



COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

presented to the Annual General Meeting
May 26, 2022



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PRESENTED TO THE 2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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GRATITUDE

The Comox Valley Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges that we are located upon the Unceded Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. We recognize the enduring presence of First Nations people on this land.

We thank our generous funders + community partners for providing the resources that enable us to serve our community.

CORE FUNDERS:

City of Courtenay
Canada Council for the Arts
BC Arts Council
Province of BC Community Gaming Grants Program
Comox Valley Regional District
Town of Comox

PROJECT FUNDERS:

Canada Summer Jobs
Fairs, Festivals and Events Recovery Fund (Government of BC)
First Peoples' Cultural Council
Service Canada
SPARC BC
Vancouver Foundation
Vancouver Island Health Authority
Young Canada Works (Heritage Canada)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

ABC Printing & Signs
AVI Health and Community Services
Campbell River Art Gallery
Comox Valley Community Arts Council
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre
Comox Valley Transition Society
Courtenay and District Museum
Creative Employment Access Society
Cumberland Village Works
Hitec Screen Printing
Imagine Comox Valley
Industrial Plastic & Paints
Izco Technology Solutions
Kómoks First Nation
Lush Valley
MakeltZone
Manidoo Waabiwin An Cultural Society

McElhany Consultants
McLoughlin Gardens Society
North Island College
Ocean Pacific Abrasive Blasting
Phillipa Atwood Architect
Project Watershed
Protek Media
School District 71
School District 71 Indigenous Education Program
School District 71 Print Shop
Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
Shine-Eze
Sid Williams Theatre Society
Thompson Rivers University
U'mista Cultural Centre, Project of Heart Canada
Valley Prototyping & Custom Cutting
Wachiay Friendship Centre

We are especially grateful for the support of consulting Elders and Cultural Carriers, guest artists and curators, program participants and collaborators, gallery volunteers, donors and members.

DOCUMENTATION + POST-PRODUCTION:

Alun Macanulty / Angela Somerset / Cassidy Gehmlich / Denise Lawson / Tom Elliott

AGENDA
2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of minutes from the 2021 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Financial Reports
 - a. Motion to receive the 2021 CVAG financial statements as circulated
 - b. Motion to approve Laura Bomback as the Accountant for the 2022 fiscal year
6. Election of Board Members
 - a. Motion to approve the report of the nomination committee
 - b. Election of a maximum of three additional board members from the floor
7. Staff Reports
 - a. Executive Director
 - b. Overview of 2020 Programming
8. Presentation of the Nonny Milne Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts
9. Adjournment

**COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY 2021
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
By Zoom
May 6, 2021 10:00AM**

1. Call to order: 10:03AM

The President called upon our cultural advisor, Wedlidi Speck, who welcomed the meeting with a prayer and an acknowledgement of that the gallery and the communities it serves are on the unceded territory of the K'omoks Nation.

Review of zoom meeting procedures, including the fact that the meeting is being recorded The President declared that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of agenda

Moved: Nicole Crouch.

Second: Meaghan.

Passed

3. Approval of minutes from the 2020 AGM

Moved: Judy Leblanc.

Second: Sharon Card.

Passed

4. President's Report (attached)

Jasmin referred to the disruptions of the pandemic as the greatest learning curve and the greatest accomplishment of the gallery staff who

5. Staff Report (see attached Annual Report)

a. Executive Director

2020 was an extraordinary year in which we needed art more than ever and it was more difficult than ever to share art. He has never received so many accolades for the work of others. He recognized the astonishing amount and variety of programming and activities the Gallery staff achieved in these difficult circumstances. Glen recognized the creative leadership from the co-curators Angela Somerset and Denise Lawson. He also recognized the contributions on every level by Sharon Karsten; Tom Elliot who works hard from Nova Scotia in support of our efforts; Kat Radford who does a heroic job of running Shop-Made; Kirstin Humphreys who maintains the very complex financial books.

There is another exceptional team who run the Youth Media project. We have another four summer students.

Glen expressed gratitude for the work of the Board, who have only been able to meet online, and especially for the leadership of our President, Jasmin.

b. Overview of 2020 Programming

Denise Lawson expressed gratitude for the work of student interns – –

She also expressed gratitude to Alan McNulty who contributed to the shaping of the

gallery and presentations throughout the year. Faced with the Gallery's closure, due to Covid, Denise and Angela spent time developing relationships. They decided that work should not just come and go, but rather that the artists' work and presentations should be woven through time. Denise loves the people working at the gallery, the generosity of the artists we work with, and the support of the Board.

