

# Ample art for regional competition

## Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition opens Apr. 5

**ALEISHA HENDRY**  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Peace Gallery North will be packed with the artwork of 70 artists from across the region for this year's Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition.

Starting Apr. 5, the annual competition will feature paintings, drawings and photography to textiles, pottery and antler carvings. But the challenge, says host coordinator Barb Daley, is squeezing it all into limited space.

"We finally had to say, 'Look, that's our maximum number, we can't fit any more work,'" she said. "But we were hoping for the 150 (pieces) to commemorate B.C.'s 150th birthday. We thought that would be kind of a cool connection."

Artists entered work into three different categories: the first was open, which has no real limitations; the second class project, which is work that was done during an instructional class, and the third is student for kids aged 13 to 18.

Daley said the diversity amongst the different entries was "wild," and that opening them was like a second Christmas.

Amy teBulte, who is entering the show for the first time, said she's excited to be a part of such a diverse artistic event.

"I'm very excited. I just moved here about a year and a half ago, so it's the first work I've shown since moving here, and I can't wait to see the other pieces that are entered," said teBulte, who draws the inspira-



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

**Barb Daley and Amy teBulte's painting, "Anguish."**

tion for her hard-lined portrait paintings from artists like Andy Warhol.

The artwork entered will be critiqued by Alberta artist Carrie Klukas. She will decide on the award winners, as well as choose 12 to be part of a regional calendar for 2009.

There are three awards that will be handed out, including the distinguished award for \$1,000, the recognition award for \$500 and the student award for \$200, which are all sponsored by EnCana.

Each year, the show rotates between Fort St. John, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Tumbler Ridge, Hudson's Hope and Fort Nelson.

Last year the show was held in Fort Nelson, and next year it will be in Tumbler Ridge.

The Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition opens at Peace

Gallery North in the North Peace Cultural Centre on April 5 at 7 p.m. and will run until May 2.

## Every artist that entered is a winner

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Juror Carrie Klukas chose the twelve pieces from an inspiring group of 150 entries.

However, each and every artist that entered was a winner as the resulting exhibi-

tion was an impressive display of regional talent from throughout the Peace Liard area.

EnCana representative, Jeff Beale, was on hand to present the Distinguished, Recognition and Student Award.



# Kroecher gets top nod at art exhibition

ALEISHA HENDRY  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

It is a week of creative inspiration for visual artists in Fort St. John, thanks to the opening of the Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition.

The opening of the exhibition on the weekend was wall-to-wall people, and host coordinator, Barb Daley, was thrilled with how it turned out.

"It went fantastic – it couldn't have gone any better," said Daley while at a workshop the next day. "If we'd had one more person in that gallery, something would have got broken."

The show was juried by Grand Prairie artist Carrie Klukas who has a background in art and art history.

Klukas had quite the task with the amount of artwork that was entered in the show, and in fact it took her seven hours to complete the task.

"It can be really intimidating, on one hand. You don't know anyone, so you're coming in totally without

large percentage of them are very good, it's hard to narrow them down and be objective and not subjective," Klukas said.

The winners of the show were



**IF WE HAD ONE  
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HAVE GOT BROKEN.**

—Barb Daley

Mike Kroecher, who won the Distinguished Award, Cindy

Chetwynd, who won the Student Award.

Honorable mentions went to Alana Hall, Eliza Stanford, Ilona Theal, Helen Vokaty, Sarah Halse, Pat Vossier, Shirley Kerr, Robert Young and Marie Bernardin.

There was also a special, one-time award given out to Karl Musgrove, called the Spirit of the Peace award, which he won for his outstanding commitment to his art after a stroke left him without use of his dominant side.

Ilona Theal was amazed to have received an honorable mention, since it was her first time exhibiting any artwork publicly.

"I was very excited, I haven't been a big part of the art community here, so it was nice to see how big it actually is," said Theal.

These works will be featured in a 2009 regional calendar that will be available in January.

The Peace-Liard Regional Juried



## WAX WORK

# Ancient painting method introduced to artists

ALEISHA HENDRY  
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

A group of Peace region artists had the chance to experiment with an ancient art form over the weekend in conjunction with the Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition.

