

# Trash can be turned into art, if you have imagination

FORT ST. JOHN — There might be less trash to take out this month, if you let an artist get hold of your garbage can.

The Fort St. John Community Arts Council recently put out a call for artwork made from recycled objects.

“When it comes to making art from trash, beauty is in the hands of the creator,” said Chandra Wong, arts council executive director. “And there are so many talented artists in the community; we wanted to see what they could create.”

The only constraint the artists have is that their entry must be made from recycled objects. Anything that might have been thrown out is fair game. The rest is up to the artist’s imagination. Entitled ‘The Art of Reduction’, all entries will be on display at the ArtsPost June 28-July 6. The show brings together the Northern Environmental Action Team (NEAT) and the community arts council.

“It’s a partnership that works well for us both,” said Sally

Emory, NEAT’s executive director. “NEAT supports recycling and reducing the amount of garbage that goes into the landfill, and the arts council supports and develops the arts.”

The deadline for artists to drop off their ‘recycled’ artwork at the ArtsPost is June 25. Entry fee is \$20 for two pieces. Half the fee will be returned when artist picks up their work after the show. For information contact Chandra or Aleisha at ((250)787-2781 or fsjarts@telus.net).

- Contributed

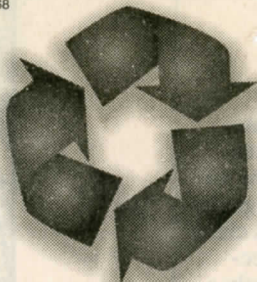


Hannah Scissons/AHN

## THE ART OF TRASH

"Brain drain data transfer as knowledge sharing" by Edward Stanford was one of the 15 works of art on display at the opening of The Art of Reduction: A 'Trashy' Art Show on Thursday evening at the Arts Post. Artists re-used materials from CDs to wires to truck cabs to create the art, intended to make viewers look at garbage in a new light and encourage recycling. The show runs until July 6 at the Arts Post, 10040 102 Street.





# The Art of Reduction

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

Calling All Artists! Take Part in an  
Art Show using Recycled Objects

Entries must be made of recycled and/or found materials,  
i.e. something that would have been otherwise thrown out.

Entry Fee is \$20 per entry (Maximum two pieces)  
Deadline for Artwork to be Delivered to the ArtsPost  
10040 - 102 St. is Monday, June 25 at 4pm

Evening Opening - June 28 at 7pm  
Show runs from June 28 to July 6 at the ArtsPost  
10040 - 102 Street.

For More Information, Contact the Fort St. John  
Community Arts Council at 787-2781 or [fsjarts@telus.net](mailto:fsjarts@telus.net)



# ARTS

## The art of reduction

### Reduce, reuse, recycle... and re-create

So over at the Arts Council we had an idea. We looked around the ArtsPost and thought to ourselves, what could we do with the space?

Well, seeing as there are many big empty white walls in this building, how about an art show? Group exhibitions with a unique theme are always interesting for both artists and art appreciators.

And then an idea came about; how about a challenge? Something that would give artists a chance to show off a little creative ingenuity. That sounds like a good idea. So what is this challenge, you ask? Well let me tell you all about the art show that is to be born from trash...

It is an art show that asks those participating to try this idea on for size:

make a piece for the show, but it must be made from recycled materials.

Now this doesn't just limit the artists to sorted-out garbage; the materials can be anything that was going to be thrown out anyway, like furniture or clothing or appliances. In other words, found objects.

I'd be interested to see what a person could do with an old toaster, newspapers, garbage bags and a broken loveseat, wouldn't you?

Not only is this an interesting use of perhaps-not-so-common-materials, but it's also a nifty way to think about recycling and being environmentally friendly.

Now, this is a call to all artists. We want to see what you can do with recycled materials/found objects. You

can work two-dimensionally or three-dimensionally – it's completely up to you. We just want to see what you'll come up with under these stipulations. So it's time to get those creative juices flowing, see what you can find and come up with. I've seen a few hubcaps on the side of the road lately; you better grab them before I do!

