



COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the Annual General Meeting
May 25, 2023



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May 25, 2023

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GRATITUDE
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

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

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

PROJECT FUNDERS

Canada Summer Jobs
Young Canada Works
Fairs, Festivals + Events Recovery Fund (Government of BC)
First Peoples' Cultural Council
Service Canada
SPARC BC
Winnipeg Arts Council
Manitoba Arts Council
Swedish Arts Council
Newfoundland + Labrador Arts Council

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AVI Health + Community Services
U'mista Cultural Centre, Project of Heart Canada
Valley Transition Society
K'ómoks First Nation
Manidoo Waabiwin An Cultural Society
Creative Employment Access Society
McLoughlin Gardens Society
Wachiay Friendship Centre
Sid Williams Theatre Society
Courtenay + District Museum
Campbell River Art Gallery
Comox Valley Community Arts Council
Comox Valley Community Justice Centre Comox
Cumberland Village Works
MakeltZone
Project Watershed
Healing Dance Sacred Circle
Ikwe Noojim Niimi Idiwin
Kumugwe Cultural Society
Imago Theatre
Lush Valley
Imagine Comox Valley
Comox Valley Kayaks + Canoes

Thompson Rivers University
North Island College
School District 71
School District 71 Indigenous Education Program
School District 72 Early Learning Centre
School District 71 Print Shop
Sherwin-Williams Paints
ABC Printing + Signs
Innov8 Digital Solutions
Lacasse Construction
Progressive Systems
Phi Architecture
Pacific Audio Works
Shine-Eze Ltd.
Muir Engineering Ltd.
Izco Technology Solutions
Westcoast Home Theatre
Industrial Plastic + Paints
Hitec Screen Printing
Ocean Pacific Abrasive Blasting
Phillipa Atwood Architect
Protek Media
Valley Prototyping + Custom Cutting
Dulux Paints Nanaimo

DOCUMENTATION + POST-PRODUCTION

Alun Macanulty | David Lawson | Taylor Robinson | Marlee Barry | Tom Elliott | CVAG interns + staff

AGENDA
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome from Elder Barb Whyte
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from the 2022 AGM
5. Message from the President
6. Financial Report
 - a. Motion to Receive Financial Report as Circulated
 - b. Motion to Approve Laura Bomback as the Accountant for the 2022 Fiscal Year
7. Election of Board Members
 - a. Motion to Approve Report of the Nomination Committee
 - b. Election of up to Three Board Members Nominated from the Floor
8. Staff Report
 - a. Review of 2022 Programming
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment

COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
In-person at the Gallery and by Zoom
May 26, 2022 5:30PM

1. Call to Order: 5:38 PM

Board president Jasmin Badrin introduced CVAG's cultural adviser Wedlidi Speck. Wedlidi welcomed the members, referring to the indigenous history of the Comox Valley, acknowledging that the Gallery is on the unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, and thanking the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for their service to the Gallery and the community.

The President declared that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Miguel

Second: Meaghan

Passed

3. Approval of Minutes from the 2021 AGM

Moved: Nicole

Second: Meaghan

Passed

4. President's Report (see report in the AGM package)

Jasmin also thanked outgoing directors Keisha Everson, Judy Leblanc and Sharon Robarts for their service on the Board. Jasmin also expressed gratitude to accountant Stuart Barry for his years of service.

5. Financial Report (see 2021 Financial Statements in the AGM package)

Motion to receive the 2020 CVAG financial statements as circulated.

Moved: Miguel

Second: Judy

Passed

Motion to approve Laura Bomback as the Accountant for the 2022 fiscal year.

Moved: Meaghan

Second: Nicole

Passed

6. Election of Board Members

a. The nominating committee submitted the following names for further two-year terms on the Board:

- John Heintz
- Meaghan Cursons
- Nicole Crouch

b. The nominating committee submitted the following names for two-year terms on the Board:

- Molina Dawson
- Lelaina Jules
- Avis Lianna O'Brien – N'alaaga / kaawkuuna
- Rosslyn Shipp

c. **The nominating committee proposed the following slate of table officers:**

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

Motion to approve the report of the nominating committee.

Moved: Meaghan

Second: Roger

Passed

d. **Election of up to Three Board Members Nominated from the Floor**

Motion to elect the person nominated from the floor, Tracey Clarke.