The workshop was an added bonus for artists who entered the exhibition, and was led by juror Carrie Klukas.

"I picked up this medium a couple years ago, and I just get so excited when I work with it, and that's usually a good indication that I should be doing it," said Klukas, who said she was happy to be able to share the encaustic medium with everyone.

Encaustic, the practice of painting or drawing with pigmented wax, is one of the oldest art forms in the world, dating back 3,000 years.

The steps include melting the wax, adding pigments, painting the mixture onto a hard surface, and then using heat to fuse the wax to that surface.

It is not just limited to melted wax; paper and other objects can be collaged between layers of wax to give the piece more depth.

"It's such a diverse medium that it gives artists an opportunity to try everything, and they can decide if they're incising, or building up, or collage, and then they can try and incorporate it into their own work," Klukas said.

Participants were given a brief history of what encaustic is, then given free reign over several stations to experiment.

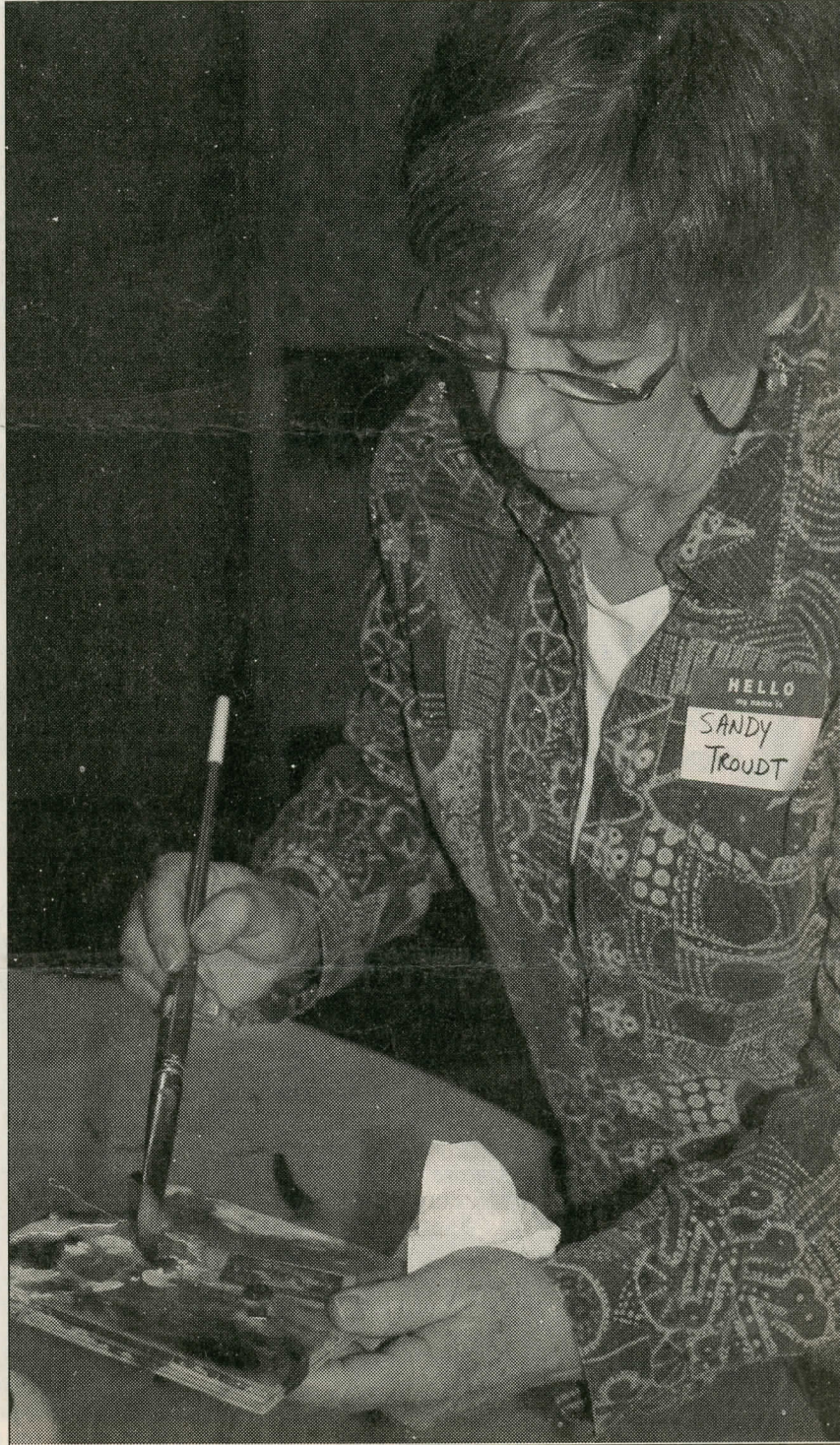
Beeswax was melted inside tin cans on hot griddles, and then the artists painted the melted wax onto boards.

