

NewSketches

Lunenburg Art Gallery

Fall 2006

Meeting with Lunenburg's Artists-in-Residence

After viewing Dustin Wenzel's inclusion in the Members' Show this fall, I was even more intrigued about the Artist in Residence program set up between the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD) and the Town of Lunenburg. What were they doing there? And why hadn't we heard more about them? Curiosity got the better of me and, taking matters into my own hands, I contacted Dustin asking if I might interview him for this newsletter. Before I knew it I was viewing the old Fire Station's transformation into studio space. **MORE>>**



From the Christmas Art Market

UPCOMING...

A Spring Show at the Gallery
May 1 – May 27, 2007

For this particular show, the Planning and Exhibition Committee wishes to extend an invitation to member artists who have donated time to the LAG in 2006 (either as committee members, sitting in the Gallery, assisting with the Attic Art sale) to provide a piece of art, no larger than 24 x 18" overall, including free-standing items, in a "Spring" theme.

This show will also feature stone and woven sculptures, carved birds and kites. Contact Lynn Gillard if interested at ashlea@istar.ca . Please join our celebration of Spring!

Lynn Gillard
Planning and Exhibitions Committee Chair

Your presence is requested at the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
7:00 pm at the Gallery

Refreshments will be served!

Please plan to attend.

ARTISTS' IN RESIDENCE (cont'd)

Currently, one bay forms Dustin's space, the front containing sculptures from his time at NSCAD and behind the curtain, a large work table and shelves of bones, boxes of skulls, latex molds and of course, the requisite "comfy chair". The second bay houses Kristy O'Leary's workspace. Kristy, as well as being Dustin's partner, is the second Artist-in-Residence. Her work focuses on photography, film, multi-media presentations and installations. They are talented young artists, eager and enthusiastic and full of what their futures hold. I left them with 5 questions that might better explain, in their own words, what this project, their work and the Town of Lunenburg means to them.

Serendipitously, these two artists are hosting an Open Studio on Saturday, December 10 from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Do yourselves a favour and take the time to visit them at the Old Fire Station. You will not regret it!

FIVE QUESTIONS**1. How and why did you choose art as a life path?**

Dustin: As a kid I did a lot of drawing. My parents taught me how to work hard and think creatively. After studying math and science throughout high school, in my last semester I decided to take an art class as kind of a spare. I haven't stopped doing art since. And now I have a fine arts degree. My whole life I never knew that you could do that! It blew me away when I first realized I had the possibility of going to an "Art Only" University. I knew I had to be there

Kristy: Art as a possible life path had been an idea I toyed with for years. After finishing my Political Science degree it became very clear that I did not want to be a part of the political sphere. I made a list of three things that I would be happy doing: chef school, journalism school or art school. It was really easy to narrow down my list: I don't like chef's work hours and journalists in our society are censored. The choice was clear.



From the Christmas Art Market

2. Ten years from now, how do you think you'll remember your time in Lunenburg?

Dustin: It's a crazy time being thrown out into the real world, but I've been given a bit of breathing room and an opportunity to keep pursuing a body of work that easily could have dwindled if I didn't have a studio space. Thinking about a residency opportunity led to the idea of working with whale skeletons, which is a pretty ambitious thing, and I can't believe I am doing it, but it probably wouldn't be possible if it weren't for my placement here. Not many people, let alone emerging artists, can afford to live in Old Town Lunenburg, and it feels good to know that I've lived here for a period. I will likely look back at this time as an intense period of questioning how I want to navigate being an artist, as well as a time of actually formulating the beginning of my career path.

Kristy: Ten years is a long time away, but I'll speculate. I believe that I will reminisce about the landscape and its occupants. Lunenburg,, the surrounding area and the people who occupy it are enchanted. Many people live in beautiful sections of the world but I have found that the majority of people I have spoken with *know* this place is special. That is what I will remember, this knowledge of the gift that is Lunenburg.

3. How will you want your residency remembered in the community?

Dustin: Right now I am working with the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic and the New Brunswick Museum to produce work for myself and for exhibit at these museums. The work I produce for the Fisheries Museum will likely be the first of a series of whale related projects. By the end of my placement here, I expect to have made three major contributions to the museum, which I hope will become highlights there. One contribution is a 12 foot long Sei whale skull, the other is a fully articulated harbor porpoise skeleton, and the third is an endocranial (brain cavity) casting in bronze from a great whale. I'll likely be remembered for this the most.

Kristy: I hope my presence enriches the community but whether I am personally remembered is not so important to me. I would like for this residency program to become very stable so that many emerging artists have the opportunity to experience life in Lunenburg.

4. Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

Dustin: In five years, I will likely have a Masters Degree, be a part time sculpture professor, and be running my own art foundry. But it would be great to be living somewhere tropical, like on an island too.

Kristy: In five years from now I would like to have completed my Masters Degree in Fine/Media Arts. I would like to have finished my first independent feature film and maybe begin working on a family.

5. Deserted Island Question - along with your favourite person, food and electronic device you can choose 3 art supplies. What would they be?

Dustin: Stranded on an island I would have avocados, the guy from that 'Surviver Man' show (besides Kristy), and an electric furnace, along with infinite clay, wax, and bronze. You know, the essentials.

Kristy: In the instance that I am stranded on a deserted island I would take Dustin along, but only if Cris-Lee Dignard (best friend) was busy. In addition, we would sustain ourselves on tomato salsa and water. Making it would be easy because by some stroke of luck we have hydro on the island, allowing me to power my computer. Choosing three art supplies would be easy. I would take along a video camera, mini dv tapes and a satellite modem. This would make getting off the island a breeze! We could send our video S.O.S. into space via satellite Internet and viola! Saved...and a great tan to boot.

