



FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS  
*Victoria Chapter*

## The GRAPEVINE

December, 2015

Hi Everyone,

December 1<sup>st</sup>, Lillajul or Pikkujoulua, for my Finnish relatives, marks the first day of weeks of winter festivities – the perfect tonic for the darkest time of the year. Those of you who have lived in the Yukon or the NWT may know that “lightishness” daylight experience of winter in the high latitudes - when the sun barely peeks over the horizon between 10 and 2 each day. Snow is actually appreciated to maximize the dim light.

Fortunately for us in this part of the world, and especially this past week, the light is spectacular, snow stays on mountains and the shortened days are hardly noticed. With such sunshine, spirits are high and the paint flows. Included in this issue are the results for the FCA Fall Show at Goward House, as well as recognition for participants in other shows here, across the pond and beyond. Marion Evamy’s delightful presentation in November is remembered as well as Jennifer Heine’s mixed media workshop. There’s more, including information about the next must-do Victoria FCA workshop with artist Dominik Modlinski.

All the Best of the Season,  
Inga Nykwist

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### **FCA Victoria, Chapter Meetings**

Monthly meetings are held at Windsor Park Pavilion on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. (Please bring your own mug – goodies will be provided.)

**The next FCA Victoria event is the December 10<sup>th</sup> Potluck Christmas party at 6 pm.** Bring something delicious to share and, if you wish to participate in the painting exchange, wrap a small unframed painting (8 x 10” or smaller) to bring along. Volunteers are much appreciated for setting up.

**SPOTLIGHTING OUR ARTISTS – SINCE  
LAST GRAPEVINE:**

**FCA VICTORIA CHAPTER, FALL SHOW –** Keith Levang's painting, *Dark Approaching Cattle Point* took first place at the juried fall show at Goward House this year.

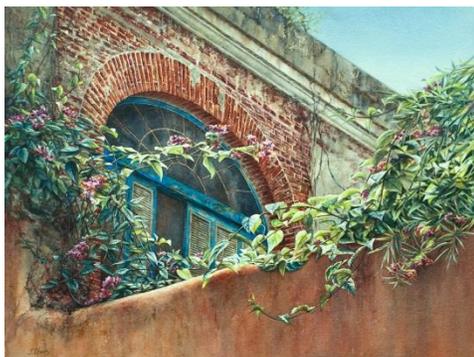


*Germination* by Shelley Wuitchik placed second. Shelley was again a winner after her 'Best in Show' award at Sidney Fine Arts Show.

Chris Stusek's, *Mannequin Series#1 Mme T* was third.



**HONOURABLE MENTIONS:**



Jennifer Olson,  
*Distant Courtyard,  
Havana*

Sharon Stone, *Hourglass Lake II*



Bev Robertson, *The Fountain of our Youth*



**SIDNEY FINE ARTS SHOW:**



Shelley Wuitchik's *Jelly Bloom* won 'Best in Show'.

'Best Painting under Glass' went to Marney Ward for *Butchart's Begonias*.



Catherine Moffat's *Honey I'm Home* won a Juror's choice award.

**Honourable mentions:** Mary Conley's, *Stitch in Time* as well as two of Kathy Cameron's works, *Lilacs in the Rain* and *A Watchful Eye* won honourable mention.

Deborah Tilby\_SCFA received awards for two paintings: *Two By Two* and *Valley by the Sea*

**FCA AIRS, Vancouver** - Nicole Sleeth was the grand prize winner in the International Realism Show in Vancouver for *Suzanna* featured in last edition's Grapevine. Mary Conley placed first in the figurative category with *Wrath*.

Mary Conley also came third in the 365 Show with her painting, *The Chef*, which is to be featured in the FCA Calendar for 2016.



**Muse show, Vancouver** – Agnes Cornell's *The Mail*, *Service with a Smile*, Carol Koebberman's *Lazy Day*, and Sherry Mussio's *Vineyard Companion* are in the Muse show until December 6<sup>th</sup>.



