

Art Centre News

The Old School House - a public gallery and learning centre



Jason Marlow's wood-turning workshop, in the basement of The Old School House, is a rather strange place, at least to someone not accustomed to wood-turning tools.

A large lathe runs lengthwise through the dimly lit room. An array of huge murderous-looking chisels hangs on one wall; wood shavings almost a foot deep curl like waves at the working end of the lathe. Near the workshop's entrance, the products of the lathe and chisel are grouped--a magnificent ceremonial bowl, plaques and vases, ready now to be transported to Victoria.

Jason Marlow's work will be shown in the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria this month from May 7th to May 31st. Jason has had several shows in western Canada and the United States. In 1996 he won the Beyond Boards competition for B.C. wood artisans; this year he is nominated for Circle Craft's Joan Chalmers National Award.

It is obvious that Jason Marlow enjoys what he is doing.

He comes from Warwickshire, England, where he apprenticed as a cabinet maker. He also experimented with sculpture, ceramics and metal before taking up wood turning. "I always enjoyed it," he says, "even when I was in the cabinet making business, the others would always have me do the wood turning. As for

In Jason's Workshop-- -as the wood turns

cabinet-making it was all right, but a bit too precise."

"Everything had to be mathematically just so, and there wasn't much scope for creativity." He has been a full-time studio Wood-turner for the past eighteen years, and has occupied a basement workshop in The Old School House almost since it opened. After



emigrating from England, he lived briefly in Montreal, and then moved to B.C. Why B.C.? Because of the trees and the wood, he says. Jason loves trees. Jason works with local indigenous wood--red and yellow cedar, maple burl, etc. Everything he makes is from sustainable or discarded material.

By what magic is a discarded piece of wood transformed into a beautifully rounded, handsomely grained vase? Of course it takes great skill with lathe

and chisel, and the creative something in the artisan that can visualize what is possible. And a knowledge and a respect for the timber being worked upon. For a craftsman must work in concert with his material. This is a partnership that Jason obviously understands. Crafts from the beginning have served human physical needs. But craftsmen soon progressed to making articles decorative as well as useful and often to making articles for purposes more decorative than utilitarian. Which describes Jason's work. Jason Marlow's beautiful ceremonial bowl can certainly be filled with fruit. But who would want to do that and thereby hide its beautiful wooden grain, and the decoration Jason has added to it?

Jason does not like to be described as an artist. He believes that the word "artist" is a word without much meaning and is too loosely applied. He thinks of himself as a craftsman. "We learn our craft," he says "we become experienced and skilled. The word "artist" is just a concept in someone else's mind."

So we will not refer to Jason as an artist, since that would not please him. And we shall not refer to his artifacts as works of art, though privately we may consider that some of them are.

Now - at the Galleries

The Dinner Party - May 5-31

A fun exhibit in the Brown Gallery.

Our talented local craftspeople, Larry Aguilar, Sandy Richardson, Heather Joy Robinson, Ted Jolda & Elsemarie Wilson combine their talents to produce original, attractive and useful articles for the dinner table.

Larry Aguilar and Sandy Richardson have created eighteen pottery place settings--all different. For these Elsemarie Wilson has woven place mats in contrasting or complementary colours with matching napkins. Ted Jolda's hand-blown goblets sparkle at each place. Dinner napkins are held by silver napkin rings, handwrought by Heather Joy Robinson. The settings are displayed on antique tables.