Angela Somerset presented a visual overview of the year's activities.

https://www.dropbox.com/s/a2gbv0mqfqb7fwb/AGM%202020%20MEETING_1.pdf?dl=0

Glen invited Krista Tupper to talk about the Youth Media Projects. Krista thanked community partners who involved participants in talks and sweat lodges. She also thanked the City of Courtenay for making possible to move into upstairs space. Participants in the YMP start from scratch and develop real, usable skills. All the films created by the participants are available online at the Gallery website. In addition, Glen noted that 2 graduates of the YMP have been employed as summer interns for the Gallery.

Glen reported that the Gallery was able to adapt and offer programmes online, including 'Walk With Me,' and the Watershed Project. It was, he said, most challenging to take everything we do to create relationships and build community and deliver it online.

Glen introduced Shelley Vanderbyl whose work was against the lower Gallery door when the fire started and whose work was so impacted by the fire. Shelley found it amazing to work with the Gallery. She was so grateful that the staff made it possible for her to move forward despite the fire. Shelley's video is available at

https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/offsite_onsite-research-production-residency/

6. Financial Report (2020 Financial Statements attached)

a. Jasmin presented some aspects of the Financial Statements.

6.a.i. Accounts receivable are a result of funding timing.

6.a.ii. Page 10, note 6: our financial liabilities are double last year's because we received so much extra funding. Much of this funding is included in deferred revenue.

6.a.iii. Page 5, Externally restricted funds represent funds received for the Opioid Project which is ongoing and for the Gallery's digital pivot, which will be spent on the technology.

6.a.iv. Page 9, note 4, letter b. The Board restricted these funds to be spent on the digital pivot, some safety improvements, and accessibility.

6.a.v. Our revenue is down due to covid restrictions and the abandonment of the Christmas fair.

6.a.vi. The contribution to overhead has been removed because, since the renovations the Shop income and expenses have been integrated into the gallery, instead of treating it as a separate venture.

b. **Motion** to approve the 2020 CVAG financial statements as circulated.

Moved: Meaghan.

Second: Brian.

Passed

- c. **Motion** to approve Stuart Barry as the Accountant for the 2021 fiscal year.

Moved: Meaghan.

Second: Claire.

Passed

7. Election of Board Members

- a. The nominating committee nominates for 2-year terms on the Board Claire

Aitken

Jasmin Badrin

Brian Charlton

Wedlidi Speck

- b. The nominating committee proposes the following slate of officers President

– Jasmin Badrin

Vice-President – Meaghan Cursons

Secretary – John Heintz

Treasurer – Sharon Robarts

Motion to approve the report of the nominating committee. Moved:

Meaghan Cursons.

Second: Sharon Card.

Passed

- c. Election of a maximum of three additional Board members from the floor.

Miguel Strother was nominated.

Motion to elect the person nominated from the floor.

Moved: Brian

Second: Claire

Passed

8. Adjournment: 11:36AM

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022**

Welcome to the Comox Valley Art Gallery's 2022 Annual General Meeting!

This is our first in-person AGM in two years, and I want to start by acknowledging that this meeting is taking place on the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. CVAG is honoured and grateful to be operating here.

At this AGM we present our annual report and financial statements for 2021, elect our upcoming Board of Directors, and provide our membership with the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

A highlight of all of our annual meetings is a review of the previous year's programming, and this year is no exception. 2021 presented enormous challenges as the Gallery continued to respond to the Global Pandemic. I am so proud that our gallery team and board of directors rose to the challenges and met the needs of our community by finding new and creative ways to exhibit artwork, support artists, and offer programming that was safe, enriching, and meaningful.

CVAG is a non-profit, charitable society governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. I want to thank the Directors, who were a joy to work with as we grappled with unprecedented circumstances. I particularly want to recognize the Board members who have completed their terms: Claire Aitken, Keisha Everson, Judy LeBlanc and Sharon Robarts.

I also want to thank the Gallery staff team that guided us through such an extraordinary year, the artists who created and presented artwork despite the year's challenges, the community partners who collaborated so generously, the volunteers who gave so willingly of their time, and the funders at all levels of government who provided the resources we needed to survive and thrive.

