

Contemporary BC Artists
An Exhibition

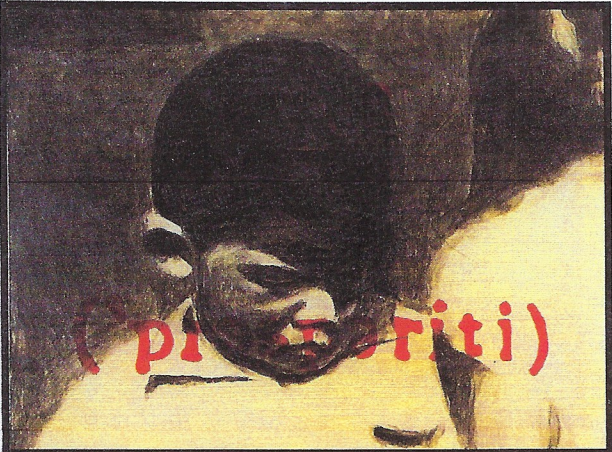


photo: Alastair Bird

Prosperity Happiness Longevity Fortune artist: Khai Foo

images
&
objects
xi

PEACE LIARD



**JURORS: IAN THOMAS
KEITH WALLACE**

ARTISTS:

CAROL BARCLAY Fort St. John
Leafless
watercolour
20" x 26"

I began painting with oils & later experimented with acrylics & watercolours. Due to other commitments & limited spare time, I find watercolour best suits my schedule. No matter which medium I use, each painting is a new & exciting challenge. I prefer painting landscapes, as nature & the outdoors inspire me to capture the beauty of open spaces.

TRISH CROAL Toad River
Portrait of a Pilot
pastel
16" x 20"

I couldn't have done *Portrait of a Pilot* without my husband, of course! I've always been inspired to draw the things (& in this case, the person) that I love. I started out with a portrait of my children, which soon led to 50-100 commissioned portraits per year. In between, I draw the wildlife I love so much, hoping to achieve a Robert Bateman impression eventually. But portraits are my favourite; so much character in each individual motivates me to catch it on paper, & it also creates a real challenge.

JUDITH BAIN DAMPIER Dawson Creek
An Illuminated Alphabet of the Peace Country
watercolour, Chinese ink & pencil crayon
32" x 22"

This work was done with the intent of exploring my new home. I produced small, intimate portraits as a way of controlling the expanse of this great, unknown British Columbia. I love calligraphy. Using both words (logical, left brain) & images (intuitive, right brain) is a rather nice challenge. This piece is not typical of my work, but it is an important step in moving from urban to rural, from south to north, from coast to prairie, & in calligraphy, from total involvement to isolation. I plan to send a print of this to our Vancouver friends who can't understand why we would ever willingly choose to move — & stay — in this wonderful country.

INEZ DEMUYNCK Dawson Creek
Let's Expose the Peace
watercolour
26" x 22"

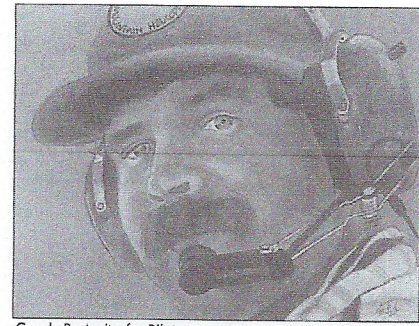
The purpose of my research on the Peace River is to create awareness of the losses occurring should another dam be built in this area. With this work, *Let's Expose the Peace*, I hope to portray the landscape of the Peace from a special viewpoint — on the water itself. While canoeing the river, one is made aware of the losses that would destroy agricultural land, natural habitat, timber, islands, artifacts, recreational areas, homes & historical sites.

ELIZABETH HILLMAN Dawson Creek
Urban Beauty
watercolour
29" x 21"

The Peace River country is dotted with magnificent, unique & charming old, decaying farm buildings that were created with loving hands by our pioneers. Humanity meticulously creates the structures, but mother nature & time add the character. Through my watercolours, it is my desire to capture this charm — this love & light of the Peace!

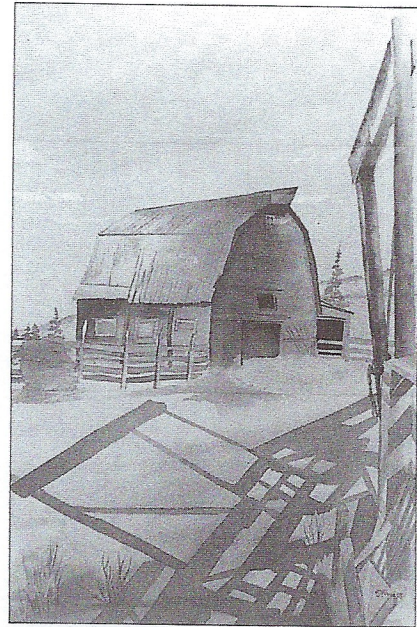
RON & HELENE LUKEY Tumbler Ridge
Colin
black & white photograph
20" x 24"

Explore the subject matter you live around. Do the best with what you've got. These are the two philosophies we incorporate into our work. An old, manual, medium format camera & an old enlarger are the two main pieces of equipment we use. Going "lo-tech" slows us down, makes us more selective. With a little patience & quality control, the images create themselves.



