

Director's Message

Art Works Art Gallery, A Learning Curve

Special points of interest:

- Next Steps 2013
- David Allen
- Save High Park Zoo

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Since opening in 2009 at 238 Jane Street, defining our gallery's mandate has been both an enormous challenge and learning curve for me. Over time, through trial and error and much frustration, we had come full circle with less of a vision than we initially started out with, inviting much more confusion in the process. We dove in deep, consequently drowning in quantity rather than quality and to some extent, ignored our own mantra of striving for excellence that has served us so well over the years with our art programs and events. The first year Art Works Art Gallery opened, we scheduled over 10 exhibitions, clearly biting off a lot more than we could possibly chew, considering the fact that even established galleries which function exclusively in this capacity generally schedule around 8 shows per year. The results of this decision, ranged from successful to abysmal and my own disappointment weighed heavily on me. Through failure comes wisdom and eventually success; needless to say, there were many lessons learned in order to move forward more fruitfully and selectively. It was obvious that shows involving more time, care, effort, and research, naturally brought about the best results, but of greater value came the affirmation that alternative ideas are incubating outside of Art Works and in



Danica Loncar,
 Director/Curator

the greater arts community at large just waiting to be realized. I decided it was well worth inviting ideas from outside curators and this started the ball rolling toward change.

On the path toward improvement of Art Works Art Gallery, tightening up our schedule was essential and enormously helpful, having fewer shows of more substance with careful selection of what constituted a good fit for our gallery. Art Works Art Gallery started out as an eclectic mix of faculty and student work, some commercial and non-commercial shows, as well as opportunities to rent the space to those interested including outside artists. In 2013, this mandate remains to some extent unchanged though considerably cleaned up and improved, with much tighter parameters. The rental option is no longer available with more of a focus placed on collective exhibitions proposed by guest curators, and involving artists from outside the Art Works Art School community. I look forward to their fresh proposals and the potential these individuals bring to Art Works, as

well as the opportunity to work with them. Just recently, I also solicited feedback from our wonderful adult students about how they felt regarding our Annual Next Steps Juried Exhibition of Adult Student Work, so important to them. They didn't hold back and nor should they. Their one expressed desire and strongest suggestion, which I am immensely thankful for, was to bring in outside jurors to score their work. This was a brilliant recommendation that contributed greatly to the success and prestige of the show and made the entire process much more professional, enjoyable and exciting for everybody. You can read on further about the exhibition in the body of this newsletter. I am always as grateful as I am humbled by the energy and creativity of others. I welcome their fresh and alternative ideas in order to create a more meaningful and exciting vision for Art Works Art School and Gallery. After much frustration and a learning curve of monumental proportions on my part, our revised mantra now includes some simple and sound logic that has served us well in the past, but of recently had gone neglected, "keep what works but never hesitate to change what doesn't".

Danica Loncar is the Creative Director of Art Works Art School

Contact us at 416-766-0662, info@artworksartschool.com or visit our website at www.artworksartschool.com

Next Steps

Our Next Steps reception was packed wall to wall with artists, teachers, jurors and their families and friends. Our very special surprise guest for the event, Parkdale-High Park M.P.P. Cheri Di Novo dropped by and was enthusiastically welcomed by our director and curator of the exhibition, Danica Loncar along with everyone in attendance. Cheri gave a heartwarming speech in support of the show and the entire Art Works community. Over 60 people came to the reception and enjoyed the art, refreshments, engaging conversation and lively exhibition opening.

The snap link for this is <http://snapd.at/eef2fs>

Curatorial Statement by Danica Loncar

The Next Steps Annual Juried Exhibition of Adult Student Work was created in an attempt to offer adult students an opportunity to experience the entire process of preparing for and participating in a juried exhibition from beginning to end. Through various programs including our Advanced Independent Studio Program, students are encouraged to work towards producing a cohesive body of work (several pieces or a series) of consistent quality and content through their chosen medium or mediums. The instructor will assist the student in achieving this objective through experimentation and exploration of techniques and subject matter. Students will develop their own unique vision and direction. The works submitted and accepted into Next Steps do not include class exercises; they are pieces developed through the student's own independent vision and personal engagement with their cho-



Left to right: Next Steps Artists with Parkdale-High Park M.P.P. Cheri Di Novo, and exhibition Curator Danica Loncar center. From left to right: Brenda Morgan, Glenda Madott, Cheri Di Novo, Danica Loncar, Lisa Laurin, Heather Pegg, Ruth Robertson and Sandra Otto (Adelia Chuburu was absent from this photo).