The Global Pandemic has truly demonstrated just how vital art is crucial to society's health and wellbeing. It has been an honour to serve as president of the Comox Valley Art Gallery, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Submitted by Jasmin Badrin
President, Comox Valley Art Gallery

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022**

As set out in the Comox Valley Art Gallery bylaws, there are between 10 and 13 members of the Board of Directors. Ten are nominated by the Nomination Committee and presented to the membership at the AGM. Up to another three may be nominated from the floor at the AGM.

Board terms are usually for two years, and staggered so that roughly half the board positions are up for nomination at each AGM.

There are currently four board members in the midst of their two-year terms. They are:

- Jasmin Badrin (president)
- Wedlidi Speck (cultural protocol advisor)
- Brian Charlton
- Miguel Strother

The two-year terms have lapsed for three board members who wish to serve again. The nomination committee submits their names for further two-year terms. They are:

- John Heintz
- Meaghan Cursons
- Nicole Crouch

The Nomination Committee submits the following names for new two-year terms:

- Molina Dawson
- Lelaina Jules
- Avis O'Brien
- Rosslyn Shipp

The Nomination Committee also submits the following team of table officers to serve until the next AGM:

- President and Acting Treasurer – Jasmin Badrin
- Vice-President – Meaghan Cursons
- Secretary – John Heintz

One person has stepped forward to run from the floor of the AGM: Tracey Clarke for a one-year term.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT
2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022**

2021 was another year of unprecedented challenges for the Comox Valley Art Gallery. The ongoing pandemic, new COVID variants, and increased social isolation impacted all facets of our operations. As social restrictions eased, we carefully adjusted our health protocols and tried to balance public safety with the need to combat social isolation.

I am inspired and grateful to work with an amazing staff team that not only met the challenges we faced in 2021, but strengthened the Gallery's long-term health and resilience. The Gallery team doggedly built our capacity for digital and outdoor programming. We raised capital funding to improve our accessibility in the coming year. We deepened our relationship with community partners, local businesses, and schools. And as you will see in the following programming report, we fostered and presented artwork that directly addressed the pandemic and its impact on our community.

All of this is the direct result of a dedicated, hardworking, and fearless team. Our creative leaders, co-curators Angela Somerset and Denise Lawson, bring a burning passion to their mission of supporting artists and breathing life into our exhibitions and programs. Operations facilitator Cassidy Gehmlich keeps our Gallery and our lives organized in the midst of creative chaos. David Lawson manages our technical needs (high and low-tech) with steadfast attention. We have been blessed with an exceptional crew of part-time and on-call staffers (including student interns), such as Kat Radford, Kim Holmes, Taylor Robinson, Marlee Munroe, Tara Betancourt, Islay McKechnie, and Gabrielle Moore-Pratt. I want to give a special acknowledgement to Alun Macanulty, who provides extraordinary services as both a photographer and a painting expert. His care and dedication always makes the Gallery look good.

Youth Media Project Team Leader Krista Tupper, and her able crew of Kyle McFayden and Lex Vaugeois, delivered a powerful program that provided hands-on training to young people in our community. And Sharon Karsten, in addition to providing invaluable administrative support and wisdom to the Gallery, led the ever-growing Walk With Me project. Her team of Nadine Bariteau, Sam Franey, Chris Hauschildt, Darcy Honey, Sophia Katsanikakis, and Barb Whyte worked with community partners to deliver an arts-based response to the opioid crisis in our community and beyond. Their efforts literally save lives.

I need to give special credit to some of the most overlooked and unsung heroes of the Gallery – the people who look after our books and accounting. They undertake unglamorous work in the background, but we simply could not deliver our programming without them. Our longstanding accountant Stuart Barry guided us with a steady hand while the organization grew in financial complexity. His significant improvements to our accounting were crucial in providing funders with the assurances they needed that we were fiscally sound, accountable, and ready to grow. After working with us for almost 10 years he is moving on. We are so grateful for his years of service. We are also pleased to report that there was a smooth transition when we signed on with an equally able accountant, Laura Bomback.

