



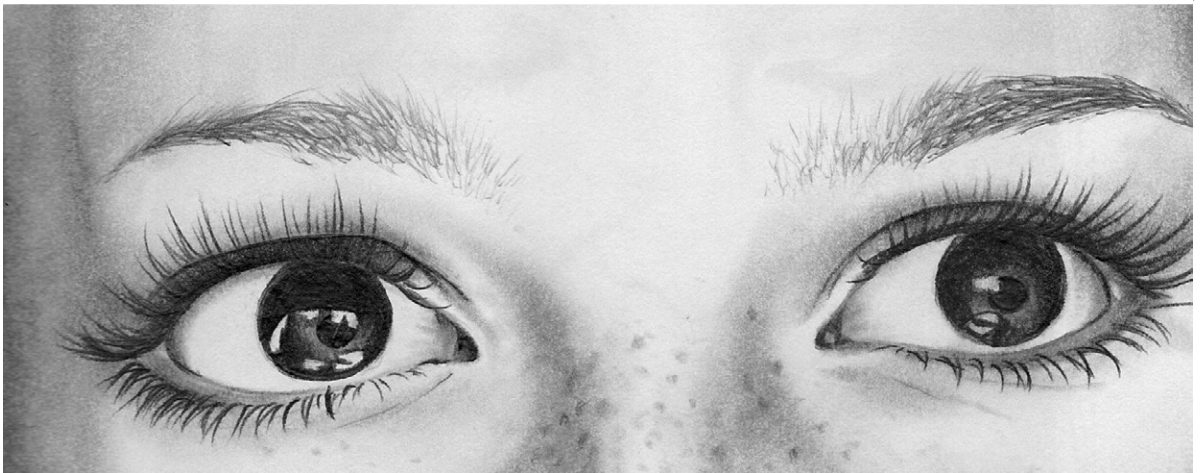
COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY
COMMUNITY GALLERY
MAY 10 to JUNE 21, 2014

Haeli Frost-Mitchell & Lindsay Nixon

Comox Valley, BC, Canada

Drawing

Faces: Familiar & Friends



FACES: FAMILIAR AND FRIENDS

LINDSAY NIXON

I have always admired the unique characteristics of people and it has inspired me to draw people. There is a saying that the eye is the pathway to the soul, and I find that this is true when looking at people and talking to them. This led me to start drawing people and often just their eyes, as a way to understand them.

I have always been creative and artistic right from childhood and look back on the art I created with curiosity. That curiosity I experience has pushed me to draw images that make the viewer curious too. As I develop a portrait, I wonder what lies behind the physical characteristics of the person—what lies in the soul of that person. This keeps me drawing more and more, getting the likeness as close as possible, but keeping it intriguing. To do so, I often focus on specific parts of the person; hair, lips and especially the eyes. I also enjoy cropping the portraits I create so that only a portion of the face is seen. I find this minimalist approach makes the composition even more interesting. My friends act as models but I am also interested in depicting famous people that are seen so often in media today. I speculate about what they were thinking and doing at the time when that particular picture was taken. I have done a lot of graphite drawings but working in colour has become more of a passion for me.



HAELI FROST-MITCHELL

I discovered that I liked drawing, and that I was pretty good at it, at a young age and I just started drawing anything that I observed. I have always been interested in the human face and how mysterious it appears, how difficult it can sometimes be to interpret. I drew and drew, often just parts of the face, and my skills kept growing. From my home on Denman Island, I began to take classes and workshops where we would examine many different mediums, but I kept coming back to graphite drawings of the face.



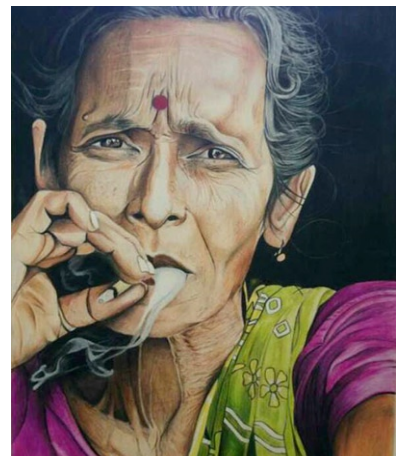
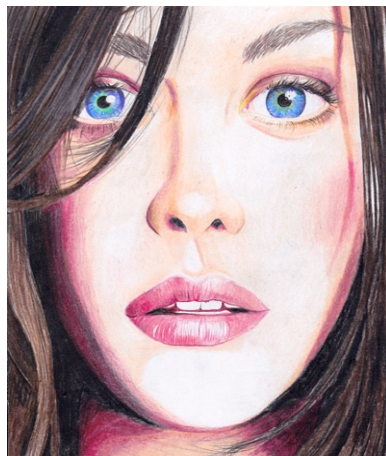
Through my elementary and high school art classes, I discovered more mediums and continued to grow in those areas. Still, I came back to realism and portraiture work. My work started to become methodical, always starting with an outline and then moving to the eyes. From there I would fill in the nose and mouth, and then get into more detail. I would work from photographic images that I took or from images in magazines or online, and from live models or a combination of both, and I continue to do so. I now enjoy working in colour: I start with a light graphite sketch and then add blocks of colour usually in the same order that I draw, with the general face first and then the eyes. I love the feeling I get when the eyes are in place. The picture seems to come to life and the faces somehow seem to tell a story. I have also recently started doing colour portraits in acrylic on canvas and I am exploring several print making mediums.

I am currently inspired by the works of Chuck Close and am looking for ways to further develop my own style. I am very excited about continued exploration as I begin in my journey into post secondary art education and a career in the arts.

BARB MARECK

In only her second year teaching at G. P. Vanier High School, Barb Mareck and her students have taken on many interesting and ambitious projects. From community mural projects and hydro box painting, to school beautification projects including two murals and illustrated children's books that were presented to the toddlers of Vanier's day cares, she and her students have been very busy. Barb is passionate about teaching and guiding her students through a wide range of art processes and mediums. "The facilities and equipment at Vanier are excellent," she states. "We have a light exposure unit, tables and a t-shirt press for silk screening, a printing press for other types of print making, and a brand new kiln. I try to give my students a well-rounded sampling of as many art projects that I can squeeze into one semester." Barb also recently added air brush equipment to the Vanier art studios.

Raised in Southern Ontario, Barb moved to the Comox Valley 24 years ago. She received a BFA in general fine arts from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and then went on to get her teaching degree through Vancouver Island University. In her spare time she creates her own art and volunteers both for high school drama productions and community theatre groups, painting sets. It has been a great pleasure for Barb to mentor these two talented young artists through the practice of building a body of work and preparing for their first art show.



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