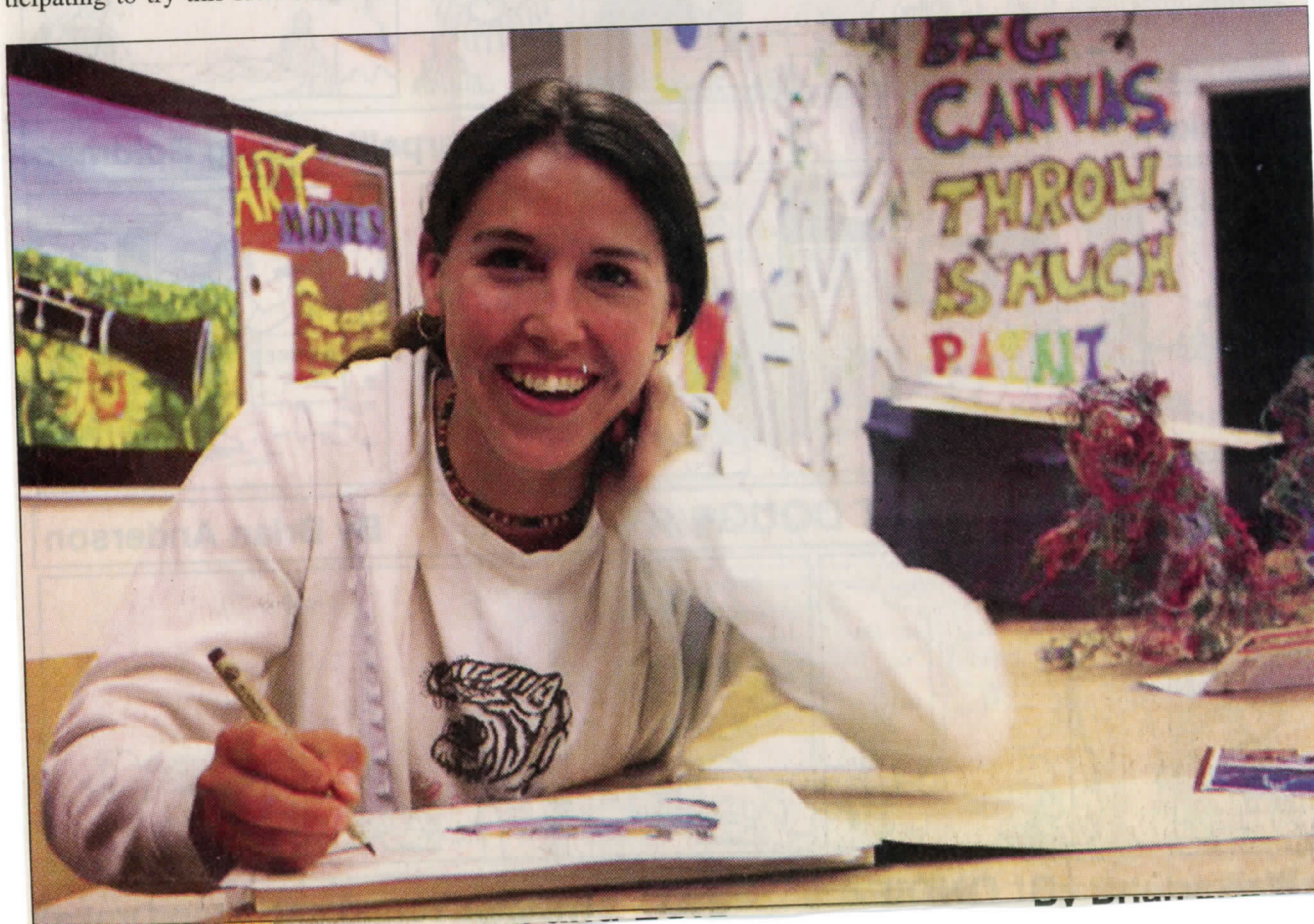
And now for the "when" and "where." The show is happening at the ArtsPost, located at 10040 102nd Street, from June 28 to July 6. There will be a gala opening on June 28 at 7 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend.

To all the artists, we ask that you have your work in to the Arts Post no later than June 25. We are asking for a \$20 entry fee, but worry not, for you will be reimbursed \$10 when you come to take your piece away. That's a pretty sweet deal, I'd say. Have fun with your pieces, and we'll see you at the opening!

