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### **2009 Sooke Fine Arts Show Jury Brings a Torrent of Artist Submissions**

**Sooke, BC – May 29** – By close of business on Thursday the Sooke Fine Arts Show had received submissions from 400 artists all over Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. All submissions must be postmarked by Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, so applications continue to arrive well into this week.

“We are very pleased with the number of submissions this year,” said Sande Cummings, Sooke Fine Arts Treasurer. “Since each artist can submit up to three separate works, you can see that the jurors will have their work cut out for them.”

This year’s jury is comprised of three experts from different areas of the art world. Peter Symcox’s extensive career includes years of set design in television, writing for newspapers and art magazines and magazine photography. Mr. Symcox is also a renowned collector of art including contemporary painters and sculptors and 18<sup>th</sup> century printmakers.

Douglas Udell will fly in from Edmonton to judge this year’s art. His gallery represents many of Canada’s leading contemporary artists as well as Canadian Historical arts. His gallery’s mandate is to challenge and educate collectors. “I’ve heard from many artists who are attracted to submitting this year who wouldn’t normally,” says Bev Petow, member of the Adjudication Committee. “Since he is a well-known contemporary gallery owner we may see a lot more in the avant-garde style in the show this year.”

Finally, Victor Arcega brings both an international and scholarly perspective to the jury panel. He comes to Victoria via the Philippines, Japan, California and Alberta. His career includes teaching drawing, painting and art history, art editor, graphic illustration and advertising, plus expertise and research in the primitive arts of Africa and Oceania. “Victor Arcega’s life experience and exposure to many artistic styles will bring an enormous breadth of understanding that few jurors could give us,” adds Bev Petow.

Successful artists who are accepted into the show will compete for over \$11,000 in prizes to be awarded by the distinguished jury. These include Best in Show, Best 3D, Best 2D, Best Photography, and Best Jewellery, plus Honourable Mention and Juror’s Choice Awards. New this year are the categories Best Fibre or Mixed Media, and Best Ceramic or Glass.

Adjudication begins on June 29<sup>th</sup>, with the jury having only four short days to judge and decide which pieces will be in the 2009 show. Once adjudication begins, only the jury members will be privy to the decision process. “It is a hallmark of the juried show that outside influences do not interfere with the judging process,” said Evonne Black, Sooke Fine Arts Show Chair. “The decisions are solely in the hands of the jurors.”

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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