Each layer of wax had to be fused to the previous layer for adding another layer, which was done with irons, heat guns, and a 200-watt light bulb.

Once the wax takes on a glossy sheen, but is not completely melted, it's fused. Participants discovered something new with every layer.

"My encaustic is, in my opinion, not going so well," laughed Ilona Theal as she scraped away at the layers for her encaustic piece.

"But I can see there's a lot of potential for this medium - there's a lot you can do with it."



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

Sandy Troudt tried her hand at encaustic painting at a workshop at the Quality Inn Northern Grand on Sunday. The workshop was part of the Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition, which runs until May 2.



# Local artists featured in exhibit, judging

FORT ST. JOHN- More than 65 artists in the Peace Liard Region from Toad River to Tumbler Ridge have entered 150 original artworks to this year's Regional Juried Art Exhibit.

Entries include paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, pottery, antler carving and more.

The exhibit opens to the public at Peace Gallery North in the North Peace Cultural Centre in Fort St. John on April 5 and is on display until May 2.

Each year the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council holds the Regional Juried Art Exhibit in a different community in the region.

EnCana generously provides the awards available to the artists through a juried selection. Twelve works are chosen to be included in a regional calendar for the following year.

Alberta artist and juror Carrie Klukas will critique the works on April 4-5, and will be conducting a workshop for participating



Contributed photo

Chetwynd artist Donna Ony's 'Pomegranates' is featured in conjunction with this year's Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit. More than 65 artists have entered.

artists on April 6, at the ArtsPost in Fort St. John.

Donna Ony's painting, 'Pomegranates', is featured on the 2008 posters for this year's exhibit.

Ony is a Chetwynd artist who was recognized in the 2007 Exhibit Calendar, along with 11 others artists' works selected from the last regional show, held in Fort Nelson.

Hamilton Copiers sponsored all printing for the 2008 Exhibit. Local sponsors include Smith Fuel Services, Fedderly Transportation, Earme and Associates, and D.G. Smith & Company.

Colteran Developments and Tony Atkins have supported an art tour program for School District 60 students.

- Contributed



Photo of artist's original work as displayed at Peace Gallery North

## ARTISTIC EXPLOSION

Over 100 pieces of artwork entered in the Peace Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibition are now on display at Peace Gallery North, including "Anticipation", by Amy teBulte. See Page A8 to find out the winners and see more work.

Peace Gallery North, including "Anticipation", by Amy teBulte. See Page A8 to find out the winners and see more work.



# ARTS

## Regional Juried Art Exhibit now at Peace Gallery North

On Friday, Apr. 4, juror Carrie Klukas spent seven hours going through the 150 entries for the regional exhibit. She was astounded by not only the number of entries, but the quality of the work. It was not a job that I envied at all. Klukas was focused though, and by Friday evening all the decisions had been made.

On Saturday morning, it was standing room only for the artist's walk-through with the juror. The entire exhibit was critiqued, entry by entry.

Artists from around the region enjoyed the opportunity to hear specific feedback, from a professional from outside the region. Encouragement was interwoven with constructive criticism, and artists had time to ask questions.

There was a real spirit of community as people from all corners of the region gathered to celebrate art in the Peace Liard. At the same time, the cultural center was also hosting the B.C. Festival of Performing Arts, so the place was "hopping."