**Congratulations also to new Active members:**

**Sheryl Fisher, Virginia Hutzuliak and Nancy Letkeman**

**SPOTLIGHTING OUR ARTISTS – UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**FCA Signature Medal Show** – Several chapter members are included in the Signature Medal Show in Vancouver December 8<sup>th</sup> – 23rd:

Sharlene Stushnov-Lee, *Sunbathing – Canna #8*



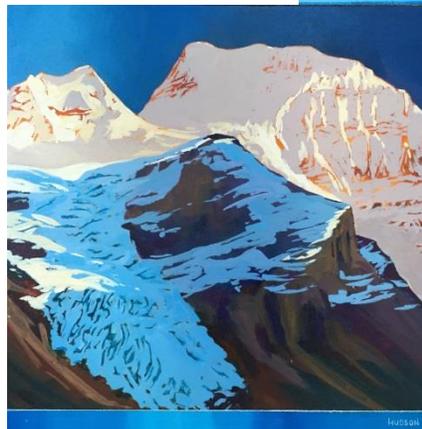
Mary Conley, *Merlin*



Phillipa Hudson  
*Mt Robson with the Berg Glacier and  
Bow Lake with the Crowfoot Glacier*

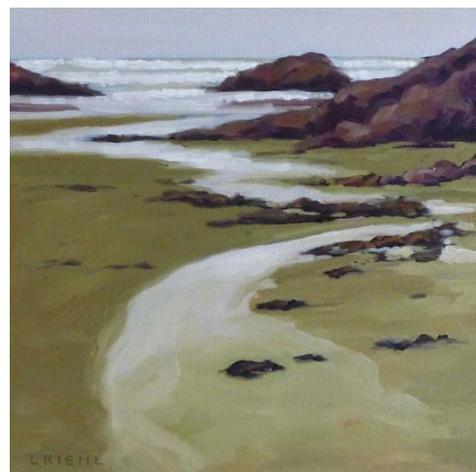


Dorset Norwich-Young  
*Blowing in the Wind*





Jim McFarland, *Glencoe Cove*



Lisa Riehl, *Beckoning*



Makaely Rois  
*Paris Love Locks*

Nicole Sleeth, grand prize winner in FCA AIRS with *Suzanna*, has two paintings, *Suzanna II* and *Meghan II* (l-r) in Figureworks, an annual figurative show in Ottawa which runs to December 6th.



Sheryl Fisher has 2 works in the Gage Gallery Arts Collective show, 'Conjunction', which runs until December 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Yo-yo Master 1* and  
*Yo-yo Master 2*

Makaely Rois' 3D paintings & sculptures, *SEA ENTITIES*, are at the Coast Collective Art Gallery "Gifts & Wishes Show" until December 25<sup>th</sup> at Pendray House Gallery

*Apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted from the lists of shows.*

## AN EVENING WITH MARION EVAMY



Marion Evamy literally took Victoria by storm when she arrived at her new home on the last ferry that sailed before a raging Southeaster. She had returned to Victoria remembering halcyon days at the University of Victoria where she graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in the arts. Post-UVic, Marion attended the Alberta College of Art and Design and worked as a curator in Manitoba and elsewhere before returning to Calgary and working in real estate, using her design skills to renovate and sell houses.

The urge to create art rarely stays dormant and for Marion it returned after spending time painting with her architect father who was receiving medical treatment in the southern USA. The colours of the southern states and Mexico were impossible to resist. When she returned to Alberta, inspired by artist Ron Burns, she painted her two dogs in Arizona colours. Friends saw those portraits and asked for their own. Soon Marion's energetic, colourful style flourished on the internet. Orders for canine portraits have now topped 650. This success enabled Marion to develop her art in new directions. In 2002, she shared a studio and began showing with a group, Avant G'Art. The mission: 'No grey areas.'

Initially, Marion painted landscapes but soon her trademark stylized figures began to emerge: horses and people (usually men!) with small heads and big feet. What she strives to capture is the emotional connection to the body language of a figure. Her sources of inspiration are the things around her, on TV, in magazines and newspapers. She works solely in acrylics – 36 x 48 is her favourite canvas size. When she discovered liquid golden seal acrylics after her move to Victoria, she found this medium transformed her palette.

Marion showed slides outlining, with humorous asides, her growth as an artist. The four paintings she brought all came with stories only briefly described here. The painting below on the far left, *African Queen*, was one of her first experiments with liquid acrylics poured on the canvas in a cross-hatching style that was then filled with jewels of colour. *African Queen* was rejected from the Sooke Fine Arts show but went on to receive the



'Best in Show' award at the Sidney Fine Arts Show and sold to a collector. Marion encouraged artists to recognize that art show rejections reflect the taste of the jurors, not necessarily the art itself. Take any rejection with a grain of salt.