Ghanesh Das, one of the exhibition Juror's was happy to attend the opening and meet the artists.



Lisa Laurin with her family Ben, Andrew, Jonathon (also pictured on the wall behind them) and her husband Gregg

Next Steps 2013 Winners



***Pulling Away* by Sandra Otto, First Prize a Solo Exhibition for 2014**

I paint primarily in oil; landscapes and figures are favourite subjects. While trying to capture a moment, I find myself exploring the idea of natural forces in my paintings. Themes include solitude, stillness, loneliness, alienation, and a sense of fleetingness. I want the viewer to recognize the subject of the painting, but I'm trying to heighten the emotional response to it by manipulating colour and light and the powerful landscape of northern Ontario.

***Sharon's Tractor* by Glenda Madott, Second Prize an Adult Course valued at \$320.00**

Drawing and painting has always brought me to a place of peace and reflection. Art has never been a hobby – rather a necessity to process life's turmoil. Now that I have more time to devote to my art, I am more involved in painting, and am able to work with fellow artists. This has led to a wonderfully satisfying creative life filled with continuous challenges and adventures that must be followed, both in life and on the canvas. This year I find myself celebrating the passing of many ways of life in rural Canada, from the small farm to our changing wetlands. I paint landscapes in part to catch to-day's moment.



***Waiting* by Heather Pegg, Third Prize \$100 Gift Certificate for Art Supplies**

Human vulnerability is the focus of this work. Vulnerability is described in the dictionary as "an exposed state, unprotected, defenceless" These works suggest that as the viewer, we have entered into a private moment of the subject. The sitter appears to be pondering life, vulnerable to criticism that may be cast upon them. As the viewer, we are left wondering what moments have led each individual to display this emotion.

Honourable Mention: Lisa Laurin, Ruth Robertson, Brenda Morgan, Adelia Chuburu, will receive a \$20 Gift Certificate for Art Supplies or Books.

On behalf of all the staff and teachers at Art Works Art School, I would like to congratulate our seven wonderful Next Steps 2013 students for their excellent submissions, dedication to their creative pursuits, and the hard work put into this year's exhibition.

A special thank you also to our juror's Ghanesh Das, Nada Sesar-Raffay and Kathleen Vaughan for their time, participation, and careful consideration of all evaluation criteria when scoring the work.

The Curator of Next Steps

Danica Loncar is the director, curator and founder of Art Works Art School and Gallery at 238 Jane Street in Toronto, also referred to in the community as "The Blue School". She is an Honours graduate of OCAD University and a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's medal. Danica is a painter and teacher who taught both art and design at the college level. She was represented by Nancy Poole's Studio in Yorkville for a number of years and has participated in numerous venues including juried shows, group shows, solo exhibitions and commissioned projects both in Canada and internationally. She has been featured in various publications including a recent Alumni Feature Profile for the December 2011 issue of the OCAD University Alumni Newsletter. Danica was also interviewed on radio and television, as a guest speaker in 2012 at Concordia University Faculty of Art Education, and as a panellist on the OCAD University Career Panel, *The Creative Class: Building Your Creative Career*. Danica credits her inspiration and motivation for creating Art Works Art Gallery to the opportunity given her by Joyce Wieland back in 1989 at Wieland's Alma Gallery in Toronto, where she invited and encouraged Danica along with other young artists and students to show their work. As both Director and Curator of Art Works Art School and Gallery, Danica brings her passion for art and design to the community with a commitment to excellence that will foster a dynamic learning and exhibition environment for students of all ages.

