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### **The Jury Is In At The 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show**

**Sooke, BC – July 3** – Thursday the 2009 Jury for the Sooke Fine Arts Show finished their deliberations, choosing nearly 375 pieces of art for the ten-day show opening on Saturday, July 25.

The jurors, Peter Symcox, Douglas Udell and Victor Arcega, spent four long days studying each of the 1275 submissions received over the weekend of June 25<sup>th</sup>. “It is an arduous process and the judges give their all, carefully looking over every submitted piece of art, before deciding which pieces they judge to be accepted,” explains Evonne Black, the 2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show Chair. “Then on the fourth day, all three judges work together to make the final selections.”

Their final duty, perhaps the most pleasurable one, is to choose the winning pieces to receive \$11,000 in show awards, including the prestigious Best in Show, Best 2-D and Best 3-D awards. “This year we have included two new, combined categories, in addition to the many other awards. We added the Best Fibre or Mixed Media Award and Best Glass or Ceramic Award categories to give better representation to the various forms of art,” explained Evonne Black.

Varied is the word for this year’s selections. “Traditional 2-D art such as watercolour and acrylic make up a little over 45 % of the pieces in this year’s show,” said Black. Other categories which traditionally hang on one’s walls include Photography 14% and many of the Mixed Media and Fibre Arts, which constitute about 12% of the selections.

“We are particularly delighted with the various 3-D selections in this year’s show. We have some stunning ceramic and glass pieces, and jewellery that will make your eyes pop,” said Black. “Of course, wood is always a huge component of any Sooke Fine Arts Show, reflecting the natural media our island artists have to inspire them.” This year’s show will comprise 13% pieces of three-dimensional nature.

For the next two-plus weeks volunteers will labor to transform the Sooke SEAPARC arena into an elegant art venue. Alan Graves, renowned exhibition designer, will once again return to oversee the hanging and staging the overall design of the show. Artists will be invited to see their work displayed during the special preview Artist’s Celebration Night the evening before the show opens to the public.

For those who can’t wait, the Purchasers’ Preview Night will be July 23, from 5 until 10 pm. Admission to this evening is \$25 and can be purchased through the Sooke Fine Arts Society Office at 250-642-7256. The show opens to the public at 10 am on Saturday, July 25. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$12 for a week pass. Children under the age of 12 are free. Information and directions can be found at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com).

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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