Board of the Comox Valley Art Gallery will host a short (half-hour) Special General Meeting on July 29th, 2011 at 6:30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to present a series of bylaw changes for vote by the Membership. The proposed bylaw changes are available on our website www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com

All are welcome to attend. Please note that the SGM will be followed immediately by an opening reception for Liz Carter's *On Reserve* and Megan Dulcie Dill, *Food Source*.

We look forward to seeing you at the Gallery!

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.