The second painting, *Corner Office*, is an early classic Marion Evamy figure. The third painting from the left, *Walk the Talk*, demonstrates an approach to multi-media with Letracet transfer letters providing texture beneath the abstract's surface. The last painting, *On the Podium*, is the most recent example of Marion's adoption of texture and paper pattern in a painting. Notice that areas of almost grey-like calm are emerging!



Marion continues to grow artistically, attending workshops with other accomplished artists and learning new techniques for creating texture and interest. Her paintings may start with a germ of an idea but most often it is the application of paint on canvas that speaks to her and sets the direction for the work.

Red Art Gallery, curated by Bobb Hamilton, shows Marion Evamy's paintings exclusively. In an era when so many galleries have closed their doors, Red Art Gallery defied the trend and expanded from a 450 square foot space to eventually incorporate 1700 sq ft space on Oak Bay Avenue for Marion's studio and gallery.

Red Art Gallery is a testament to the appeal of Marion's work and to her husband, Bobb Hamilton's business skills at marketing and providing services that support art buyers. Bobb, drawing on his realtor background, generously shared a number of helpful suggestions for artists wanting to sell their work:

- Attaching a story to your painting adds to the excitement of the purchase. It gives the buyer something to share with friends and family when they are invited to see the new painting. Having a story, perhaps even with photos of the process, makes that easy to provide.
- If someone expresses an interest in your painting, dig further than compliments. Use W5 questions rather than questions that may be answered with a yes or no. e.g. What is it in the painting that draws you in? Remember the response as you develop your work.
- Print a card of your painting with all of your contact information on the back as well as the dimensions, title and media of your work. Suggest the person expressing an interest in your painting take it home and put it on the wall where they might hang the painting – perhaps even taping the dimensions of the work around the card.
- If you are looking for gallery representation, (NB: Red Art Gallery no longer represents artists other than Marion)
  - Visit and research the gallery, don't mention you want representation,
  - Leave and then send an email with a submission containing 6 to 12 paintings,
  - Be prepared to answer questions of key importance to a gallery owner: How prolific are you as an artist?; How many paintings have you sold?; What is your price point? – it must fit the range of the gallery's paintings

Marion and Bobb provided a thoroughly entertaining and informative evening for those present. For more information about Marion, see <http://marionevamy.com> . To learn more about Red Art Gallery, see <http://redartgallery.ca/> .

Marion invited all present to come to her studio and watch her painting process but cautions if you ask too many questions, she'll be handing you a brush!

**Photos curtesy of Bobb Hamilton**

FROM WORKSHOP CO-ORDINATOR, MARCELA STRASDAS:

## **JENNIFER HEINE MIXED MEDIA WORKSHOP**

**November 20 & 21**

A group of 10 students shared the weekend with talented, award-winning artist Jennifer Heine in the “Enrich your Work with Mixed Media Workshop”. Jennifer



generously shared her techniques to develop interesting mixed media backgrounds to be either used as abstract pieces by themselves or as part of representational finished paintings.



The workshop was very inspirational, informative and very relaxing in the beautiful setting of Swan Lake Sanctuary in Victoria. Thank you Jennifer!!



*Photos curtesy of Marcela Strasdass*

## **New FCA Victoria Workshop:**



## **BOLD BRUSHWORK AND COLOUR**

**Instructor: Dominik Modlinski**

**Time: February 27 & February 28, 2016**

**Location: TBA**

**FCA Members: \$300 – Non-FCA Members: \$325**

Welcome to two intensive days of inspiration and innovation where brushstrokes radiate with luminescent light and the brilliant hues of the Canadian and worldwide landscapes. Dominik Modlinski’s work reflects his travels into wonderfully remote areas like Antarctica, Alaska, South Africa, Peru and Bolivia among others.

This workshop is aimed at beginner and intermediate artists who wish to expand their knowledge of oil and acrylic painting techniques while enhancing their perception and creative visualization. Dominik addresses the principals of painting using just three primary colours. The simplicity of this approach frees students to appreciate colour mixing, as well as colour contrasts and

ratios, which lead to harmonious and successful paintings. An economy of brush movements is emphasized to keep colours clean and saturated while moving from one hue to another.

During the workshop, students will work to create a landscape composition while Dominik demonstrates, in stages, his approach to creating a successful studio painting. In addition, the painting exercises done during the weekend will emphasize transferring plein air ideas and their energy into studio work.

