



For Immediate Release

JURY SELECTED FOR PREMIERE ISLAND ART SHOW; ARTIST SUBMISSION DATE CLOSING SOON

Sooke, BC – May 8, 2023 – Submissions to the 2023 Sooke Fine Arts Show are open now until **June 1st** for artists on BC's coastal islands creating original paintings, sculpture, photography, fibre arts, ceramics and hand-formed jewelry. Submissions will be reviewed by three exceptional BC art professionals whose considerable art knowledge and experience inform their responsibilities for jurying this year's show.

This is the 37th year of the Sooke Fine Arts Show (SFAS), a live arts festival taking place at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex. The show runs from July 29 through August 7, 2023, and includes the gallery of juried art works, as well as music, demonstrations, talks, guided tours, and activities for youth and seniors. The festival kicks off Thursday, July 28th at the arena with the popular Purchasers' Preview Night.

2023 Jury

This year's SFAS jury panel includes some of BC's most experienced arts professionals, all with considerable depth and breadth in their knowledge of the arts. Mike Svob, Kathleen Prince, and David MacWilliam will review and choose over 300 art pieces for the Show and determine the pieces for SFAS 2023 awards and special recognition.

Juror Mike Svob is an artist with extensive experience both in exhibiting his own work and as a juror for varied art shows throughout Canada and the US. His passion for juried shows comes from an appreciation of the opportunity for artists to have their peers evaluate their work, saying that this process "helps you figure out where you fit in the art world."

Svob says that the best way for an artist to intrigue a jury is to submit a piece that will stand out. He says, "Artists should send their most intriguing, unusual work. That is what almost all jurors will reward in a show like this."

Juror Kathleen Prince agrees that art that isn't afraid to tell a story and is clear in its conviction is what stands out to jurors. "Trust your instincts and be true to your own voice," says Prince.

As the manager of The Avenue Gallery in Victoria, BC, Prince also brings a deep understanding of the experience of viewing and appreciating art, and how to deepen your experience as an art show attendee. Prince says, "I would recommend one pay greatest

attention to their own personal response when engaging with art. What emotions or memories does it bring up? What questions does it evoke?"

Juror David MacWilliam explains that he likes to consider art within a greater context. When viewing a piece, he asks himself "What is the subject of the work, and how does it help us to make sense of the world we live in?" MacWilliam, a Professor Emeritus at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, encourages all emerging artists. "Follow and trust in your curiosity and your passions—wherever they may lead you," he says.

All three jurors offer hope and encouragement to emerging and established artists. . As Mike Svob says, "If you love the craft, you will not only emerge but become noticed and loved by others. Not by all, but by those who see and relate to your truth."

Artists are encouraged to submit their works for the 2023 Sooke Fine Arts Show now through June 1st. For more information on submissions see www.sookefinearts.com.

SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW 2022 JURORS



DAVID MACWILLIAM

David MacWilliam is a Canadian artist, educator, writer, and curator. For over 40 years, his broad art practice has produced exhibitions, books, essays, and curatorial projects. Born in Halifax, and raised in Victoria, MacWilliam received a BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and an MA in Visual Arts from University of the Arts London. His paintings have been exhibited both locally and internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and he has curated and co-curated several exhibitions throughout Vancouver and the lower mainland. MacWilliam is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and a Professor Emeritus in the Audain Faculty of Art.



KATHLEEN PRINCE

While attaining her B.A. (Hons) and M.A. degrees in History in Art from the University of Victoria, Kathleen completed a Graduate Internship at the Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery. She later worked at the Legacy Art Gallery and volunteered at the Royal BC Museum and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Raised in Oak Bay, Kathleen joined The Avenue Gallery in 2014 where she has developed meaningful connections with clients and artists alike. In January 2022, Kathleen was appointed Gallery Manager. Inspired by diverse work and emerging artists, Kathleen's passion for contemporary, Canadian fine art is her driving force. Kathleen

is grateful for her home on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen speaking peoples on beautiful Vancouver Island.

MIKE SVOB



Mike Svob is an award-winning artist and leading workshop instructor, who has spent his 40-year artistic career mastering watercolours, acrylics, and oils. Having studied at the University of Western Ontario and served as a past president of the Federation of Canadian Artists, he now juries each year for large and small art organizations throughout Canada and the US. Mike has had over 75 exhibitions and has produced 25 large scale murals and installations, and his paintings are held in numerous private and corporate collections throughout the world. His work and teaching methods have also been included in several art books and featured in many art publications. Mike's passion for art, history, and travel continue to provide inspiring and diverse subject matter for his work.

- 30 -

Important Dates

- SFAS art submissions: Call to Artists is open now and closes at midnight, Thursday, June 1st, 2023. For submission information and details see www.sookefinearts.com
- Purchasers' Preview Night: July 28, 2023. Tickets on sale in May at www.sookefinearts.com
- Sooke Fine Arts Show: July 29 through August 7, 2023 at SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke, BC

About us

The Sooke Fine Arts Show and Sale is a volunteer driven, community-proud event with a 37-year history of showcasing art and culture of the region. It draws visitors from the local area, from the Lower Mainland, across Canada, the US, and abroad to enjoy and celebrate the unique culture of Sooke and BC's coastal area.

Sooke Fine Arts Society respectfully acknowledges that we live, work, and create on the traditional territory of the T'Sou-ke First Nation, and we are grateful to be in this beautiful place.

The Sooke Fine Arts Society is a not-for-profit, federally registered charity
#R852375765RR0001.

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