I must also report the bittersweet news that our beloved bookkeeper Kirsten Humpherys is retiring at the end of June. I can't say enough about how much care and dedication she showed to the Gallery as we grew ever-more complex. She started with Gallery sometime around 2008 (no one remembers exactly when... suffice to say that for everyone working here now, she has always been there.) She worked with four different executive directors over the years, and did an amazing job of humouring our quirky styles. We will miss her so, but we

are very happy that she will spend more time with her grandchildren. And, in typical character, she is ensuring a very smooth transition.

It is such a joy to work with such a strong team of staff, contractors, volunteers and community partners. Their reliance and adaptiveness made sure that we grew and thrived in the midst of unprecedented challenges. And more importantly, collectively they provided our community with the art we so desperately need in times like these.

Submitted by Glen Sanford, Executive Director

Gratefully living and working on the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation

CONVERGENT PROGRAMMING REPORT
2022 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2022

APPROACHING CONVERGENT PROGRAMMING @ CVAG 2021 – A MULTIYEAR SPAN

Con.ver.gent: *adjective*

- to come together
- merging
- meeting at some point
- concurrent
- confluent
- connecting
- occurring simultaneously
- blending and running together
- unite gradually
- establish communication between
- accompanying or associated features
- combine
- coalesce
- unite

The descriptors in the definition of the word convergent aptly describe programming at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. These keywords frame the intentions that underpin the work undertaken over the span of a year and that flows into the future.

In January of 2021, we were in the middle of the pandemic and social political upheavals. Our world was shut down. We were masked, our contact with one another limited to strident parameters for physically distancing. We suffered disillusionment, discouragement, and disorientation. As we faced this challenging reality, we learned to ZOOM. In this virtual space we begin to imagine ways in which the gallery could continue to support creative practice and engage community in programming, using the virtual world as another platform of connection, creative experimentation and making.

We took time to reflect:

‘what is our motivation, our orientation to the places we find ourselves in our relationship to one another, how do we see a year – at a glance, in the traces, in the memories awakened by an image, a phrase - familiar or unfamiliar, how do we integrate experiences – individual and collective, set down on the ground that is rooted and uprooted, this is the certainty – that there is constant change.’

We resolved to continue to move forward to find our way through the changes imposed by a world turned upside down. We released the future plans that were no longer feasible as we held fast to threads of the past that could be woven into a new fabric – that expressed the new possibilities that erupted from responsiveness and resilience.

In a virtual conversation (zooming between Courtenay and Stockholm) with collaborating curator Abir Boukari, we asserted that “We must keep going. We must support artists and their practice. We must find new ways to engage the communities around us.” So, in the face of diversity we learned new technologies that would bring us together; to sustain and form new connections, to collaborate, to learn, experiment and create. We learned to share physical spaces in a safe way, and to extend ourselves out into the community and to ‘bring the community in’. 2021, with its obstacles, became a year of opportunity in which we expanded existing programs and developed innovative new programming at CVAG.

1. Multi-Year Public Art and Research + Community Action + Outreach Programming at CVAG:

Walk With Me Under the leadership of Dr Sharon Karston, the project continues to build momentum and outreach in more and more communities to build

This ongoing project brings together diverse stakeholders within the community to re-frame, imagine, and honour lived experience of those at the heart of the toxic drug crisis that is affecting communities. A group of artist-researchers, front-line workers, and people with lived and living experience banded together in a spirit of solidarity, attempting to come to terms with the impact of the crisis on individuals and community.

<https://www.walkwithme.ca/>

Youth Media Project Led by the project's team leader, Krista Tupper, the program was able to carry forward during Covid and has expanded its capacity in the past year.

This project uses digital media, creative facilitation, and artistic collaboration as a framework for training youth, over a 13 week period, to create media for community action.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/projects/youth-media-project/>

Public Place : Sacred Space This ongoing multi-year program integrates themes of welcoming, gathering and healing through the incorporation of Indigenous place-naming, installations, public art, a full circle tea garden, exhibitions, cross-cultural sharing, performance, video screenings, workshops, gatherings and residencies. The undertaking was a collaboration between the Comox Valley Art Gallery, participating artists, curators, Elders, the K'ómoks First Nation community and the City of Courtenay. Together, the components in this program are seen as a step toward reconciliation and recognition of the historic relationships the K'ómoks peoples have had with this Valley for thousands of years.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/public-place-sacred-space/>

During 2022 the **Traditional Indigenous Full Circle Tea Gardens** at CVAG were cared for and harvested under the leadership of Elder Barb Whyte. Teas are made for gifting and for serving during gatherings hosted by CVAG.

