

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE JURY IS IN AT THE 2008 SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW

Sooke, BC – June 19, 2008 – A total of 441 artists will each drop off from one to three pieces of art at SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke over the weekend of June 28 and 29. During the following week, three renowned art professionals will examine each entry and decide which pieces of art will appear in this year's show.

Every year three different artists and art experts are invited to comprise the jury that judges the submitted works. The Sooke Fine Arts Show Adjudication Committee met last fall to compile a wish-list for 2008 jurors. "Many names were suggested and their experiences, locations and artistic media were tabulated," said Joan Taylor, committee chair.

"Coordinating the lists gave us the happy choice of a juror from the local area, an out-of-province juror and even an international juror," said Taylor. For 2008, the jurors are Peter Symcox, Jean Pederson and Martha Pfanschmidt. The three experts will spend three long days carefully judging each entry, consulting, and finally deciding which works will be accepted.

Peter Symcox has perhaps the most varied background. His extensive career includes years of work as a director and set designer for the stage, as a producer for the CBC of music and opera, and as a writer and photographer for numerous art magazines. Mr. Symcox is also a collector of both Canadian and European art, including paintings, sculptures and 18th century prints and watercolours.

Jean Pederson is most well-known as a water-colour artist, but works extensively in mixed media as well. She teaches at the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary and writes about art in various art magazines. Pederson works to express the human figure in a way that reflects the twenty-first century. Her mixed-media collection, *Farm Fragments*, opened in 2005 and has traveled to various Public Galleries since.

Martha Pfanschmidt art career spans a variety of media. She began as a drawer and printmaker, but has worked in other media from encaustic wax/pigment inlay painting, collage, ceramics and clay sculpture, and kilnformed glass. Her work is exhibited in numerous collections, including the China National Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, the New York Public Library and the Museu da Gravura, in Brazil. Pfanschmidt divides her time between her studios in Portland, Oregon and Port Townsend, Washington.

In addition, the jurors have the important task of jointly selecting most of the pieces that will win the over \$11,000 worth of awards, including Best of Show. Each juror also individually selects a piece they admire for a Juror's Choice Award. The 2008 Sooke Fine Arts Show Committee selects the Designer Choice Award recipient whose work will be featured in next year's show promotions. This year that award will be given in

memory of local designer, builder and art supporter, Jim Merrill.

The jury-decided awards and Design Award will be presented to the artists during the private Artist's Celebration evening on Friday, July 25. The show opens to the public at 10am on Saturday, July 26 and runs through the long weekend, ending on Monday, August 4.

For those who can't wait for the public opening, the Purchaser's Preview Evening will be Thursday evening, July 24. The evening will feature the first view of the show and the opportunity to purchase the art, plus wine, hors d'oeuvres, and musical entertainment by the Mark Atkinson Trio. Tickets for this special evening are available for \$25 through the Sooke Fine Arts Show Office by calling 642-7256.

After the show closes, the final jury, that of the public, will have their votes tallied. Visitors to the show will be asked to vote for their favorite piece, and the People's Choice Award and the Children's Choice Award winners will be announced shortly thereafter.

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Backgrounder

The Sooke Fine Arts Society presents the Sooke Fine Arts Show, the premier juried fine arts show on Vancouver Island, each summer. The Society, a volunteer, non-profit organization founded in 2006, promotes awareness of the visual arts and appreciation for local artists from Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands.

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