

SOOKE FINE ARTS SHOW - 2022 AN INSPIRING RETURN

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The Sooke Fine Arts Show returned in spectacular style on July 21 and ended its successful 11-day arts festival August 1. Over 7,000 people came to view more than 360 art pieces at the SEAPARC Leisure Complex in Sooke, and to enjoy the many tours, demos, talks, and musical performances that are signature Show events.

The 2022 Show continued its 36-year legacy with the first live show since 2019, and visitors were thrilled to be able to see the art in person again. "It was a wonderful event, and I really appreciate the work done by all the staff and volunteers. It's one of the best shows I have been to over the past 16 years of attending. Bravo!" said show attendee and frequent art exhibitor John Grey-Noble of the captivating event. Other comments from the show's surveys include, "Top class art and show! Will be back next year!" and "It was like being in a candy store! Such creativity and inventiveness."

Visitors were keen to confirm their enthusiasm for their favourite art pieces by voting for the following awards. They are in addition to the awards chosen by the Jury, which were presented at an entertaining Artists Celebration Event on July 23.

- 1. People's Choice Award: "View upon Neah Bay" by Dallas Duobaitis
- 2. Youth Art Favourite Award: "Ode to Pointillism" by Janelle Brodrick
- 3. Children's Choice Award: "A Serious Conversation" by Monica Reekie

"This year's show was a success on so many levels. We were able to showcase more BC Island Artists and their work than ever before. From returning patrons to those new to the show, enthusiastic support for the arts was evident in all the smiling faces and translated into record art sales for the artists. It was especially delightful to see more children and families here than in past years," said Terrie Moore, Sooke Fine Arts Society Executive Director.

Elaine Thrale, President of the Sooke Fine Arts Society agrees, "We were so pleased to welcome back visitors to the live show this year. It has been a difficult couple of years for everyone, especially for those in the arts and culture sector. We are proud to have played a

part in bringing the arts back to the community."

The Sooke Fine Arts Society continues its planning for next year's show with a fundraising event in early 2023 at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort in Sooke that promises an exciting culinary and creative evening in support of the arts.

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The Sooke Fine Arts Show and Sale is a volunteer driven, community-proud event with a 36-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.

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