Moved: Meaghan

Second: Roger

Passed

7. **Staff Report**

a. **Executive Director's Report (see report in the AGM package)**

Glen expressed his gratitude for and appreciation of the staff's work and the care building the Gallery community. He applauded the ability of the Gallery staff to adapt and accommodate the challenges and changes brought about by the pandemic and the changing public health restrictions in response to the pandemic. He expressed thanks to accountant Stuart Barry who shepherded the Gallery through an enormous transition and helped to ready the organization to take the next steps forward. Glen said that the Gallery would not be in the financial position it is without Stuart's leadership. Glen also expressed appreciation to Kirsten Humphries for her work as bookkeeper over several years and the smooth transition to a new bookkeeper. In 2024, the Gallery will turn 50 years old.

Motion to receive the Executive Director's report.

Moved: Meaghan

Second: Roger

Carried

b. **Overviews of 2021 Programming (see report in the AGM package)**

Denise began the presentation with a discussion of 'convergent programming' which is the guiding idea of the Gallery programming.

Angela Somerset presented a slide-show of the year's programs.

Sharon Karsten talked about the Walk With Me project and expressed gratitude for the gifts of wisdom received from cultural leaders and the unhoused people who participated in the project.

Krista Tupper talked about the Youth Media Project, whose participants went out and walked with the Walk With Me project. Kelly Bernard won best sound design at the Powell Rive Festival. Krista also showed a list of the international awards that Mackai Sharp's film has won.

Angela and Denise continued with slides from the past year's work.

8. **Presentation of the Nonny Milne Award**

The late Nonny Milne, a great contributor to the arts, was an early president of the Gallery. In 2015, CVAG created the Nonny Milne Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts. This year, we present three awards in Nonny Milne's honour. The award comes with a card, gift certificate, and a plaque created by Julian Rendell. Awards are being presented for the 2 years interrupted by Covid as well as for 2022.

2020 Award: Glen noted that Carolyn Kirk-Albert and Roger Albert have contributed very much to the Gallery. Roger is a hero — everyone should read his blog.

2021 Award: presented to K'ómoks Elder Barb White. Barb is responsible for the indigenous garden at the hospital — a real intersection of art, health, and well-being. Barb also contributed a great deal to the opioid project Walk With Me. She has literally saved lives. Sharon Karsten added her gratitude for all Barb contributed to Walk With Me and how much Sharon has learned from her.

2022 Award: Glen said that Stuart Barry has contributed so much to making the Gallery accountable and financially responsible.

9. **Adjournment**

Jasmin concluded the meeting with a brief request for financial support.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

Welcome to the Comox Valley Art Gallery's 2023 Annual General Meeting!

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.

A highlight at all our AGMs is a review of the previous year's programming, and this year is no exception. 2022 was a year of recovery and growth — including significant renovations to improve our accessibility, install a large LED screen in our window gallery, and upgrade our presentation spaces. There is still some ongoing work to finish the project behind closed doors, but since January the public has been treated to beautiful improvements.

I want to thank our gallery team and Board of Directors for rising to the challenges presented by recovery from the COVID pandemic and undertaking such significant renovations.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes to the artists who created and presented artwork, 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.

CVAG is a non-profit, charitable society governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. I am grateful to all the directors who served in the previous year — they have been a joy to work with. I particularly want to recognize the Board members who are not returning after this AGM: Tracey Clark, Nicole Crouch, Lelaina Jules, Wedlidi Speck, and Miguel Strother. It has been an honour to work with you and I know you'll continue to be part of CVAG's extended family.

It was an extraordinary and important year for the Gallery. In the midst of COVID recovery and major renovations, CVAG continued to present strong, relevant programming that had a profound impact in our community. I look forward to the coming year.

Submitted by Jasmin Badrin
President, Comox Valley Art Gallery

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

As set out in the Comox Valley Art Gallery bylaws, the nomination committee presents ten names to serve on the Board of Directors. Up to another three people may be nominated from the floor at the AGM. Board terms are for two years, and staggered so that roughly half the board positions are up for nomination at each AGM.

This year, two of the original nominees had to withdraw due to professional commitments. In order to ensure a thorough recruitment process for new board members who are able to fully accept their board responsibilities, the Nomination Committee recommends that the Board of Directors undertake a recruitment process and fill the vacancies once appropriate candidates are identified.

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

- Meaghan Cursons
- Molina Dawson
- John Heintz
- Avis O'Brien
- Rosslyn Shipp

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

- Jasmin Badrin
- Brian Charlton
- Audrey Lundquist

As mentioned above, the Nomination Committee calls on the Board of Directors to recruit and appoint at least two new members.