That evening, the Peace-Liard Regional Juried Art Exhibit officially opened, but it was not the night to actually see anything. Between 200 and 250 people were milling around, very carefully, schmoozing and sipping wine and nibbling cheeses.

EnCana representative Jeff Beale awarded the Distinguished Award to

Ilona Theal, Helen Vokaty, Sarah Halse, Marie Bernardin, Shirley Kerr, Eliza Stanford, and Pat Vossler.

Lifelong artist Karl Musgrove was awarded the Spirit of the Peace Award, by the Ft St John Community Arts Council, in recognition of Outstanding Achievement.

The Exhibit runs until May 2, and we won't see it here again for another six years, so "get along, little doggie."

**ENCAUSTIC WORKSHOP  
HOSTED BY NORTHERN GRAND**

A group of 20 or so artists gathered in the ballroom at the Northern Grand on Sunday, and they "had a ball," indeed. Carrie Klukas, an Alberta

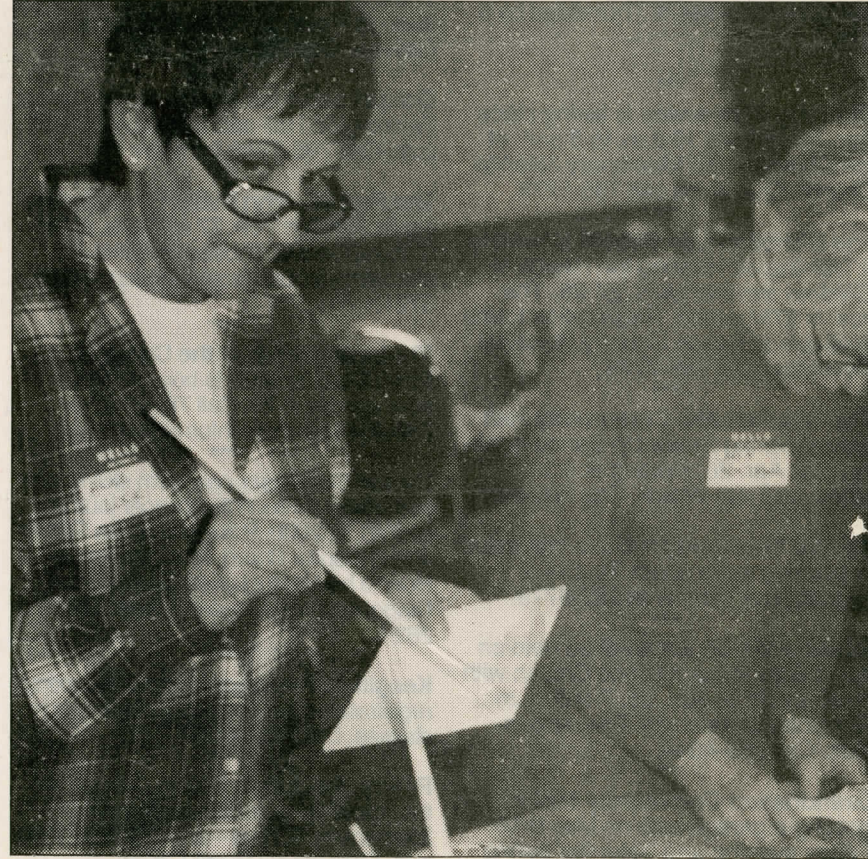
abstract-impressionist artist who juried the Regional Juried Art Exhibit, taught an Introductory Encaustic workshop for Peace Liard entrants.

A hearty soup and sandwich lunch was followed by a lecture on the history of encaustic painting. An ancient technique, encaustic involves painting with melted wax mixed with pigment. Most of us didn't know what encaustic was, or even how to pronounce it. By the end of the day, however, there were 30 or 40 small paintings produced, and a lot of interest generated in this exciting medium. The ballroom looked a lot like CDC Playgroup, with everyone experimenting with colourful melted wax, and using all kinds of interesting materials.

### Barb Daley



**PATCHWORK**



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

**Alice Lock paint hot wax onto pieces of wood as part of an encaustic workshop.**

for all ages, as well as provide student bursaries.

