



COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY
CONTEMPORARY GALLERY
MARCH 15 TO MAY 2, 2014

Students from Wachiay Friendship Centre Youth Art Design and Screen Printing Program Comox Valley, BC, Canada

serigraph / screen prints

Hands of the Next Generation



HANDS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

The Youth Art Design and Screen Printing Program is a partnership between the Comox Valley Art Gallery, the Wachiay Friendship Centre and the Community Justice Centre. The program provides an opportunity for students to develop design skills and explore screen printing techniques in the creation of North West Coast Aboriginal Art. Students are mentored by acclaimed Northwest Coast First Nations Artist Andy Everson and local Screen-printing guru Andy MacDougall, in the creation of images that express their culture. In addition to receiving experience in art production, print production, graphic design, and portfolio development, the students will have the experience of presenting their work at the Comox Valley Art Gallery alongside their mentor and teacher Andy Everson.



Karver Everson

Karver Everson - *The Hamatsa*: Passed down from the highest ranking member of your family is how you attain a hamatsa. The initiation is long and embodies the cultures dark but uplifting qualities. It is the highest ranking dance within the Kwakwaka'wakw nation. With it comes great responsibility not only to your family but to the culture itself.



Billie Heinpalu

Billie Heinpalu - *Terrie*: My art piece for the show is about a wonderful family and youth worker at my school. She told me how she loves hummingbirds. She even got a tattoo of one. She thinks they are magical and graceful. I told her my favorite animal was a wolf. When I started this project all I was thinking was I wanted to make something for her. Something as a thank you gift - a way of showing my appreciation. I believe everyone has a spirit animal and that when I die I would like to be reincarnated as a wolf. I think spirit animals are important. We must be good to animals and their habitats and homes so we can keep our spirit animals around.



Nicholas Humphries

Nicholas Humphries - *Untitled*: I chose the eagle because it has become something of an icon in northwest coast art. It also is a creature with some history for me; I used to live in a house near the spit and there was a lot of eagles there. To me the eagle is an icon of freedom: they don't fear, they do what they want, and they are very smart. The reason I chose purple was because according to colour theory – purple is associated with royalty and power, and eagles are very majestic.



Evelyn Jones

Evelyn Jones - *Heron*: I am drawn to the continuity of circles because of the certainty of always returning. When I made this piece, I was thinking about the moon and how it speaks of a continuity and about the peaceful quality of water. I also have a strong connection to the heron because it is a patient and contemplative bird. It waits and watches, even when it seems like nothing is happening. I think about this in relation to my life when it seems like everything is standing still. The heron is often alone and I see myself this way.

THE WACHIAY FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

To build a strong community rooted in the philosophy of our Peoples. To create bridges of friendship, and to provide a safe and supportive environment for the empowerment of all people.

Wachiay is Cree for “Welcome”. Everyone is welcome at the Wachiay Friendship Centre. The WFC has grown significantly since its incorporation in August 1995. The centre has grown from two staff members to nineteen, delivering vital programs and services to community members in the Comox Valley. The WFC provides Advocacy, Child, Youth & Family Services, Employment & Training Services, Information Services, FASD Services to all peoples.



Kaya Leslie

Kaya Leslie - Rebel: When I was four years old, my life changed. I was camping in Kelowna, my dad and brother were fishing at the beach, and I decided to tag along. All of a sudden I saw a blur of brown, black and grey barreling down the face of a cliff. Before I knew it this wolf had jumped on me! It was trying to eat me! Well, it wasn't a wolf, it was an abandoned german shepherd and she just wanted to be my friend. The bond was instant. She became part of my family that day, but more importantly I found my best friend. We decided to name her Rebel. Even though it seemed as if we rescued her, Rebel rescued us and brought unconditional love and loyalty to my family. She's with the stars now, this is for you Rebel, rest in doggy paradise.



Savannah Norris Seigler

Savannah Norris Seigler - United: I chose the wolf because it is one of my family crests. My family is from Kingcome Inlet – home of the Kingcome wolves. I grew up in the Comox Valley. To me wolves represent strength and family togetherness. They travel in packs and no one is ever alone. My family and I travel often to attend potlatches or visit family and close friends. Two summers ago I went home to Kingcome Inlet for the first time. I went to spread my grandmother's ashes, attend a feast and meet my extended family. As extremely uplifting as this journey was it was also very emotional for me. This wolf print is the first one I've ever done. It represents togetherness of family and strength. I can't think of anything more important.



Chantal Solomon

Chantal Solomon - Glacier Return: Have you heard to story of how the Queneesh glacier came to be? Every time I hear it I wonder if the whale will return to the ocean. This piece is a reflection upon the ripple effects of our actions and climate change.



Marlo Wylie

Marlo Wylie - Cherished: My uncle is a Haida artist and has inspired me with his art. I am surrounded by eagles everyday because I live near a river and I hear and I see them. When I went to Portland I went to a zoo, I saw an eagle and people were so excited to see it. I am very fortunate to have the eagle in my everyday life and I do cherish it.



GALLERY TALKS: Join us for gallery talks, conversations, performances and readings. Artists, Curators and Cultural Workers share their work, process, vision and inspirations. Learn about contemporary cultural practices, ask questions and share your ideas.

Saturday, April 12 at 11 am: Andy Everson discusses his current show *Like? Indigenous Musing in a Digital Age*.

Saturday, April 12 from 2 - 4 pm: take part in **DISCOVER ART SATURDAY**, CVAG's drop-in family **MAKE ART PROJECT** event. Andy Macdougall will be demonstrating screen printing processes as part of this event. Andy Everson and Andy McDougal are the mentors for the Wachiay Friendship Centre Art / Design & Printmaking Students.



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Wachiay
Friendship
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