



For Immediate Release - February 11, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Volunteers and Community Supporting Young Artists

SOOKE - Volunteers and community have come together to support local youth by fund-raising and constructing upgrades for the Sooke Fine Arts Show (SFAS) Youth Art Gallery.

Many months ago Linda Teneycke, a retired art teacher and passionate crusader of arts for youth, asked her clay-working friends, "How can we improve the Youth Art Gallery at the Sooke Fine Arts Show?" That was the gauntlet. They began to throw, shape, glaze and fire clay to make bowls, mugs and clay treasures for the Christmas craft sale season. Hundreds of items were created by the industrious crew comprised of: Linda Teneycke, Pat Tomkins, Whitney Allen, Judith Hale, Sally Manning, Gail Young and Keri Molesky; and they were sold out by the end of November.

Using funds raised, Murray Tomkins, Pat Tomkins and Myron Teneycke purchased lumber and materials and construction began. These volunteers combined their fine design and carpentry skills to create ten bright new panels and seven plinths for 3-D work, all of which will proudly hold youth art well into the future.

As an art teacher for 25 years and as Team Lead for the Youth Gallery for 8 years, Teneycke has seen firsthand the benefits for students involved in arts. Linda connects with four local high schools and their art teachers to encourage young artists to create, express themselves, and submit to the Sooke Fine Arts Show Youth Art Gallery. 100 youth works are expected at the show in July.

Further youth support has come from the Sooke Rotary Club which has long recognized the link between students invested in arts and high self esteem, problem solving skills, a sense of community, and preparation for arts-related careers. Rotary's generous support comprises a grant to off-set the costs of framing supplies, so that student works can be framed without cost and the Youth Gallery will look as polished as the rest of the Show. In 2016 a quarter of the youth pieces submitted were sold and it is hoped that number will be surpassed in 2017 as art is framed and highlighted on the new infrastructure, entirely built and funded by volunteer efforts.

If that wasn't enough collaboration, another event in Sooke will support young artists in our community. Appetite for Art, (March 9, 2017 at the Prestige) is a fund raiser jointly facilitated by the Prestige Oceanfront Resort, Sooke Fine Arts Society and the Sooke Community Arts Council, with proceeds divided between the Sooke Food Bank and a Student Scholarship fund.

Two Scholarships will be awarded at the Sooke Fine Arts Show Awards Celebration on July 29, 2017 to local students showing artistic promise and technique, to help them further their post secondary art studies. One of the 2016 scholarship award winners, Bryn Martin said: "In 2015 I entered a piece into the "adult" Sooke Fine Arts Show itself, and it was accepted! At sixteen, I was the youngest artist to exhibit in the professional gallery. I also won the first place youth art award and experienced the thrill of selling several of my pieces. On top of it all, a generous scholarship helped me to pay for my first year at the University of Victoria. The Sooke Fine Arts Society has been an amazing influence on me."

The Sooke Fine Arts Society is encouraging a Youth Volunteer Team this summer and offers work experience in gallery construction and set-up, leadership, basic carpentry, office skills, cash handling, greeting of guests, tourists, and marketing, starting from July 8, 2017. For more information contact sfas@sookefinearts.com or (250) 642-7256.

The Sooke Fine Arts Show will run from July 28 – Aug 7. Planning is well under way to ensure the 31st Anniversary Show is a great experience for all involved, from artists, musicians, children, youth, seniors, arts patrons and our proud community of volunteers, donors, local businesses and sponsors.

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Where: SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Philips Road, Sooke, BC
When: July 28 – August 7, 2017
Contact: sfas@sookefinearts.com | (250) 642-7256