



COMOX VALLEY ART GALLERY
GEORGE SAWCHUK GALLERY
APRIL 16 TO MAY 2, 2014

Bev Byerley, Shirley Dickie, Martha Ponting, Rena Rogers and Jennifer Weber

Comox Valley, BC, Canada

originals and limited edition prints

Keeping it Living Collection - K'omoks Estuary Project



Keeping It Living Sponsorship Gala Friday, April 25 from 7pm to 9pm



Bev Byerley

View from the Airpark #34, 2008, Acrylic on Canvas, 24" x 36"

"Before there was pavement and the official designation as a walk path, my husband and I have walking around the Estuary almost every morning since moving to Courtenay. Inspired by the views, I did my first Airpark painting almost 20 years ago, now I am nearing my one hundredth and still just as inspired and grateful to live in such a beautiful place!"



Shirley Dickie

Blue Forest, 2013, Acrylic on Canvas, 40" x 40"

"For the 'Blue Forest' painting I had to do some research on estuary systems and how they are preserved and restored. I found that eelgrass and kelp bed restoration play an important part in this sensitive ecosystem. Their "ecosystem service" role in providing habitat, shoreline protection and nutrition to hundreds of species is extremely important.



Martha Ponting

Living Waters, 2013, Acrylic on Canvas, 20" x 20"

"In my experience of residing on the shores of the K'ómoks Estuary and walking those shores daily for several years, the Comox Valley and estuary stand out as truly inspirational. In fact, I have become passionate about the well-being of the Estuary for it truly enriches our community with its abundance of waterfowl and marine life. Healing it now through restoration and protection is vital if future generations are to enjoy it.



Rena Rogers

Morning Mist, 2010, Photograph, 11" x 16"

"I moved to the Comox Valley with my husband and children in 1994 and have been capturing the unique and awe inspiring natural wonders of the Comox Valley ever since. The Estuary is one such place and it has been the subject of many of my pieces."



Jennifer Weber

Mingling Waters, 2010, Oil on Canvas, 24" x 28"

"Having driven the dyke road many times, I had already come to appreciate the beauty of the Estuary however I didn't know what an estuary was. Getting a definition was a natural first step in proceeding with my submission and helped me to understand the greater importance of its survival. 'Mingling Waters' allowed me to immerse myself in the thought that 80% of all coastal species depend on the healthy state of our estuaries...absolutely astounding."

PROJECT WATERSHED

Keeping it Living Collection - K'ómoks Estuary Project

The *Keeping It Living Campaign* uses locally made world class art to raise funds and awareness for the restoration and protection of the K'ómoks Estuary. The K'ómoks Estuary (formerly the Courtenay River Estuary), second only in importance to the Fraser River Estuary, is a special and unique feature of the Comox Valley. It is one of only eight Class 1 estuaries in British Columbia and provides habitat for 145 bird species (more than 70,000 birds), 218 plant species, 29 fish species (including all five species of pacific salmon) and innumerable species of intertidal animals (clams, worms, bacteria etc.). In conjunction with Earth Week this year Project Watershed is partnering with the Comox Valley Art Gallery to highlight the issues surrounding the K'ómoks Estuary and present the *Keeping It Living Collection* from April 15th to May 2nd.

The *Keeping It Living Collection* includes the five winning pieces from the past campaigns. Each of these original works has been made into limited edition sponsorship images. Project Watershed has been conducting the *Keeping It Living Campaign* to raise awareness and funds for the protection and restoration of the K'ómoks Estuary since 2009. This year celebrates the art that has honoured this cause, their achievements and future aspirations. Project Watershed and the Comox Valley Art Gallery will also be presenting a Gala Evening 7-9pm on April 25th to showcase the *Keeping It Living Collection* and sponsorship opportunities. www.keepingitliving.ca

KEEPING IT LIVING SPONSORSHIP GALA - Friday, April 25

This evening showcases 5 short performances, including one by Helen Austin, Juno Award winner of *Voices Three*, to help us reflect on the issues associated with our estuary and our work to protect and restore it as well as to inspire attendees to contribute to our cause through our world class art sponsorships. Other highlights for the evening includes Blue Moon wines, Natural Pastures cheeses, smoked salmon and a mini silent auction.

TIME

ACTIVITY

6:45 pm

Doors open

7:15 - 7:20 pm

Kumugwe Dancers - Welcome Dance

7:30 - 7:35 pm

Opening speech (Project Watershed) - Artwork: *View from the Airpark #34*

7:40 - 7:45 pm

Kaya Kehl, 7 Story Circus - Artwork: *Mingling Waters*

8:00 - 8:05 pm

Danny Zambilowicz - Spoken Word/poem - Artwork: *Morning Mist*

8:10 - 8:15 pm

Methuselah Dance - Artwork: *Blue Forest*

8:20 - 8:40 pm

Helen Austin - Artwork: *Living Waters*

9:00 pm

Doors close

Front Cover from left to right:

Rena Rogers - *Morning Mist*

Jennifer Weber - *Mingling Waters*

Bev Byerley - *View from the Airpark #34*

Martha Ponting - *Living Waters*

Shirley Dickie - *Blue Forest*