The Traditional Welcome Poles (Karver Everson, Randy Frank, Clavin Hunt, and Crossroads (Andy Everson) continue to identify the traditional K'ómoks Unceded territory and represents the historical and current significance of the region as a place of territorial, environmental and cultural intersections.

Honouring: Project of Heart / Speaking to Memory

This responsive legacy project honours the intent of two projects; *Speaking to Memory: Images and Voices from St. Michael's Indian Residential School* and *Project of Heart: Illuminating the Hidden History of Indian Residential Schools in BC*.

In 2021, the legacy canoe and educational materials produced by CVAG in collaboration with SD 71 Indigenous Education were installed in the new library + community space at Laketrail School in Courtenay BC. These arts-based presentations offer educators, students, and families of School District 71 the opportunity to examine the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools in British Columbia.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/honouring-project-of-heart-speaking-to-memory/>

EVERYBODY DESERVES A SMILE/EDAS

"Art Envelopes of Love" created by students at Ecole Puntledge School on display at the Comox Valley Art Gallery

To raise community awareness the artwork of students from local schools were displayed at various locations throughout the Comox Valley.

Each December the EDAS program engages students and educators in an arts-based outreach program. In 2020, students created "envelopes of love" that were later filled with small items and gift cards and delivered to those in need during Christmas.

2. Thematic Programming 2021 / Innovative - Responsive - Relevant

- *SPACE BETWEEN US*
- *OFFSITE / ONSITE*
- *VISIBLE LABOUR / OUR YOUNG GIRLS*
- *TERRI-LYNN WILLIAMS-DAVIDSON / A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION*

SPACE BETWEEN US

SPACE BETWEEN US / VIRTUAL + ON-SITE PROJECTS

EXHIBITIONS ONLINE + IN-GALLERY INCUBATORS / VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS / E-PUBLICATION

December 3 - February 27 2021 (began with virtual connections, technology training in the spring 2020)

Ravel – Maleea Acker / Renée Poisson / Sophie Wood

Untitled – H. Pearl Gray / Bran Mackie

Simple Syrup – Hannah Brown / Cassidy Gehmlich

You and I are also infrared heaters – Meesh QX / Kara Stanton

Medicine Dreaming – Spencer Sheehan Kalina

The resilience and generosity of creatives, the gallery, and community as a whole, was reflected through what transpired in the space between us. By reaching out to one another we nurtured a collective experience – a weave of strength and interconnectivity that made space for individual and collaborative creative exploration and development and a coming together as a whole within the larger context of a convergent program of artists, writers, makers, curators, participants and viewers. Sometimes this was a visible, palpable, and tangible exchange, however, it was often facilitated through and mediated by technology platforms. Labour associated with research, development, production and presentation – all that it takes to make things happen - often took place behind the scenes, over distance, and through virtual exchange. Out of these workings new ways of making, collaborating and presenting unfolded.

Epublication Launch Event - <https://vimeo.com/522546546>

FIN 230 SCULPTURE + INTEGRATED ART PRACTICE STUDENT INCUBATOR

December 3 2020 - February 27 2021

bobbi Denton / Brittany King / Foroozan Taleifard / Gabrielle Moore-Pratt / Kaili Hodacsek / Kimberly Holmes / Renée Poisson

This production incubator shared the work of students in the FIN 230 Sculpture and Integrated Art Practice I / Fine Art and Design program at North Island College.

CVAG supported the students' experiential curriculum learning opportunities through mentorship, access to gallery technology support, and installation + presentation experience in Gather:Place and Window Gallery. Students had been navigating the conditions of new learning platforms during the Covid 19 pandemic. Through online courses, limited access to the onsite art studios and shops at the college, and carefully orchestrated offsite hands-on learning opportunities, the students produced individual projects and a collaborative group project – a *Fluxus Emergency Kit*. With the support of Julian Rendell of the MakeltZone, students had the opportunity to explore integrated sculpture technologies.

KILL YOURSELF

December 17 2020 - February 20 2021

Mackai Sharp

This exhibition is an example of the responsive way in which CVAG is able to present relevant programming. Former YMP participant and emerging artist in our community approached CVAG's curators about presenting *Kill Yourself* – work that brought the casualness of gender-based harassment to the foreground, reminding our community of the ever-present threat of intolerance. Highlighting the complicity that we as a community tend to hold when bigotry plays out in public spaces. This piece allowed for time to reflect on the present situation within the Comox Valley and searches for a way to evolve our collective ideologies to encompass inclusivity.

