

Regional Juried Art Exhibit Now at Peace Gallery North

On Friday, April 4th, Juror Carrie Klukas spent seven hours going through the 150 entries for the Regional Exhibit. She was quite astounded by not only the number of entries, but the quality of the work. It was not a job that I envied at all. Ms Klukas was focused though, and by Friday evening, 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 BC 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 V.(aka "Mike") Kroecker for "Blue Cliffs and Chokecherries", and the Recognition Award to Cindy Vincent for "River's Edge". Chetwynd's Jordan Rondeau received the Student Award for his drawing "Divine Retrobuton" (YES, that IS the way the title is spelled) The Honourable Mentions went to Robert Young, Alana Hall, 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 2nd, 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 twenty 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.

25th Annual Art Auction Coming Saturday, April 26

Get ready to have an excellent evening on Saturday, April 26, the 25th Annual Art Auction. "The Gold Rush" themed event, held at the Quality Inn Northern Grand is Peace Gallery North's Major fundraiser. Proceeds from the gala night will expand the Kids Free Art Camp, and art programs 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 are buying up tickets, because they are a steal. At \$49 per person, the Art Auction promises an evening of entertainment, a beautiful buffet dinner, including complimentary wine. There are lots of draws and prizes, including a chance to win a Heli Tour from Canadian Helicopters.

Both international artists and artists from the Peace have given for auction 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.

This year, not only will there be a very powerful Alan Sapp painting up for bid, there has also been a mystery piece created by world-renowned Peace artist, Brian Jungen, who grew up in the Doig River community.

Tickets for the 25th Annual Art Auction are available at the Cultural Center Box office, or by calling 785-1992. See you there!