The Jurors: Ghanesh Das, Nada Sesar Raffay, Kathleen Vaughan

Ghanesh Das: Lived in Guyana, South America, London, England and Toronto, Canada. Education includes the Ontario College of Art and Design and Toronto School of Art. Ghanesh Das, AOCA, CFS, is a graphic artist, visual artist and art teacher in Toronto. His work focuses on a mixed media approach to drawing and painting with aesthetic concerns for both representational and abstract art. With many historical and contemporary influences, his creative focus and methodology is on the visual and mark-making qualities of substance, surface and process in art making. Artist website: www.drawntopaint.com
Twitter: @drawntopaint

Nada Sesar Raffay: Nada Sesar Raffay graduated with her MFA from the Academy of Fine Arts, Zagreb, Croatia. She has resided in Toronto, Canada since 1988 and has been represented by Edward Day Gallery since 1997. Nada has exhibited extensively in Canada and abroad, through the Edward Day Gallery, Toronto and Buschlen, as well as Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia. Her work has been included in a number of collections both in Canada and internationally. Nada currently holds the position of Curator at Baka Gallery in Toronto.

Kathleen Vaughan: Kathleen Vaughan is an artist, academic and educator with a particular orientation to questions of place and belonging and the theme of 'home'. Using multiple forms of art, text, and collage, much of Kathleen's work takes the form of mapping and explores walking as a knowledge practice and artist's method. Currently underway, *Nel mezzo Del camin* uses textiles, video, and text to represent the pleasures and political ecology of walking in urban woods. Her award-winning artwork has been shown in museums, galleries, and artist-run centres in Canada and the Netherlands. A Toronto resident for many years, Kathleen has taught art to adults at Concordia University, OCADU, and York University, and in community workshops, master's classes, and recreational contexts. She has worked as a visiting artist in Toronto schools, engaging more than 1000 children in the pleasures of thinking and making. She is now Assistant Professor of Art Education at Concordia University (Montreal), where she teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in studio practice, community art education, and photography. Kathleen holds a B.A. (English and Art History) from the University of Toronto; an A.O.C.A. (Painting and Drawing) from the Ontario College of Art and Design University; a Master's of Fine Art (Studio Arts) from Concordia University; and a PhD (Education) from York University, Toronto, where her award-winning practice-based dissertation was the first of its kind in the Faculty of Education. More about Kathleen's work can be found on her website: www.akaredhanded.com

Out Reach

Mike Goodge (Children's Instructor)



This past winter Mike had the pleasure of running art programs at

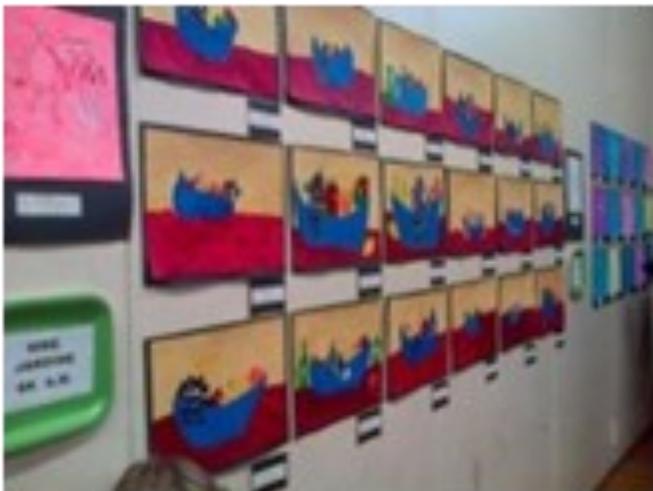
Runnymede Public School.



This is his third year visiting the school with a wide variety of skill building projects. He worked several days each week for several weeks with all of the classes in Junior/Senior Kindergarten to Grade one. The projects included print making using animal patterns, still life with acrylic paint, the human figure using a cross hatching illustration technique and cross hatching and shading exercises. After the workshops were all completed, work was mounted and displayed as an art show to finish off the session.



Mike recognized while teaching at Runnymede, many of the kids were already his students at Art Works Art School. This helped to create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere at the school. Mike could not have done these workshops without the help of the Runnymede Public School teachers and staff and the Runnymede Parent Council, in particular, the dedication and enthusiasm of Alice Bell and the amazing parents and volunteers recruited to make it all run smoothly.