### Aleisha Hendry



STATE OF THE ARTS







Photos submitted

**Above:** Chandra Wong dives into the art of reduction, an exhibition of art made from recycled materials that will be on display at the ArtsPost from June 28 to July 6.

**At left:** The ArtsPost was filled with life Monday evening for an artists casual critique. Local artists, including Karina Chambers, came in to get like-minded feedback on their work.



# Junk or art? Depends on your point of view

One person's garbage is another's treasure. What one throws away could be used in ways that are previously thought to be unimaginable. Such examples were on display at the opening gala of the art reduction show in Fort St. John Thursday at the Arts Post.

"We came up with the idea about a month ago," said Aleisha Hendry, executive assistant of the Fort St. John Arts Council. "We put it together in three weeks through advertising, word of mouth and connections with our member groups. We had no idea what would happen."

What happened were 15 artists contributing work, some multiple pieces. Both full-time and part-time artists, as well as children contributed art work to the show.

"I heard about the show through the arts council," said Shirley Kerr who submitted several pieces to be displayed. "Generally my art would be kept at home, but now others get to see it on display."

One of her pieces was "The Frog," made from balls of paper, glue, tape, and water. One of the bigger and more detailed pieces in the show, the piece actually came about by accident.

"I originally wanted to make a monkey in a jungle setting," Kerr explained. "What I ended up with was a frog. It was really weird but I learned from it."

According to Kerr, "The Frog," which was worked on by teachers, students and other members of the community is going to be hanged at Ecole Central Elementary School.

Kerr also contributed a piece entitled "Wire Man" which she designed after

ated for the BC Festival of the Arts as a symbol of the community.

"TELUS is going fiber optic so they gave me a lot of their copper wire," Kerr said. "The piece has been around for years. I found its glasses in an alley."

The show had another meaning to it. The building it was held in is owned by the city of Fort St. John. The arts council is allowed to use it as long as there is no one who wants to develop the site. According to Arts Council president Lisa Bush, there is a developer lined up. Bush did call the city "big supporters" of the council. Along with a partnership with the Northern Environmental Action Team (NEAT), the arts council used the show to promote arts in the area.

"This is a great partnership we have," said NEAT president Andy Larstone

while addressing the crowd. "All of this points to that change is happening. This partnership is a prime example of how two groups can work together."

The Arts Council and NEAT are trying to get the arts up and running in the city.

According to Bush, they want

tive and serious both groups are.

"This building is necessary for visual artists, potters, spinners and weavers," Bush said. "This show is about seeing things differently. It is a novel approach which the arts, the environment and NEAT are all a part of."

The gala also served to get artists who would not normally meet together. One of them, Ruth Hill of Chetwynd said being around other artists makes her feel "normal."

Hill stuck with the true spirit of the show by turning everyday parts from automobiles into art. These included a candle holder from wheel lugs off of a semi, and a night light she found while

driving behind a semi

"They have a beautiful shape," Hill commented about the candle holders. "They have a beautiful shape. I think that rust is as pretty as copper."

Members of the community who did not enter pieces in the show came out to see what local people created. One of them, Sarah Halse a native of London, England, was impressed by what she saw.

"I'm interested to see art from everyday people from such a small town," she said.

The gala runs through Friday beginning at 9 a.m. each day. It is free to the public.





Sarah Halse checks out one of the pieces at the Art Reduction show opening gala. Halse, an arts graduate, said she likes checking out art from everyday people.





# A "TRASHY" ART SHOW JUNE 28 - JULY 6

a whole new way to look  
at your trash

**THE ART OF  
REDUCTION**  
Opening Gala June 28  
at 7pm at  
the ArtsPost  
10040 102 St

**This is a "Green" Event brought to you  
by the Fort St. Community Arts Council in  
Partnership with the Northern Environmental  
Action Team (NEAT).**

**For More Information, Contact Aleisha  
or Chandra at 787-2781**

Fort St. John Community



**ARTS  
COUNCIL**

"Shaping Today. Inspiring Tomorrow"

Northern  
Environmental  
Action Team

**NEAT.**