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

- President – Jasmin Badrin
- Vice-President – Meaghan Cursons
- Secretary – John Heintz
- Treasurer – Audrey Lundquist

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

Recovery. Re-opening. Renovations. Resilience. Relevance. These were the hallmarks of 2022 at the Comox Valley Art Gallery.

Although COVID-19 restrictions lifted and we were able to fully re-open our doors to the public, in 2022 we felt the echoes of impacts caused by the Global Pandemic: financial pressures, program rescheduling, the need to rebuild audiences. CVAG's resilience was on full display as we not only recovered from these impacts, but fully embraced a digital pivot, undertook significant renovations to improve accessibility, and delivered programming of deep relevance to our community.

The renovations we undertook in the fall of 2022 have had a profound impact. We have increased our accessibility, improved our presentation space, and installed a huge LED monitor in the window gallery that provides artist presentation 24-7. We still have more work to do on improving accessibility — we need to adjust the doors to the accessible washroom and the George Sawchuk Gallery, and we are seeking funding to improve the doors at the entrances to the building.

I am inspired and grateful to work with an amazing team of staff, contractors and volunteers (including the Board of Directors). Thanks to their efforts, we deepened our relationship with community partners, local businesses, and schools. We advanced our capacity to support artists in research, creation, and presentation. And, as you will see in the following programming report, we fostered and presented artwork that was of the highest calibre along with programming that engaged the community.

Our creative leaders, co-curators Angela Somerset and Denise Lawson, bring dedication and passion to their mission of supporting artists and breathing life into our exhibitions and programs. Operations facilitator Cassidy Gehmlich took a huge step and added bookkeeping to her long list of responsibilities. David Lawson manages our technical needs (high and low-tech) with skill, care and gentle charm. Tom Elliot produces amazing videos and helps us with all facets our digital pivot. We have been blessed with an exceptional crew of part-time, on-call staffers, interns and students, such as Kat Radford, Taylor Robinson, Erica Livsey, Chantal Morfitt, Kim Holmes, Carsyn Hartling, Caresse Nadeau, Spencer Sheehan-Kalina, and Naia Lisch.

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, Lex Vaugeois, April Dawn Brass and Mackai Sharp delivered a powerful program that provided hands-on training to young people in our community.

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 Barb Whyte, Nadine Bariteau, Chris Hauschildt, Sophia Katsanikakis, and Andrew Mark worked with community partners to deliver an arts-based response to the drug poisoning crisis in our community and beyond. Their efforts literally save lives.

At the end of June 2022, our beloved bookkeeper Kirsten Humpherys retired, passing the torch to Cassidy Gehmlich. We thank her for her many years of service, and for ensuring a smooth transition. We would like to acknowledge the great support of bookkeeping whiz Jesse Blades of Bear Hill Consulting, who provides

ongoing advice as our books grow increasingly complex. 2022 also saw a transition in our accountants, as Stu Barry eases into retirement and handed the reigns to Laura Bomback.

Another very exciting development on our staff team: graphic design wizard all-round delightful comrade Marlee Barry is stepping away... because she's having a baby! It's great to see such dedicated effort to bring new CVAG members into the world.

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, Comox Valley Art Gallery

CONVERGENT PROGRAMMING REPORT
2023 CVAG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
May 25, 2023

NEW REALITIES IN CONVERGENT PROGRAMMING: CVAG 2022 | FLOWING INTO 2023

The AGM is an epic process of reflection, as our team knows from their careful choreography of this slide deck. We spin and weave the threads of this year's story together. The convergences are interwoven in ways that we could not have imagined, and yet it is this very imagination that sparks our desire to do this work together. Today, Denise and I experienced the joyful beginnings of next summer's program with Diane Landry, an incredibly prolific artist from Quebec. Our interns joined the Zoom meeting and witnessed this unfolding full of curiosity and possibilities.

On the horizon at CVAG is *Together Apart | Under One Roof* — a convergent program that celebrates the multi-decade autonomous work, long time studio share, and friendships of Aganetha Dyck, Diana Thorneycroft and Reva Stone. A year ago, we sat in Aganetha's living room with these artists in Winnipeg, witnessing the connections between them. But before we get ahead of ourselves or sidetracked with our request for anyone with a wringer washer needed for this summer's show, let's scroll back through our camera roll to where we were at the beginning of 2022.