Dominik Modlinski is represented by multiple galleries across Canada, USA and South Africa. A few of his finished studio paintings and plein air sketches will be available to study at the workshop. More of Dominik's work and his adventurous painting journeys can be viewed on his website:

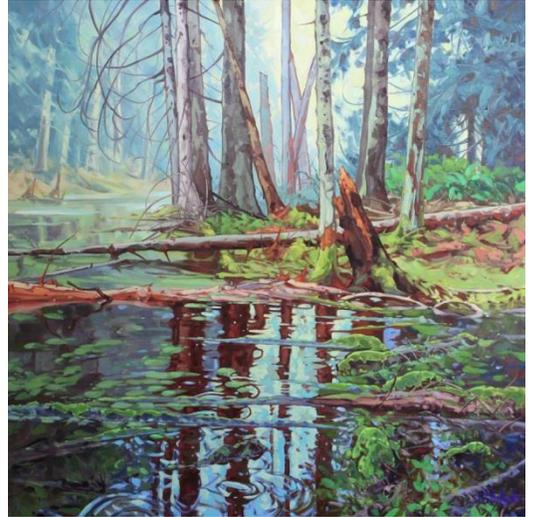
<http://www.paintingjourneys.com/>

and his TV series 'CHANGING LANDSCAPES' which is currently aired on SHAW TV:

<http://www.changinglandscapestv.com/>

For more information and to register for this workshop, contact:

Marcela Strasdas: [marcelastrasdas@gmail.com](mailto:marcelastrasdas@gmail.com) - 250-217-9791



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## NEW ART MATERIALS



At the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting Carol Koebbeman gave a short presentation and circulated some samples of a product called DiBond used as a painting support. Dibond is composed of two thin sheets of aluminum with a polyethylene core. It is most often used in the sign industry but several leading realism painters have adopted it, including David Kassan, David Gluck and Katherine Stone. The surface of Dibond is gessoed like any other support.

Dibond's advantage over canvas and wood supports is that it doesn't expand or contract like wood, it's lightweight, doesn't absorb moisture, is easy to cut with a table saw, and is more or less puncture proof.

If you want to experiment with painting on Dibond, Carol purchased a 4 x 8' sheet for just under \$ 150 and is happy to provide some samples of it at cost.

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## COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA

FCA Victoria will be renewing its group membership in the Community Arts Council.

## **FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS (VANCOUVER) CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SHOWS:**

**NB:** To be eligible for these calls, members must have renewed their membership for 2016.

<b>Exhibition Name</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Exhibition Dates</b>	<b>Entry Details</b>
<b>Works on Paper</b>	<b>December 12, 2015</b> Painting due date: January 15, 2016	January 19 – 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	Open to all Active and Signature members.  Works on paper explores the different ways artists use this diverse support medium in their art practice.
<b>Active Members Show</b>	<b>December 16, 2015</b> Painting due date: December 19, 2015	January 5 – 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	An non-juried exhibition exclusively for Active members.
<b>Artists Choice</b>	<b>January 9, 2016</b> Painting due date: January 29, 2016	February 2 – 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Open to Active and Signature members.  Artist Choice offers the opportunity to highlight creativity in subject, medium and style.
<b>Landscapes</b>	<b>January 16, 2016</b> Painting due date: February 13, 2016	February 16 – 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Open to Active and Signature members.

**\*\*Please check the Canadian Federation Artists' website <http://artists.ca> to confirm these dates and to obtain further information regarding submission requirements and/or future shows.**

### **FCA VICTORIA CHAPTER SHOWS**

The Executive are expecting that 2016 will include 3 FCA Victoria shows. One of these shows, in the later part of the year, will mark the anniversary of FCA Victoria.

**NEXT VICTORIA CHAPTER PROGRAM:**

**Success Slide Show – January 21, 2016 7 pm**

Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay

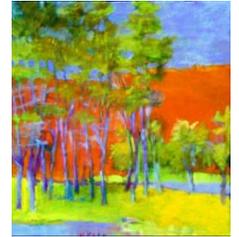
Anne Hudec and Jim McFarland will discuss the application process for Signature Status and present a slide show of paintings by successful Signature Status applicants.

**LAST THOUGHTS**

With Marion Evamy's colourful works fresh in mind, let me leave you with two websites to explore for a further dose of vibrant colour this December.



For watercolourists, there are the saturated colours of Carol Carter who is coincidentally coming to Vancouver in 2016 to give a workshop: <http://www.carol-carter.com> .



For oil and pastel painters, revel in Wolf Kahn's landscapes: <http://www.wolfkahn.com/>

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