

# Juried Art Show at the Art Gallery

Submitted by Anne Matheson

The 1990 Peace River Regional Juried Show, a joint effort of South Peace Community Arts Council, South Peace Art Society, Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council, and the Assembly of B.C. Arts Councils, was successfully launched on Tuesday, March 6, at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

A very efficient committee comprised of twelve members of the above organizations did a commendable job that has to be rated as truly professional in every aspect of the show, from the hanging to the fine reception that followed the opening.

The two jurors, Mia Johnson and

Keith Wallace, both of Vancouver, and both seasoned judges of such art shows, expressed much enthusiasm for the kind of work that is shown.

They both agreed that an inherent sincerity, a total involvement of the artist in his work, was reflected in all the pieces. Miss Johnson thought that this area of our north instilled that kind of spiritual quality into the people here, and the artists bring that out in their work.

It is an interesting thought, and a tribute to our painters, photographers, and all other participating artists.

There are 111 paintings in the show. Viewers were seen to take

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several walks up and down the ramps to have second and third looks.

The comments were interesting. Favorites were picked out.

Not all agreed with the blue-dotted selections (twenty in all) which are to go to Saanich as part of the Images and Objects exhibit which make up a large part of the B.C. Festival of the Arts, and which will be held in May 23 to 27.

Two paintings that aroused much comment were by Don Mattson of Dawson Creek, titled 'Eureka' in watercolor, and by Emily Mattson of

Rolla titled 'The Outfitter' in oil.

Mary Ann Skin of Dawson Creek, is becoming well known for her hide collages.

Her 'The Whale Hunters' is a lovely work reflecting her native heritage.

Another person working with a native flavor is Donalda Grassie of Fort St. John.

Her unique style of presenting wildlife and nature is reminiscent of Vickers, Janzier and Morriseau, yet she does not know these peoples' work.

She bears watching. And then there is Lillian York's very small oil of a snow-blower doing its thing that also brought a lot of comment and praise from many.

Every community from Fort Nelson down to the southern reaches of the district is represented. The show should not be missed. It will be on display until March 16th, at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.