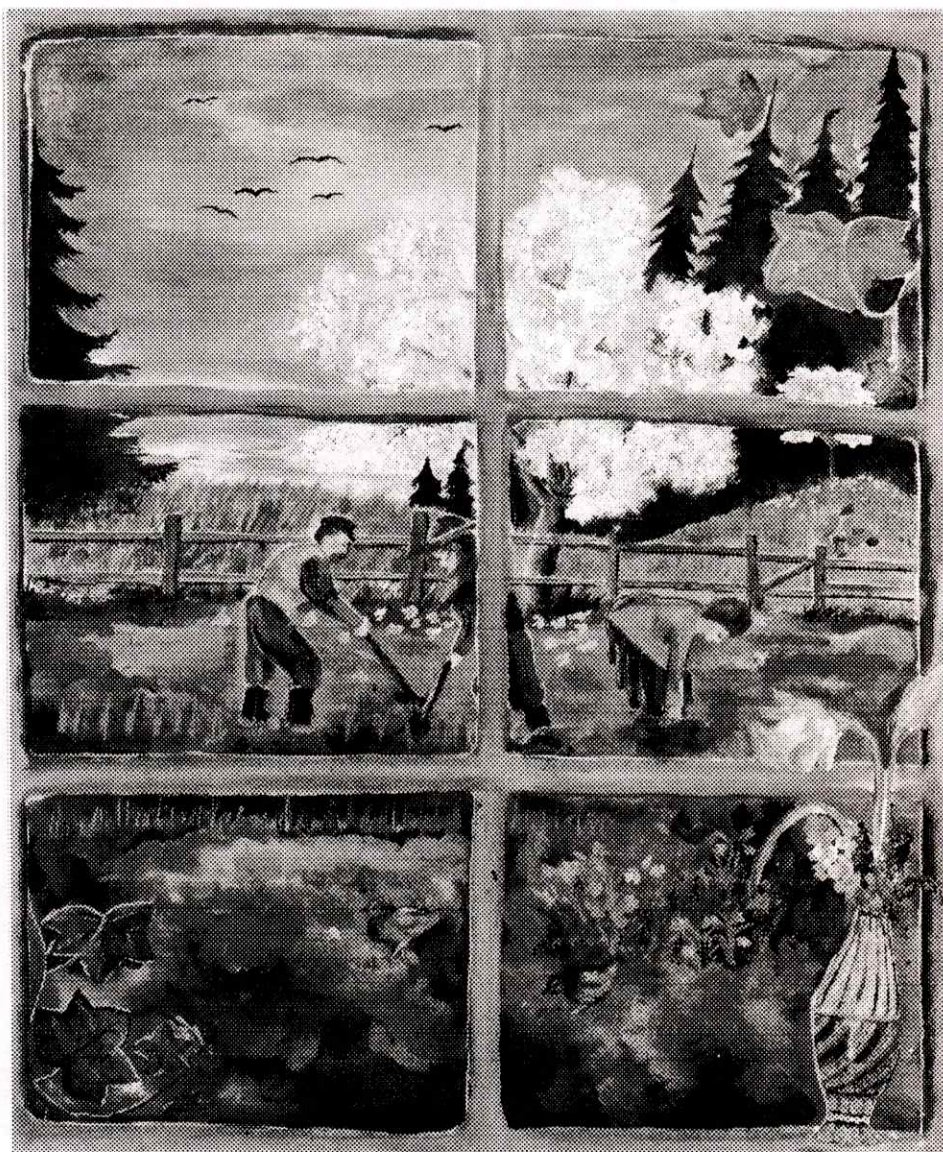
On the walls, Pauline Pike's acrylics and watercolours, recently completed after her canal trip through England, add to the pleasant dining scene.

Form, function, fun!
Bon appetite!

Artists in Grade Two

Mrs. Moore's Grade two class at Winchelsea Elementary School have been studying Monet and how he looked at the world, and have produced some works of art themselves. Their colourful, exciting and joyful paintings "interpreting Monet" are displayed in the corridor off the main lobby.

Winner in the School Art Contest



Spring - New Beginnings "People Planting" by Naomi Cairns

Naomi Cairns, aged 12, who attends Springwood Middle School in Parksville won first place in Tosh's Spring Art Contest for Middle and High School students with this impressive painting. We wish we could have reproduced it in its lovely original colours.