A LETTER FROM THE OCEAN

March 4 – 23, 2021

Playwright - Caridad SvichCast - Clea Minaker & Warona SetshwaeloCreative Team - Andrew Andreoli (Director of Photography), Cristina Cugliandro (Director), Danna-Rae Evasiuk (Lighting Designer), Clea Minaker (Art Director), Evan Stepanian (Sound Designer), Diana Uribe (Environment Consultant)

While the gallery was closed during public health guidelines for the pandemic, visitors (while keeping a respectful COVID distance from others) were invited to experience this poetic and beautiful 11-minute video screened nightly on the CVAG Plaza between 6-9 pm. "*What words does the ocean speak? How can people listen?*" *A LETTER FROM THE OCEAN / An Ode to Loss and Love*

OFFSITE_ONSITE / A multifaceted year-long program with international outreach.

February 27 - September 4 2021

Abir Boukhari (Sweden), All Art Now collaborating curator, local and international artists:

Nisrine Boukhari (Austria)

Alfredo De Stefano (Mexico)

Anne Steves (Cumberland)

Shelley Vanderbyl (Comox)

Relational practice, artist to artist to curator to curator to artists to collaborators, underpinned the *OFFSITE_ONSITE* convergent program. Creative research and production residencies extended over the year allowing for relationship building, deep inquiry, collaborative production, sustained community engagement and the evolution of presentations for exhibition. Gallery spaces were adapted, windows have become

portals, media screens and internet platforms were enlivened, and installation projects were situated offsite and onsite. These portals became access points to lived experiences, truth telling, realms of time, notions of shared space, and to places both near and far.

Virtual Productions | June 16 2021 - September 4 2021

Offsite_Onsite program and Under One Sky exhibition | <https://vimeo.com/566710299>

"About the Blue": an artist talk by Nisrine Boukhari | <https://vimeo.com/713064866/b9c192437f>

Nisrine Boukhari "The Light That Gets Lost" | <https://vimeo.com/549383476>

Under One Sky opening event Alfredo De Stefano artist talk June 23, 2021 |

<https://vimeo.com/713522360/09b4302886>

"Maybe they don't mind my dirty shoes" a performance by Shelley Vanderbyl June 23, 2021 |

<https://vimeo.com/713080129/107ddcf290>

Anne Steves Community Make Art Virtual Events | <https://vimeo.com/542790865>

Anne Steves "Contact" | <https://vimeo.com/526331590>

Nisrine Boukhari "The Light That Gets Lost" | <https://vimeo.com/549383476>

Alfredo De Stefano "Visit My Studio" | <https://vimeo.com/558047318/65a1d55923>

Shelley Vanderbyl Offsite_Onsite Research and Production Residency 2021 | <https://vimeo.com/537862457>

Residency Images | <https://vimeo.com/513874825>

VISIBLE LABOUR

RESIDENCY / EXHIBITION / OUTREACH PROJECTS / MENTORSHIPS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VISIBLE LABOUR /Creative Development + Production Residency

Deborah Dumka + Claire Sanford

January 15 - May 29, 2021

Creative development + production residencies at CVAG provided an opportunity for artists to take their concepts through a process of creative development and production to a point of readiness for exhibition. Connecting artists with experts in the community from whom they can resource technical support and skills acquisition, providing working spaces, access to tools, and housing next door to the gallery are all ways in which the gallery bolsters these residencies.

Deborah Dumka, is both an artist and an electrical engineer, worked on a project that addressed social and paternalistic resistance to women entering male dominated fields. Related to Deb's fibre and electronic based works, are video and sound installations that were developed by filmmaker Claire Sanford. This foundational research contributed to the creation of a final documentary film premiered in 2022. Claire presents a unique perspective as Deborah's daughter, as she bears witness to her mother's experiences as a woman practicing in the world of art and engineering.

Julian Rendell, engineer and programmer, founder of The MakeltZone in Courtenay, has supported Deb and Claire with their research and development, through skill and resource sharing, as they build the digital and electronic components of their work. Facilitating community collaborations / creative exploration and new skills acquisition are part of the work that the gallery is doing to pivot accessibility to artists' presentations and to support artists as they take risks and expand their art making processes.