This year, we have found our way forward in relation to new realities. As our world began to thrum with activity after the hiatus of the pandemic, we began the year committed to activating relevance in our community through cross-cultural sharing and by supporting emergent artistic practice and professional development, creative residencies, inquiry-based research and innovative experimentation and creation, and robust presentations.

Courage in the face of many realities has been our teacher this year.

Where do we intersect and what happens in these moments?

How do we experience shared resonances and possibilities?

When do we know to stand together in solidarity?

What is next? — We heard our presenting artist Michael Fernandes ask a 14-year-old student who stepped forward during a hybrid visit, holding up a hand spun yarn that was made during the visit at CVAG.

Submitted by Angela Somerset + Denise Lawson
Program Director + Co-Curators, Comox Valley Art Gallery

1. THEMATIC PROGRAMMING | Exhibitions, Residencies, Productions, Events, Research + Collaboration

- **Where You Are – CVAG Incubator Labs | 2022**
- **RETURN TO WATER | Multi-year Program + Festival | 2022**
- **Marlene Creates: An Interest In Place | 2022**
- **Access: Independent Studio Program + Renovation Project | 2022 – 2023**
- **OPEN : REALITY | 2022 – 2023**
- **in | at | on : RETURN TO WATER | 2023**

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: Where You Are – CVAG Incubator Labs | 2022

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITION | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS | INCUBATORS | CULTURAL SHARING | PERFORMANCES

Where You Are / CVAG Incubator Labs provided an opportunity to activate relevance in our community through cross-cultural sharing, emergent artistic practice and professional development, creative residency, inquiry-based research, and innovative experimentation and creation.

NOOJIM OWIN | THE GIFT OF THE HEALING DANCE – WHEN WE DANCE, WE DANCE FOR THE PEOPLE

January 19 – February 14, 2022

Cultural presenter JoAnne Restoule with IKWE NOOJIM OWIN NIIMI IDIWIN – Women’s Circle Dancers: Kim McWilliam, Jaqueline Morgan, Gwen Monnet, Holly Douglas, Maybel McDonald, Brooke-Lin Jestic, Danielle Chartand, Serena Rotter, Jeannie McDonald, Jeannine Walker

The Gift of the Healing Dance is a Community Cultural Revitalization Project. When we dance, we dance for the people who have come before us, the people yet to come and for the people who need healing. Shiibaashka 'lgan: The Jingle Dress is a gift and a sacred responsibility. When we wear the dress and dance, we are reminded to open our hearts and our minds to all of creation.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/noojim-owin-the-gift-of-the-healing-dance-when-we-dance-we-dance-for-the-people/>

BODY SPACE OBJECT – NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR

January 19 – February 18, 2022

Student Presenters: Anne Cumming Kimberly Holmes, Marlee Munro, Freddie Milne, Renée Poisson, Demara Wilding, Rosemary Bockner

North Island College Fine Arts students returned for on-site experience at the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Students installed, presented, documented and wrote about the work that emerged out of their “body, space, object” thematic research from the FIN 231 Sculpture + Integrated Art Practices course during the winter semester. Working in Gather:Place and the George Sawchuk Gallery, the students had the opportunity to experiment, innovate, and grow their creative practice.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/body-space-object-nic-student-experience-presentation-at-cvag/>

STREAM INCUBATOR I

January 5 – January 15, 2022

STREAM (Science, Technology, Robotics, Electronics, Arts + Mathematics) is an inquiry-based, hands-on learning program for youth, ages 10 – 15, facilitated at the Comox Valley Art Gallery by educator Stew Savard. The Comox Valley Art Gallery is committed to supporting youth in navigating their learning pathways at the intersection of art and technology — areas that have been historically patriarchal. STREAM Incubators emphasize access, diverse perspectives and ways of learning, rooted in relationship building and reciprocity. The initial series of STREAM incubators began in 2021, inspired by the work of Deb Dumka and Claire Sanford. Their exhibition, *Our Young Girls*, was an interactive installation exploring gender + digital empowerment + access + technology + safe spaces + art. In 2022, the group’s explorations included EV3 and VEX V5 robotics, LEGO, and stop-motion animation.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/s-t-e-a-m-incubators-in-2022/>

FATHOM SOUNDS ARTIST COLLECTIVE CREATIVE RESIDENCY

November 26 – March 2, 2022

Site-specific research, community connections and activations in preparation for the responsive exhibition Salt-Stained Streaks of a Worthwhile Grief.