To encourage young artistic talent Tosh is now programming three contests a year for students of Middle and High school. In each contest of original art, two winners will be picked. At the end of the year, the six finalists will be judged by a panel of artists.

The winner will receive \$200, plus free art lessons from a teaching artist of his/her choice, and the opportunity to have a solo exhibit in the Dorothy Francis Gallery.

Grand Prix d'Art *June 27 and 28*

Would you like to be a sidewalk artist for a day, with easel and brushes (or pencils), painting (or sketching) the quaint beauty of Qualicum, and drawing admiring glances from passers-by as you create your work of art?

Well then, enter Tosh's Grand Prix d'Art competition. It's open to anyone who believes he or she has the talent to win. First prize is \$400, second \$100, and third \$50.

Your work must represent or be inspired by some thing or person visible from where you are stationed on the day, your location being decided by lot on the day of the contest.

There is a nominal entrance fee of \$15 or \$25 for both days, which covers a full lunch to be served at The Old School House where you will meet and mingle with your artist colleagues. You may enter one or both days, but only one piece per artist per day will

be accepted.

Winners will be decided on the 28th, and the artists' work will be displayed until July 3.

More details and rules are to be found in the entry form, which can be picked up at Tosh.

You are reminded that the cut-off date for registration is June 20. Late registration involves a penalty fee of \$5 a day.

The Art of Golf-June 13

Anyone for golf? The time to enter is now, if you haven't already done so. Our golf tournament takes place on Saturday, June 13 (tee-off at 12:30 p.m.) It's an 18-hole scramble to be held at Qualicum Memorial Golf Course, with dinner in the evening and great prizes. And there's a mystery dream cruise for anyone lucky or skilled enough to sink a hole in one.

Entries are limited to 75 (15 teams, 5 on each team), so don't delay. Entry forms are available at Tosh or Memorial Golf Club and payment must accompany your entry. Cut-off date is June 8. **Cost \$49.**

From the Editor

"Summer is icumen in," said the medieval bard and what a busy summer it's going to be at Tosh! It's also the busiest season of the year for everyone else, with visitors, gardens, golf and all the rest. We recognize that there is a life beyond Tosh, and therefore it is unlikely that all our members will be able to attend all the events the Old School House is sponsoring in the next few months. Right now, however, is a good time to make a note of the events you will not want to miss.

In the Brown Gallery, until the end of May, there's a delightful exhibit of table settings, created by local craftspeople. Beginning June 2, an exhibition of textile art, "Tied with Fibre," and in connection with this exhibit, on June 6, a reception with Thai food, and auction of ties, donated by well-known personalities. A week later, on June 13, the Art of Golf tournament takes place. If you believe you have the artistic talent, you may like to enter Tosh's Grand Prix d'Art competition on June 27 and 28. Or if you just want to brush up on painting or craft techniques, you can take part in workshops during the summer, conducted by competent artists and artisans. If there's a creative kid in your family, you can enroll him in the children's summer art classes. And let's not forget that big summer event, Art in Action, taking place on July 4. There it is--a varied menu. Mark on your calendar the events that interest you most. Be sure to come, and bring a guest.

Next at the Galleries *June 2-28 -Brown Gallery*

Jane Garcia, Gill Kanachowski, Dale McEwan, Flo Peel, Louise Slobodan, and Susan Murrell, present *Tied with Fibre*. They will be showing block and screen prints on silk, wall hangings incorporating free motion machinery stitching, unique quilts for the wall, hangings with appliqué, phototransfers with siori dyed fabric, and some hand embroidery.

At the official reception (June 6, at 7p.m.) guests will "Tie One On" with Thai food (pardon the pun) and take part in an "Auction of Ties", which have been donated by premiers and celebrities in sports and arts. They will also get a chance to create their own ties, as they enjoy a wine and Thai party. A nominal charge will be made for this exotic evening.