"Lightly, Lightly" virtual workshop with Deborah Dumka and Julian Rendell | <https://vimeo.com/555000431>

Lightly, Lightly workshop: More information | <https://vimeo.com/558850639>

Julian Rendell making a doll for the "Lightly, Lightly" workshop | <https://vimeo.com/561887651/1b1bc540ac>

OUR YOUNG GIRLS / Exhibition

March 25 - September 24, 2021

Deborah Dumka

Claire Sanford

The exhibition was based on experiences, exploring issues faced by women studying and working as engineers. It lays bare the continuum and legacy of gender-based discrimination, sexism, and sexual violence and gives voice to the artists experiences. Power radiates from speaking uncomfortable truths and asks viewers to listen deeply and, in doing so, share in carrying the heavy load – the labour – of sexism and the status quo.

Community engagement opened up pathways for ongoing dialogue through art based making:

Our Young Girls Community Make Art events May-June, 2021 | <https://vimeo.com/556946761>

CVAG Community Make Art Drop In Events July-Aug. 2021 | <https://vimeo.com/571332060>

VISIBLE LABOUR / Exhibition

May 25 - May 29

Kristin Nelson

Deborah Dumka

Claire Sanford

Connie Michele Morey

An exhibition that brought artists working in very different ways together to share their perspectives about the ever present constancy of the work that is going on all around us.

Virtual platforms actively engaged participants in presentations and make-art activities. Student interns, artists + collaborating partners, and curators engaged in hands-on and technology skills activities that brought them into deeper relationships through knowledge-sharing.

Virtual community outreach:

Net Making: An Online Workshop April 17, 2021 | <https://vimeo.com/571332060>

Net Making: An Online Workshop (4:34 excerpt) | <https://vimeo.com/641901321>

Kristin Nelson residency Oct. 31 - Nov. 7, 2021 | <https://vimeo.com/642701999>

NETS / Creative Residency + Make Art Kiosk at CVAG | <https://vimeo.com/642734573>

TERRI-LYNN WILLIAMS-DAVIDSON / A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

September 29 - December 31 2021

HONOURING COMMITMENT TO DECOLONIZATION + RECONCILIATION + TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS PROTOCOLS / COLLABORATION WITH CULTURAL ADVISORS and COMMUNITY PARTNER / HYBRID DELIVERY AND ACTIVATIONS / COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION OUTREACH

GID AHL-GUDSLLAAY / TERRI-LYNN WILLIAMS-DAVIDSON

In collaboration with community partners, the work of Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson / GID AHL-GUDSLLAAY was presented through community engagement events that include cultural sharing + teachings, education outreach to local schools and the public, the annual Iona Campagnolo lecture, an art opening + artist talk, and a music concert.

Terri-Lynn Davidson Art Opening / Cultural Sharing / Artist Talk livestream Oct. 15, 2021 |

<https://vimeo.com/638686194>

TLGAA K'AAYSGUUXAN SGANNAGWAS / THE SUPERNATURAL REALM SGAAN TLAGÉE / LAND OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS | <https://vimeo.com/633282387>

3. SUPPORTING Creative Practice + Community: Independent Project Room Studios 2021

Anne Cummings

Kelsey Epp

Elizabeth Russell

CVAG supports artistic practice with opportunities that occur throughout the CVAG spaces and offer artists dedicated time to do their work. Projects may be stand-alone or woven into the gallery's thematic programming as preparatory inquiry and development for future exhibition work.

Developing Ideas: Elizabeth Russell's research + creation in Gather:Place at the Comox Valley Art Gallery <https://vimeo.com/592483685>

George Sawchuk – After Forty Years of Labour

March 11 – May 29 2019

George died in 2012. In 2014, a retrospective exhibition *The Book of George*, at CVAG, featured the breadth of George's art practice. Over the years since, time and nature has enfolded the Forest Gallery to the point where only traces remain. Today, George's portables are the works "left behind" that point to "the poetry, lyricism and understanding of his materials, the labour to secure them and the life lived". Pat Helps, George's wife, has now opened the doors of the storage sheds that have housed George's portables for decades. A small sampling of George's art at CVAG is presented as a way of increasing awareness of an artist whose powerful work is in our midst.