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: RETURN TO WATER | Multi-year Program + Festival | 2022

GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS

RETURN TO WATER FESTIVAL – A SERIES OF ARTS-BASED EVENTS | COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS | EDUCATION OUTREACH | TRAINING | PERFORMANCES | CULTURAL SHARING

In January 2020, Comox Valley Art Gallery initiated convergent programming that reflected memory, perceptions, experiences, and relationships with the water that surrounds and permeates everything in our world. The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted this programming. Two years later, we found ourselves living within an endemic and with a heightened awareness of the many difficult realities our world is faced with. Water seemed to be calling to us with an invitation to look deeply into what we might do in response. In 2022, the Comox Valley Art Gallery 'returned to water'.

SALT-STAINED STREAKS OF A WORTHWHILE GRIEF

Exhibition: March 2 – May 14, 2022

Fathom Sounds Collective: Alana Bartol, Genevieve Robertson, Kat Morris, Jay White, Nancy Tam

The interdisciplinary work in this exhibition emerged through a process of slowing down, listening, observing, and responding over time. The creative process of the artists was one of inquiry, site specific encounter, dialogue with place, letting go of expectations, giving materials their own agency, and allowing the unexpected to erupt. The gallery supported the collective's practice through curatorial collaboration, residencies, facilitating site-specific research and relationships with the Comox Valley community and K'ómoks Nation

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/salt-stained-streaks-of-a-worthwhile-grief/>

RETURN TO WATER FESTIVAL

May 10 – May 14, 2022

CONNECTED BY WATER | STORIES FOR IMPACT | SOUNDWAVES | SOURCE ENCOUNTERS | WATER IN(TE)RVENTIONS | FLOATING CAMERA OBSCURA | BODIES OF WATER | CURATING CLEANER WATERS | BALANCING THE SOUND | BODY WAVES

The Return To Water Festival was a series of arts-based events and presentations that brought community together to explore issues related to perceptions of water, use of water, the human relationship to water, the climate's effect on water, and the concept of water as a "living entity". Daily events instigated interdisciplinary and cross-cultural considerations of water and its significance through visual art, photography, video, sound, interactive media, texts, performance, music, dance, and song.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/return-to-water-festival/>

RETURN TO WATER – NIC FINE ARTS + DIGITAL DESIGN STUDENT INCUBATOR

May 10 – September 10, 2022

Participating Students: Erica Livsey, Meg Firth, Naia Lisch, Kat Cearns, Anne Cumming, Kendra Dewar, Karen Day, Marlee Monroe, Laurena Fairbairn, Ram Sudama, David Page, Renee Poisson, Vienna May Sauvage, Cameron McKieve, Lisa Petruvia, Melinda Goetjen, Roberta Joehle, Safron Wells, Venessa O'Neill, Hoyoung (Patrick) Kim, Satya Bellerose, Celina Baulcomb, Gillian Gahagan, Talia Naidoo, Jules Benson, Binh (Leo) Le

Students were invited to respond to a choice of themes, including "Return To Water" and "Emergent Forms of Togetherness", for a major class project. The themes served as an open-ended provocation to inspire relevant and convergent research and creation. The research, materials and processes represent new areas of exploration for most students, including metal shop fabrication, digital image series, time-based storytelling, and place-based interactive work.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/return-to-water-nic-fine-arts-digital-design-student-incubator/>

RETURN TO WATER – STUDENT INCUBATOR PROJECTS + PLACE BASED RESEARCH

May 10 – September 10, 2022

North Island College Early Childhood Care + Education program students in collaboration with Early Learning Childhood Education Centers (SD 71 + 72): Destiny Speck – Qualicum First Nations Childcare / Headstart, Sophie Smith – Three Tree Early Learning Centre, Kelsi Martens – Queneesh Elementary / Strong Start, Sophie LaPlante – Tigger Too Pre-School, Maddy King – Campbell River Community Pre-School, Barb Lanyon – Beaufort Children’s Centre / Orca Room, Zoe David – Beaufort Children’s Centre / Ladybug Room, Lyss Brush – Hand in Hand Nature Education / Comox Red Cedar, Tianna Belanger – Forest Circle Childcare, Cara Beckman – Courtenay Elementary / Strong Start

Community Outreach: Beachcombers Academy, Queneesh Elementary, Arden Elementary, L’Arche Comox Valley

We are born from the watery womb of our mothers into the earth’s embrace.