The tickets are moving quickly, but there are still some left. People from as far away as Victoria and Dawson Creek

jewellery, paintings, handcrafted wood products, weaving and pottery and more. There is also a large silent auction, which always boasts a diverse selection of unique items.



# ARTS WEEK



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## Celebrate Peace Liard Arts Week

### Welcome to Arts Week!

The Province of British Columbia will be celebrating Arts and Culture Week, April 20-26, focusing attention on the significant contribution of arts and culture to education, the economy and to the quality of life in our province, and on the central role the arts and BC artists play in our schools and communities.

During this week of celebration, towns and cities, communities across the province are hosting a spectacular array of events and activities through their community arts councils and local schools.

**How arts and culture affect British Columbians**  
The arts and culture sector employs over 63,000 people in communities across BC, with a

ally as among the best. Each year, our museums, galleries, festivals and performances attract visitors from around the world.

Arts and culture also play an essential role in learning. Participating in arts programs and activities not only provides students with the discipline and creativity to enhance their learning - schools with strong arts programs cite improved attendance and student motivation, renewed community participation, increased graduation rates and higher scores on standardized tests - but also gives them a strong foundation for enriching their lives.

### Celebrating Arts Week in the Peace Liard Region!

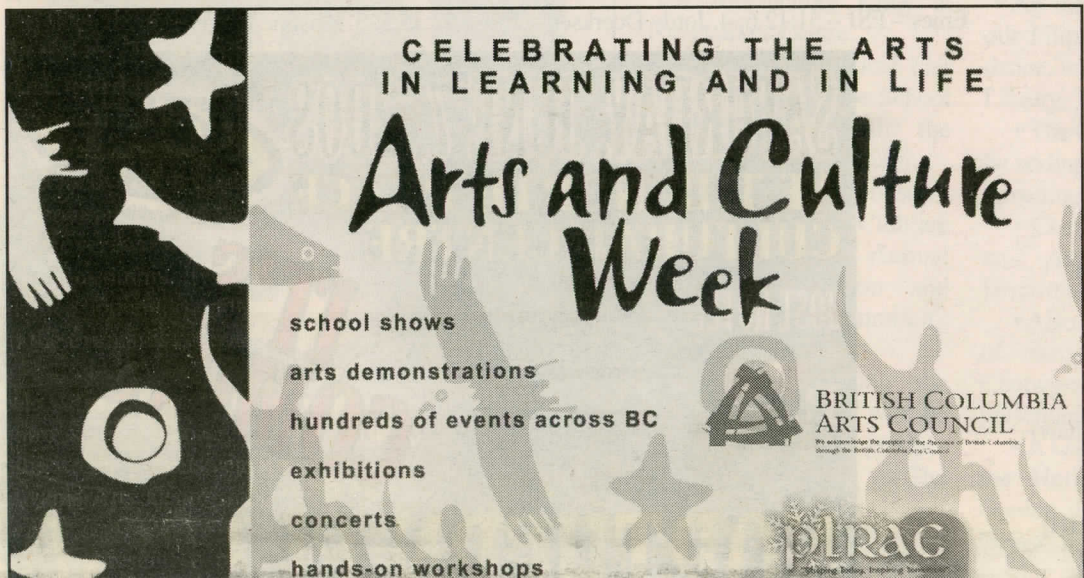
The member communities in the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council are pleased to participate in BC Arts Week by hosting a number of community and special events throughout the week. Our arts sectors are so vibrant and active that many of the events have been spread out over two weeks.

Be sure that you take the time to support community arts and participating in some of these creative and entertaining programs! For further information on the events listed contact your Community Arts Council

#### Dawson Creek

**April 7-18:** The Kiwanis Arts Centre is pleased to present the Peace River South Festival of the Arts at various venues in Dawson Creek. Phone the Kiwanis Arts Centre for more information 782-9325.

**April 13:** Dawson Creek Danceworks presents a per-



**CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN LEARNING AND IN LIFE**

## Arts and Culture Week

- school shows
- arts demonstrations
- hundreds of events across BC
- exhibitions
- concerts
- hands-on workshops

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We acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council.

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