Runnymede is a school that truly embraces the arts! If you are interested in having an Art Works Art School teacher visit your school please enquire at info@artworksartschool.com

March Break

This March Break we added more camps and age groups and had practically a full house! The youngest age groups, our three to six year olds explored Garden Things, the Wizard of Oz, and Amazing Animals. Our six to nine year old students worked hard in the Super Hero Boot Camp and were full of wonder with Ancient Tales and Dragon Scales. The oldest age group, our eight to twelve year olds were exploring the cult of celebrity in Celebrity Slam and learning about the mythical world of JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit. <http://snapd.at/eef2fz>

Family Sundays

February: We had a full house for this Family Day event with a chance for everyone to create their own hand crafted miniature picture frames for their own family trees. Here is the snap link <http://snapd.at/eef2fc>

March : The luck of the Irish were with us for Family Sunday in March as families had a great time shaping their four leaf clovers out of reclaimed wire and learning about the watercolour paintings of Irish artist Rose Barton. Here are some pictures by Snap <http://snapd.at/eef2fe> and fantastic front page coverage by the Bloor West Villager http://issuu.com/thebloorwestvillager/docs/vil_mar14/1 Thank you Ian Kelso of The Villager for taking such dynamic pictures of this event.



April: Families had a great time for this Earth Day event as they turned glossy magazine pages into beautiful paper beads and learned how to weave newspapers into baskets. <http://www.cbc.ca/metromorning/> <http://snapd.at/eef2g3>

EXCITING EVENT COMING UP IN JUNE!

ARTY ANIMALS AT ART WORKS ART SCHOOL IN SUPPORT OF THE HIGH PARK ZOO!

Please join Toronto City Councillor Sarah Doucette and Friends of the High Park Zoo on Sunday, June 9, 2013 from 2 to 5 pm for a fundraising art event hosted by Art Works Art School in support of the High Park Zoo. Learn about the animals at the High Park Zoo as you craft your own creative critters!

Drop in Fees: \$5/person for your own passport or \$20 for a family of 4 or more.

FEATURE TEACHER WALL!



DAVID ALLEN
(Photography Instructor)

David went on vacation to the Dominican Republic. Ironically when on vacation he does not take too many photos. He draws his surroundings instead!

Here are just a few sketches in permanent ink and watercolour paint.



MARIJA BARAC JANDRIC (Adult & Teen Instructor)

In April, Marija formed part of an exciting group exhibition titled Different Strokes, hosted by Canadian Fine Arts Gallery, the gallery currently representing Marija. Alongside other notable artists such as Harold Klunder, Wanda Koop and Kim Dorland, Marija's work fit beautifully in this extraordinary group exhibition. Please refer to the following sites for information on Marija's work www.mbjart.com and the Canadian Fine Arts Gallery, www.candianfinearts.com. Below are images of Marija's work included in Different Strokes, and more information on the exhibition.



**Winter at Kew
Beach 1 2013,
Oil on Canvas
by Marija
Barac Jandric**



**Winter at Kew
Beach 2, 2013**

**by Marija
Barac Jandric**



LAUREN MCKINLEY RENZETTI (Adult & Children Instructor)

Lauren had the honour of having several of her paintings used for a set of a Ryerson Media Pilot Production called **Mom Squared (Mom²)**. The pilot is geared for a child and youth audience. **Mom²** features a lesbian couple with their 3 children and one of the moms is an artist. Here is the link to the trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bemSQt3KNDw> .

Lauren also has a show called **Art Reflecting Community** at the Unitarian Gallery, in Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga, 84 South Service Road. Show runs from May 1-26. To view the work visit Monday-Friday 12-5pm or anytime on Sunday.

Peacock Feather, Softoleum reduction print

Volunteers Needed

Are you a teen or a young adult with some free time?*

Do you need hours for your community service for school, for Coop Placement, or hours to apply for a degree in education? Do you have an interest in art making, or teaching children 3-17 years?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then art Works art School can help you!

We need volunteers to help with the running of our children and teen camps. We will help you gain skills in, art class preparation & clean up, as well as mentoring with one of our faculty; learning valuable skills in explaining art activities, opportunities for possibly teaching a portion of a class, presentation skills, proper tool use & the true nature of many art mediums.

Most importantly, we will appreciate YOU!

If you are interested in volunteering at AWAS and you are willing to commit to working daily for one or more weeks during our Camps then we can help each other out!

We need: your full name, contact phone number and/or email, school you are attending, why you are applying, a list of interests or areas of expertise and weeks you are available to volunteer. We will then contact you for an informal interview.

*Due to the nature of the Volunteer Position we will only accept applicants who are seeking community hours, or hours to gain experience for future related jobs.

Summer Camps Deadline: June 6, 2013.
Summer Volunteer Training Day June 8 from 330-630pm