

For Immediate Release

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR MAJOR ISLAND ART SHOW

Sooke, BC - February 28, 2018 - Artists from Vancouver Island and across BC's many coastal islands are busy creating artwork in response to the 2018 Sooke Fine Arts Show Call to Artists, now open for submissions through to June 4.

The Sooke Fine Arts Show will once again transform the SEAPARC Arena into a high end gallery and roll out the carpet to art lovers and audiences from all walks of life from July 27 to August 6. The show is a must see for locals as it transforms the busy community arena into a 16,000 square foot "gallery." Daily events suited for all ages enhance the 11-day show into a multi-faceted event incorporating live music, art demos, lectures and activities for children, youth and seniors. Along with a chance to see the juried world-class fine art, there will be a gallery gift shop filled with exhibiting artists' smaller works and a Youth Art Gallery proudly featuring some 200 works by talented regional students.

The Sooke Fine Arts Show began under the guidance of the Sooke Region Museum and the Sooke Region Historical Society in 1986. That year there were 49 accepted artists in the show offering \$200 in cash awards. The governance of the Show was eventually moved over to the Sooke Fine Arts Society, incorporated in 2006, and has continued to grow, with upwards of 260 artists now represented and over \$12,000 in awards each year. 2018 will see the Sooke Fine Arts Show celebrate its 32nd anniversary show.

The prestigious jury panel selected to adjudicate this year's Show will have the difficult task of choosing 380 pieces of original fine art created from every imaginable material, in both traditional and contemporary fashion.

"The jury panel for 2018 reflects arts professionals who have gained international recognition for their inspiring creativity, their knowledge of different modalities and for their contribution to the arts," said Christa Brenan, Executive Director of the Sooke Fine Arts Society.

"The jury is selected each year from arts professionals who have extensive training and experience. That added to the unique perspective of each Juror, allows for a show that is fresh and exciting. The process is anonymous so that the work of emerging and established artists is viewed individually, without bias," she added.

Nick Bantock received his BA of Fine Arts in England and has gained international audience recognition for his wide range of creative talents, including painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, print-making and writing. His bestselling Griffin & Sabine books chronicling the lives

of two fictional artists, have been translated into 13 languages and are enjoyed by people the world over.

Wendy Welch has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria, Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University, has taught at the Victoria College of Art, UVic and Camosun College, and was the founder of the Vancouver Island School of Art (VISA). Her art practice includes drawing, painting, sculpture, art writing, installation and curatorial work. She has shown extensively throughout Canada and the USA.

Lee Gass is a highly accomplished sculptor, teacher and lecturer, a retired UBC Biology professor and has had a life-long passion for expressing himself through 3D art. His signature wood, stone and bronze works have been exhibited in several Vancouver and BC galleries and sculpture events in the USA. His forms emulate the natural world in macro and he incorporates specialized photography and lasers in his teaching.

Submissions are open to anyone on BC's coastal islands creating original 2D, 3D, photography, fibre arts, ceramics and hand-formed jewellery. Instructions and information such as Submission Guidelines and FAQs are available on the Society's website.

"Volunteer team leads are already at work planning the 32nd anniversary show so that it will be a great experience for everyone involved. We are looking forward to a vibrant and inspiring event again this summer," said Geraldine McGuire, President of the Sooke Fine Arts Society.

"It takes a tremendous level of support from our community to put on the show, so volunteers from every walk of life are welcome to get involved from gallery construction to ticket sales," she continued. "The 300 volunteers involved are a microcosm of our community and we have so much fun pitching in together."

The Sooke Fine Arts Show is a community proud event with a long history of bringing art and culture to the region, and it draws tourists from far and wide to Sooke for Vancouver Island's Premier Summer Arts Event.

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Important Dates for Artists

Deadline for Submission: Midnight, Monday, June 4, 2018

Online Submission: www.sookefinearts.com

Media Contact Information

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