What are our youngest citizens asking of us? What is the other-than-human world asking of us? How might we respond to water’s invitation, to her life-giving call in these times of great urgency, as if all life, human and other- than-human, depended on it?

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/nic-early-learners-student-incubator/>

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: Marlene Creates: An Interest In Place | 2022

CREATIVE RESIDENCY | EXHIBITION | WORKSHOPS | READINGS

The Comox Valley Art Gallery continued its place-based programming, moving it’s focus on water to the presentation of the land/lens/text-based practice of artist Marlene Creates. During her time in the Comox Valley, Marlene Creates undertook an artist residency, engaged with local schools and the wider community through artist talks + artist led activities, and was present for the opening of a solo exhibition of her work

MARLENE CREATES: WORKS FROM BLAST HOLE POND ROAD, NEWFOUNDLAND 2002–2021 ŒUVRES RÉALISÉES AU CHEMIN BLAST HOLE POND, TERRE-NEUVE 2002–2021

Creative Residency: June 4 – 26, 2023

Exhibition: June 15 – September 10, 2022

In 2002, artist Marlene Creates moved to Blast Hole Pond Road, Portugal Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador. There, in her new home, the hours in a day, the weeks, and the months flowed into 20 years during which Creates’s “principle artistic venture has been to pay close attention to one particular place — “six acres of boreal forest where I live.” Creates’s research — curiosity, observation, kinaesthetic experience, and collaborative + experimental processes with the workings of nature — are part of a multi- disciplinary creative process that has been described as active and formal inquiry, as well as receptive and meditative. She has been present to one place, walking its paths, pausing, and “stepping away” to deepen her relational dialogue with the land she lives within. Through photo-based work, mapping, and text, the exhibition shared the phenomenological experiences that span the years that Marlene Creates has lived in one place.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/marlene-creates-works-from-blast-hole-pond-road-newfoundland-oeuvres-realisees-au-chemin-blast-hole-pond-terre-neuve-2002-2020/>

SQUEEGEERAMA – EXHIBITION

August 13 – September 10, 2022

Featured Artists: Gary Houston, David Cran, Jay Ryan, Diana Sudyka, Tuffy Tuffington, Bobby Martin, Emily Luce, Rodney Sayers, Dan Stiles

With: Ian Adams, Ben LaFond, Kelsey Gallo, Paul Tosh, Tara Langois, Max, Emily Theissen, Stuart Heuws, Linda Perron, Gabe Moore

Squeegeerama is an annual screen printing event organized by Wachiay Studio. Each year the guest artists, participants, and staff have produced some amazing artworks. An installation at the Comox Valley Art Gallery presented a selection of the prints completed by the guest artists, as well as the attendees.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/squeegeerama-installation/>

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: Access: Independent Studio Program + Renovation Project | 2022 – 2023

While undergoing some interior renovation work to widen doorways and to facilitate moving throughout main floor public spaces, the Comox Valley Art Gallery continued to actively engage the public through events, performances, community collaborations, all-ages MakeArt Projects, youth training + mentorship programs, residencies, and a gift shop that features the work of local artisans

INDEPENDENT STUDIO PROGRAM

The Comox Valley Art Gallery is committed to supporting research, creation, presentation, collaboration, dissemination of contemporary art and cultural practise. The CVAG Next Door residence allows for deep and sustained artistic practice during residency periods that are two – six weeks in length. Project Room Studio opportunities occur throughout the gallery spaces. and offer artists dedicated time to do their work.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/projects/project-room-studio/>

STREAM INCUBATOR II

June 1 - August 31, 2023

In the summer of 2022, the STREAM group expanded their scope of inquiry to include the design and construction of a LEGO model of the art gallery architecture, plaza and the 2022 renovations. The community youth group explored how it is to be thinking, making and imagining, within an immersive space of art and design, and in relation with cultural workers circulating and presenting at the Comox Valley Art Gallery.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/events/steam-incubator-summer-2022/>

EVERYBODY DESERVES A SMILE (EDAS)

November - December, 2022

The Community Gallery at the Comox Valley Art Gallery presented the creations that Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary students from Ms. Julie + Ms. Makinson's grade 2/3 class and Mr. Swaney's late immersion grade 7 class made for Everybody Deserves A Smile 2022.

