

# Sooke Fine Arts Show opens with stay-at-home gala

SOOKE, BC – July 12, 2020 – The Purchasers' Preview Night for the Sooke Fine Arts Show is always a highlight for Vancouver Island's arts community. Held annually the night before the show's opening, this exclusive evening allows early access to view and purchase extraordinary artworks from Vancouver Island and BC's coastal island artists ahead of the thousands of attendees who gain access the next day. This year, preparations have already started for the Purchaser's Preview Night at the Sooke Fine Arts Show and the gala evening will now be closer to home and more accessible for everyone—it will be online!

The decision to move the intimate and highly interactive show online was not an easy one, says Sooke Fine Arts Society (SFAS) Executive Director Terrie Moore. "We'll miss the in-person excitement and interaction of creating the physical show and look forward to its return next year, but ultimately we had to consider the well-being of our volunteers, artists, and our guests with respect to Covid-19 concerns," says Moore. Moore and her team are now embracing the new opportunities for showcasing the 370+ juried works of painting, sculpture, fibre arts, glass and ceramics, jewellery, and photography in a virtual format.

This year, attendees for the celebrated *Purchasers' Preview Night* are invited to buy a special access code for the July 23<sup>rd</sup> evening event that will allow access into the new online gallery for a sneak peek and a chance to purchase their favourite artworks before the free online gallery is opened July 24 to other online viewers.

To add to the flavour of the evening, Sooke's Chef Pat Hogan of 4 Beaches Catering and Truffles Catering of Victoria are making that gala-at-home experience even easier by offering charcuterie "grazing boxes" of locally-sourced appetizers that viewers can order and purchase ahead of time, then enjoy with their favourite bottle of wine while they 'attend' the online event at home. Moore encourages attendees to make a night of it then share their celebrations on social media using @SookeFineArts and the tags #SookeFineArts2020 #SookeFineArtsGala.

The online Sooke Fine Arts Show experience promises to be just as engaging and inspiring for visitors as the physical show. Key features like the exquisitely curated main gallery, online auction, Seniors' Tea, Artz4Kidz, People's Choice Award, and Youth Art Gallery will now have interactive and sometimes live elements and areas to explore in the show's new web portal. Other highlights of the show, like artist demos and music, will be recreated with video and live virtual performances.

Art provides much-needed inspiration during these times and the virtual Sooke Fine Arts Show continues to be an inclusive celebration of creative expression from island artists. As the Brazilian artist Romero Britto says, "Art is too important not to share."

Purchasers' Preview Night access can be purchased at <http://sookefinearts.com/special-events-2/>. The Sooke Fine Arts Show is free and open to all viewers at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com) from July 24 to August 3, with sales continuing through Sept 30.

## About us

The Sooke Fine Arts Society encourages and promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of the arts by organizing the annual Sooke Fine Arts Show, as well as hosting public learning opportunities to demonstrate artistic techniques and expertise. The mission of Sooke Fine Arts Society is to foster the role art plays in the region's heritage, culture, economy, and community spirit.

## Learn more

For more information about the Sooke Fine Arts Show and events, please visit [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)

For more information about Chef Patrick Hogan email [phogan@shaw.ca](mailto:phogan@shaw.ca) and view the [4 Beaches Grazing Box](#)



For more information about Truffles Catering email [events@truffles catering.net](mailto:events@truffles catering.net) and view the [Truffles Grazing Box](#)



*\* Please note that the Sea Cider and the honey pot in the photo are not included in the above menu.*

## Contact

Terrie Moore  
Executive Director, Sooke Fine Arts Society  
[sfas@sookefinearts.com](mailto:sfas@sookefinearts.com)  
250-642-7256