Kristy's work can be viewed online at <http://www.kristyoleary.com> and Dustin's website is <http://www.dustinwenzel.com>

GIFT CASE NEWS

The Gift Case had a great season. Our gross sales were over \$3500.00-this is "up" from \$842.00 in 2004, and \$1346,00 in 2005. Christine always arranged the case so tastefully which was much appreciated!! My thanks go to her and the 19 artists who supplied their paintings. Maybe we can do even better next year!

Shirley Powers
Gift Case Chair

WEBSITE NEWS

The LAG website has undergone yet another facelift. The navigation scheme has been replaced with one which is more straightforward and easier to modify. Some browsers were experiencing difficulty after a recent change to the old pull down menus. A new format has been applied to all the artist's pages. The contents are confined to a medium width panel which should be centered on your computer screens.

Of the 92 member artists, 52 still haven't bothered to arrange for a free web page. It's very easy... just call the webmaster Doug Cooke 634-9428 to find out how.

DO IT TODAY!!

The Google ads which appear on the home page and the exhibits page have earned US\$100.46 to date. This is from only 571 clicks on these ads and 80% of these are from the webmaster using other people's PC's (Google won't let me use my own PC). All of you can earn money for the gallery by spending about a minute every day or so clicking on these ads. If enough people do it, we can generate some serious cash in a hurry!

Doug Cooke
Webmaster



From the Christmas Art Market

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

At the General Meeting of the LAG held on September 20th, 2006, a motion was passed increasing membership fees by \$5.00. Membership fees for 2007 will be Exhibiting Member\$20.00; Non-exhibiting Member \$15.00. There will be no student membership as the By Laws do not allow for this. However, persons under the age of 19 may certainly become members of the Gallery by paying the regular membership fee, as stated in the Societies Act, under "Members", items 15 (1) and (2).

On the INTERNET, this can be found at: <http://www.canlii.org/ns/laws> Query "societies act", then click on the fifth item in the list ... "Societies Act (highlight terms)".

Membership forms will be available at the Annual General Meeting which will be held in the new year. The form will also be posted online on the Gallery website. Deadline for renewing memberships is April 1st.

Melanie Cooke
Membership Committee Chair



From the Christmas Art Market

ATTIC ART SALE NEWS

The Attic Art and Collectible Sale raised \$2452.20. The bill for the rental of the Fire Hall has not yet come in. We are always amazed at the number of items that our members and the public so generously donate to this fund raiser. The Art donations were particularly good this year. Seventeen members and friends worked tirelessly, both during the week prior to, and on the day of the sale. Many thanks to all who willingly donated either their time or collectibles this year. A special thanks to Christine for her constant support.

Gill Osmond
Attic Art and Collectible Sale Chair

PAINT SEA ON SITE NEWS

The Paint Sea On Site Committee has held one meeting this Fall. Everything is under control for PSOS 2007.

Since the Summer issue of NewSketches, the figures for PSOS '06 have been revised, as not all expenses had previously been accounted for. Here is the final financial report

Sales.....	\$19,100.40
Income other than sales...\$	2,128.93
	\$21,229.33
Expenses.....	\$ 3,416.37
Paid to Artists.....	\$ 9,604.00
	\$13,020.37
	\$ 8,208.96 profit

After Paint Sea On Site, a survey was posted online. Artists who had participated in this year's event were asked to take a few moments to complete this survey to give the committee an idea of what they had liked, disliked, to make comments, etc. Out of 60 participating artists, 10 surveys were completed and returned. From the results received, the committee was given the impression that people are satisfied with the way PSOS is being run.

The registration fee will remain at \$20.00 in 2007 and the **deadline for registration will be June 30/07**. The student event will again be part of PSOS as the committee has received very positive response regarding the student participation.

Paint Sea On Site is the major fund raising event for the Lunenburg Art Gallery. The committee works hard but we have a lot of fun. We meet once a month on a Monday morning. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Melanie Cooke at 634-9428.

Also, we do require extra assistance for setting up at the Fire Hall and taking things down on the weekend of PSOS and would very much appreciate volunteers to assist us. Please let Melanie know if you can help out!

Paint Sea On Site 2007 is July 28th & 29th!

Mark your calendars! See you there!!

Melanie Cooke
Paint Sea on Site Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again we have had a very successful year with many visitors to the Gallery both from home and away. The Exhibition Committee put together an interesting array of exhibits which have elicited very favorable response from the viewers. Not only have we seen work from other parts of the province but two of our members, Eliza Schurman and Sheila Lewis each assembled a body of work to exhibit in the Gallery that was impressive indeed!

We are fulfilling our goals of bringing interesting art to the Gallery and Lunenburg for the major part of of the year and we are at the same time encouraging emerging artists through the opportunity to display their work in the Members' Gallery, attend top notch workshops with renowned instructors, and paint in the public eye during Paint Sea on Site. Our presence in the Lunenburg Academy is a very important commitment and it is made possible in part by the Ruby Stewart Memorial Fund which I am sure would give Ruby delight.

Although the gallery building is for sale we have a lease to occupy our space for the forthcoming two years. Hopefully a new owner will see us as an asset and we will be able to remain indefinitely. However, if this should not be the case I am sure that we will continue.

With so many energetic, enthusiastic, inventive and hardworking members LAG is sure to endure.

I will be stepping down at the end of the year. I have enjoyed working for the gallery the past four years, first as vice-president in our new location, then as president. It has been immensely rewarding and a great experience to work with you all and I thank you for your confidence and support.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the best of Christmas holidays and a very happy and fruitful New Year.

Ruth Flower

President

Lunenburg Art Gallery

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