<https://edas.ca/>

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: OPEN : REALITY | 2022 – 2023

CREATIVE RESIDENCIES | EXHIBITIONS | INCUBATORS | MAKEART EVENTS | PERFORMANCES

The gallery as a hybrid space of reciprocity and a bridging of potentials. OFFERINGS take shape as virtual and face-to-face participation, making, skill-sharing and conversations. ACTIVATIONS intersect and intermingle between art, identity, culture, technology, and society. PROPOSING different ways of knowing is possible through collaborations between artists, technologists, communities and students of diverse ages and abilities – giving time and space to multiple processes. CURIOSITY about art and technology pushes boundaries and makes space for playing with how we imagine and express creatively across disciplines and in the space between. LIVED EXPERIENCES ARE BEAUTIFUL INSTIGATORS. TRANSFORMATION IS ART

REAL REALITY (RR)

December 7, 2022 – January 28, 2023

Exhibiting Artists: Geneviève Johnson, Bran Mackie, Sarah Emery Clark

Material, data, movement, making, and interactive collaboration expanded perceptions of reality.

Through the sensing body, the artists explored and expressed perspectives that connect us to the world

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/real-reality/>

Threading Side by Side

Geneviève Johnson's embodied visual art practice connected audience-participants to themselves, their environment, and others in the present moment, while exploring parts of unknown within. It revealed their unique ways of being and interacting through witnessing the construction of their own "Landscape Under Skin Theatre"

For The Future

Bran Mackie's *For The Future* was a slow and dedicated investment in possibilities that threads between materials and subjects form like neural pathways, both deliberately and accidentally, weaving a network of perception and experience. Grounded in the present but ever looking forward, *For The Future* was part of an ongoing exploration in sustainability, hope and perseverance.

Let's Be Islands Together

A new exploratory work, *Let's be Islands Together*, engaged community in examining how we shape our stories, how we connect with each other, transforming this connection into a creative material. This arts-based research project examined our varied experiences of loneliness and explored how we might build connection and compassion as an antidote to isolation

INTEGRATING REALITY: BUILDING FROM INSIDE OUT – STREAM INCUBATOR III

Collaborative Skill Building: January – December, 2022

Installation: December 7, 2022 – 1 April 1, 2023

A presentation in the Hub Gallery demonstrated projects that the STREAM youth group collaboratively worked on in 2022, including the construction of a LEGO scale model of the Comox Valley Art Gallery, robotics, and stop-motion animation.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/integrating-reality/>

MICHAEL FERNANDES: WE DON'T KNOW

January 19, 2022 – February 3, 2023

This 24/7 video + audio + implied drawing installation in the CVAG Window + Plaza Media Gallery was the first installment of a multi-part project by artist Michael Fernandes.

MICHAEL FERNANDES: DON'T KNOW

February 4 – April 1, 2023

EXHIBITION | PUBLIC OPEN STUDIO | INSTALLATIONS

The artist invites you to bring something of yourself.

Bring something to work on.

Start something new.

Store something in progress.

Take your project home, bring it back.

Leave something behind.

Visit again.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/dont-know/>

NINA WEDBURG THULIN: THE SOURCE

January 17 – April 1, 2023

Creative Residency + Collaborations: January 17 – February 24, 2023

Installation Presentation: February 24 – April 1, 2023

During her international residency at the Comox Valley Art Gallery, interdisciplinary artist Nina Wedberg Thulin (Stockholm, Sweden) carried all her 'questions from former works' while becoming 'a beginner starting from zero'. *The Source* incorporates new work developed in response to her encounters of the outdoor spaces around the gallery. In her artist talk, Nina spoke about the night time vacant and winter-dark streets, those who are unhoused taking shelter in alcove spaces, and of the wild rabbits foraging for food in the urban terrain. These observances inspired her new papier mache works: a cloaked figure carrying a portable TV with a looping video; and the other — multiples of rabbits coming through the door to inhabit the gallery space.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/nina-wedberg-thulin/>

INDISTINGUISHABLE | A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION MAKEART PROJECT

January 13 – April 1, 2023

The Comox Valley Art Gallery welcomed the community to learn plaster casting — exploring how to make a body-safe Alginate mold to be filled with hydrocal, a type of gypsum plaster cement. Our theme, “Indistinguishable”, invited you to cast a finger with “something different”. Once complete, casted objects could be added to the Community Gallery wall.