Birthday Party

An estimated 100-150 guests attended Tosh's tenth birthday party. It is impossible to be more exact, since guests wandered at will throughout the building chatting and socializing, and didn't stand still long enough to be counted.

A significant minority had accepted the challenge to wear some ornament of aluminum.

Deanne Pilchak was spangled from head to toe with aluminum hat, earrings, and pompoms on her slippers. Bob Mewburn with an oil filter upside down on his head, tied under the chin evoked memories of the Tin Woodman of Oz. Several people who had helped to found Tosh were present, among them Tom McIver, MLA Stan Hagen and Larry Jacobson. Before the birthday cake was rolled out, there were a few speeches, all modest, humorous and suitably brief. It was a good evening.

Summer Classes at TOSH

Here's a list of summer classes to be held at Tosh. Those interested may obtain more information by calling 752-6133 for more details, or by dropping by during May to pick up a brochure. Early registration is advised.

Summer of Art at The Old School House

Kiff Holland, Oils & Acrylics

Four days June 8-11. \$375

Pauline Pike, Watercolour.

Five days, June 15-19. \$365

Joyce Kamikura, Watercolour

Five days, June 22-26. \$400

Muriel Patterson, Acrylics

Five days, July 6-10. \$325

Wendy Robson, Watercolour

Five days, July 27-31. \$365

Bruce Cryer, Oils & Acrylics

Two days, July 25 & 26. \$135

All fees include GST, lunch daily, plus a welcoming reception and farewell dinner for the 4&5 day courses.

Turn West 98

Woodworking Symposium, Bonnie Klein, Jason Marlow & Frank Sudol
August 8 & 9 - \$275.

Includes lunch each day & welcoming reception.

Fabric Arts

Textile design with photographs Louise Slobodan - June 13. \$65
Includes supplies.

Create Layered and Textured Fabric
Jane Garcia - June 10. \$55 plus \$3.50 lab fee.
Landscapes with Fabric
Dale MacEwan - June 27 & 28 - \$115

Children's Classes

There will be a full schedule for summer classes for children covering a variety of mediums and crafts.

Call Cheryl at 752-6133, or pick up a brochure at the office.

Art In Action

A day with music, art, artists' demonstrations, entertainment, crafters, food fairs, kids' events, and lots of fun for the whole family.

What's New this Year:

An Auction on Friday evening, July 3. Submit a fine art or collectible item for the Auction--the proceeds of the sale will be split 50/50 between you and Tosh, and you will receive a tax receipt for the Tosh portion of the sale. Here's a chance to dispose of unwanted treasures and to profit at the same time. On Saturday, there will be a Silent Auction, and again the 50/50 split will apply. (See enclosed entry form.)

Lobster-Fest

July 4- a lobster dinner with all the trimmings, with lobsters flown in on the day from New Brunswick. With a thigh slapping east coast fiddle band. Seats for the Lobster Fest are limited. Call 752-6133 to book yours now.

Alaska Cruise

Come and join Pauline Pike, our very popular resident artist, in capturing some of the world's most spectacular scenery on canvas. Whether you want to paint or sketch or simply watch, you will be eligible for the draw on board for an original Watercolour by Pauline.

You'll have the trip of a lifetime, a cruise up Alaska's magnificent Inside Passage. What will you encounter? Where will you go? Should you walk on a glacier, go sightseeing, or ride the White Pass Railroad? Would you like some world-class shopping?

You'll certainly sample Alaskan cuisine. And you'll bring home the perfect

memory of your Alaskan adventure. Cruising Alaska's Inside Passage is a breathtaking experience. Starting in Vancouver and going all the way to Skagway. You'll see up-close the glaciers, wildlife, native culture and of course, the unbelievable beauty, all of which makes this one of the unique parts of the world. - Hugh Carter

To participate in this all inclusive value-added cruise at concessionary fares, please call:

Donna at Cruise Ship Centers.

Parksville-Qualicum Callers:
248-5800

Nanaimo callers:
758-5800.

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