

ART CURATORS REPORT FOR 2009 AGM

The past year has been a steep learning curve for a novice curator but I've definitely enjoyed myself. 2008 found me hanging the shows booked by the previous curator and searching for the exhibits I wanted to bring to Kaslo in 2009. I had lots of help from the artists in putting the shows up and board members and volunteers pitched in as well. The highlight was probably hanging the exhibit of work by my great grandfather. It was fascinating to see art that was a big part of my life in a new, gallery, setting. I found myself looking at all the paintings in a different way and really enjoyed talking to visitors about them. Briar Craig from UBC Okanagan Creative Studies brought his prints and found poetry. His giant magnet board was a hit and many people enjoyed creating their own "found poetry". Kokanee Essentials, curated by Ian Fraser was an extremely relevant exhibit for Kaslo and the region and brought many new visitors to the Langham. Shashin is another exhibit "inherited" by me. It required work by board members and volunteer Kendrick Mauser as I was away when it arrived but the end result was definitely worth it. It gave us a view of the lives of Japanese-Canadians that the internment interrupted.

The Community Gallery has given me an equal pleasure. I have appreciated the response of local artists of all ages to my calls for submissions and hope to continue to offer shows that we can all be part of. It is very satisfying to overhear appreciative comments in the community about the exhibits. Emerging artists continue to struggle to find venues to show their work and the opportunity the Community Gallery offers is invaluable. This year we are pleased to be able to pay at least a minimal artist fee to exhibitors in this gallery, as well as to offer small prizes for the group shows.

Another new facet of the curator position is the Family Art Afternoon. I wanted to offer a creative venue for families to come to the Langham together and work on art. Sometimes we have a large turnout, sometimes small but everyone seems equally delighted with the opportunity and the results of their creative energy. Ultimately, if funds permit, I will invite guest artists and crafters to present workshops on some of the art afternoons, so we can all learn new arts and crafts skills.

In the next year I hope to continue to expand the role of the curator at the Langham and add more programming. I welcome any and all suggestions from our members.