TWO HALVES MAKE A WHOLE | STORIES WITHOUT WORDS / UNDER COVER – NIC STUDENT INCUBATOR

January 13 – April 1, 2023

Student Presenters: Valerie Arthur, Anne Cumming, Hynsel Curaje, Karen Day, Naia Lisch, Erica Livsey, David Page, Kaleeka Pather, Renee Poisson, Oskar Roughsedge

North Island College students from FIN 230 and 231 Sculpture + Integrated Art Practice participated in a community incubator project with the Comox Valley Art Gallery. Work by the students was presented in our George Sawchuk Gallery. This incubator and presentation project offered participants an opportunity to have practical experience in a gallery environment — installing artwork, preparing art statements, documenting, sharing, and engaging with public audiences. Material explorations were with plaster (molds), clay (forms), ceramic firing (bisque + raku), and open 3D + integrated media combination. Methodologies were repeat + vary + hybridize + exchange and juxtaposition of content + form.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/nic-incubator-2023/>

CONVERGENT PROGRAM: in | at | on: RETURN TO WATER | 2023

GROUP EXHIBITION | INCUBATORS | WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING | OFF-SITE INSTALLATION

in | at | on: RETURN TO WATER

April 12 – May 27, 2023

Featured Artists: Scott Smith, Nettie Wild, Sarah Crawley

The convergent program *in | at | on : RETURN TO WATER 2023* broadened perspectives through the sustained lens-based practices of three projects that brought into focus different relationships with water.

GO FISH

A three-channel video + audio experience by Scott Smith and Nettie Wild that immersed viewers. Each year, hundreds of millions of herring return to the Salish Sea, their spawn painting a milky turquoise collar along its shores. For a few chaotic days, the sea is transformed. *GO FISH* asks the question, if the herring set the table, who comes for dinner.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/go-fish/>

as the wind blew: the ground beneath me | at the water's edge | in its path

The images by artist Sarah Crawley presented in the Main Gallery comprised three bodies of work that explore grief, loss, and healing. Ethereal lens-based images portray investigations at the place where land meets the water's edge. Utilizing pinhole photography, lumen printing, and video, Sarah has explored embodied experiences of loss and vulnerability

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/as-the-wind-blew/>

Coastal Camera Obscura III

Designed by Donald Lawrence, a floating camera obscura in the waters surrounding K'ómoks (Goose Spit) and ephemera in *Gather:Place* at the Comox Valley Art Gallery were a locus for encouraging broad-ranging audiences to consider histories of the surrounding lands and of the interplay between art/science and learning/play while engaging in a micro-adventure.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/camera-obscura/>

2. MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS | Walk With Me | Youth Media Project | CVAG Film Series | Summer MakeArt Series

WALK WITH ME

2020 – ongoing

Under the leadership of Dr. Sharon Karsten, 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

2012 – ongoing

Led by Krista Tupper, the Comox Valley Art Gallery's Youth Media Project uses digital media, creative facilitation, and artistic collaboration as a framework for youth to create media for community action. Those who come through the program end up creating long-lasting connections not just with each other, but with other community members and organizations in the Comox Valley.

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

CVAG FILM SERIES

The Comox Valley Art Gallery Film Series is a selection of titles from the Toronto International Film Festival Film Circuit. We normally present two Film Series each year — one in the winter/spring and one in the fall. CVAG staff and volunteers organize the film series, and proceeds go towards our ongoing programming.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/projects/film-series/>

SUMMER MAKEART SERIES

2014 – ongoing

Community MakeArt Projects are an invitation to engage with the current gallery programming by explorations, observations, and conversations. Hosted by artists, gallery staff and volunteers, these maker events are open to all ages.

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/projects/make-art-project-workshops/>

3. SITE-WORKS | Public Place : Sacred Space | Location: CVAG Plaza, North Island Hospital + Lake Trail School

PUBLIC PLACE : SACRED SPACE

2017 – ongoing

This 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/>

<https://www.comoxvalleyartgallery.com/exhibitions/north-island-hospital-public-art-project/>

During 2022, the **Traditional Indigenous Full Circle Tea Gardens** at the Comox Valley Art Gallery 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, Calvin 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.

The CVAG creative team has taken on the project of conceptualizing, designing and producing artwork for the new North Island Hospital in the Comox Valley. For the **North Island Hospital Art Project**, CVAG worked closely with K'ómoks First Nation, Elder Barb Whyte, other local artists, as well as students, parents, and educators from Queneesh Elementary School. Work is installed at the new hospital, and the project remains in process.

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*. Since 2021, the legacy canoe and educational materials produced by CVAG in collaboration with SD 71 Indigenous Education have been installed in the new library and community space at Lake Trail 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.