



## **SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW REMAINS VIRTUAL FOR 2021**

### **Sooke, BC – February 25, 2021 – For Immediate Release**

The 2021 Sooke Fine Arts Show will be online again this year, showcasing unique artworks from Vancouver Island and BC's Coastal Island artists from July 23<sup>rd</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"After much consideration, the Sooke Fine Arts Society (SFAS) has decided that hosting the show online for one more year is the right thing to do," says President Eileen Badiuk, "for the safety of our volunteers, our guests, our artists and our community".

Ms. Badiuk notes, "We will continue to monitor information and abide by the regulations of the Provincial Health Authority, but even if regulations were to change, we believe our guests and volunteers may not feel safe putting themselves and their families in close contact with others just yet."

Last year's show, the organization's first online presentation, was embraced by artists and patrons alike. Over 10,000 unique visitors from all over the world viewed 371 works by 234 artists. They voted for their favourite pieces, took part in an online auction, Zoomed in on artist demos and talks and listened to the talents of local musicians. Highly anticipated events such as the Purchasers' Preview and Artist Celebration were successfully adapted to suit the online format.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of the online show last year was hearing from people who wouldn't usually have been able to see the show in person, and how grateful they were to see the artworks from the comfort of their own homes," says Executive Director Terrie Moore.

"We're looking forward to building on the success of last year's virtual arts show," says Ms. Moore. "We shared an engaging online arts experience and we'll be adding some exciting features to our website to make this year's show even more dynamic than last year."

Artists are encouraged to submit their works online starting March 17<sup>th</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup> at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com).

The Sooke Fine Arts Show and Sale is a volunteer driven, community-proud event with a 35-year history of showcasing arts and culture of the region. It draws visitors locally, from the Lower Mainland, across BC and Canada, and from 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.

Call to Artists: March 17 through May 25 at [www.sookefinearts.com](http://www.sookefinearts.com)

Purchasers' Preview Event: July 22

Sooke Fine Arts Show 2021: July 23 through August 1

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