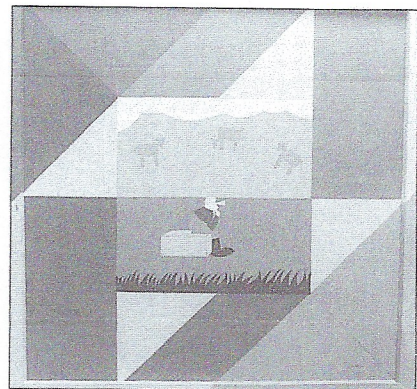
Croal: *Portrait of a Pilot*

photo: Maxine Chapman



Hillman: *Urban Beauty*

photo: Maxine Chapman



Mattson: *Farmer Contemplating Cows*

photo: Maxine Chapman

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DEAN MATTSON
Farmer Contemplating Cows
 acrylic on board
 38" x 38"

Rolla

I grew up on a farm in Rolla. My art interest up until a few years ago had been doing cartoons, but then I went to Emily Carr College of Art & Design for a year & became interested in lots of other things. Since then, I have done a few paintings which are generally concerned with colour & design, using a rather abstract reference to the subject. Because I am beginning to get involved in the farm again, *Farmer Contemplating Cows* seemed to fit in with my present situation.

DON MATTSON
The Last Fence Line

Dawson Creek

watercolour
 30" x 30"

My work, *The Last Fence Line*, is a bird's-eye view of what is happening to the land where I was raised. With the end of the family farm as a way of life, the fence lines which used to separate the farms are being leveled to make huge fields for huge equipment. Many birds & animals have been displaced or wiped out as every small patch of bush or old homestead succumbs to the bulldozer, & as the marshlands are drained.

EMILY MATTSON
Happy Valley Road

Rolla

oil on canvas
 28" x 36"

Having been around for 45 years puts me kind of in the middle — not yet old, but old enough to reflect. One day last summer, I watched Petra walking up Happy Valley Road with her children. It was like looking in a mirror; the image stuck. What will be the result of our children being raised as farm boys & girls? The road we choose to travel — is it a good one? There are so many options . . . & the road sign . . . why Happy Valley Road? Pumpers & oil wells suggest a resource rich area. Was it a materialistic value that prompted the name? Or is *Happy Valley Road* a more complex dream, one that a young woman dreams of for herself & for her children?

FREDA MURPHY
Good Veggies

Taylor

oil
 12" x 16"

I am a winter artist; I take great pleasure from it. Summer is spent growing a market garden with the help of my family, but my family is getting smaller each year. It's hard to take up the brushes in the fall, as "me tends to forget what my hands

thought they had learned last winter!" But fun & excitement return, & it's on to another fun filled winter.

ESTHER OOSTERBAAN Fort St. John
Organism

acrylic & ink on paper
 26" x 22"

Every artist wants to have an impact on the viewer with his or her artwork. So do I. I like my paintings to be interesting to look at & convey a message at the same time. *Organism* is the result of an image I saw briefly one day when, waking up from an afternoon nap, I found myself in the twilight zone between sleep & reality. The image was circular & had very strong positive & negative shapes, which reminded me of "primitive" art. So, I let my subconscious tell me what to paint & my art training did the rest. What the message of *Organism* is, I leave entirely up to the imagination of the viewer.

ANGELIQUE PRINCE
Train

Chetwynd

charcoal & ink on paper
 39" x 31"

The railway has always had an economic & emotional importance to British Columbians. The haunting wail of the steam whistles reminded homesteaders that they weren't alone in the world & people in small communities would gather to watch the train arrive & leave. Children grew up hoping some day they might be locomotive engineers. My personal affection for the railway also stems from my childhood; it is my father's other life. The sounding whistle shadowed my heart when I knew it meant he was off, thundering across BC. I would imagine him cutting through hundreds of miles — mountains & forests — stopping to catch butterflies to bring us. My heart danced when again the whistle blew; I knew he would soon be home.

SHIRLEY RAVELLI & EDNA McPHAIL

Dawson Creek

Gossip is Garbage

installation: papier mâché & wire
 approx. 45" x 60" x 96"

Our installation is a protest against the constant bombardment of the media about people's private lives. This sculpture was made from the headlines spanning a week's worth of newspapers. We hope you will take time to read some of these "very important headlines" & news bits, & ponder on the question of why this sells newspapers. Sticks & stones may break your bones, but words can ruin lives needlessly.

DAN THERRIEN

Pouce Coupe

Sentinel Cliff

carving: moose antler
 24" x 14" x 1"

I have lived in British Columbia all my life & have always been inspired by its wildlife & their habitat. I try to capture this in my carvings with the media I have chosen.

CINDY VINCENT

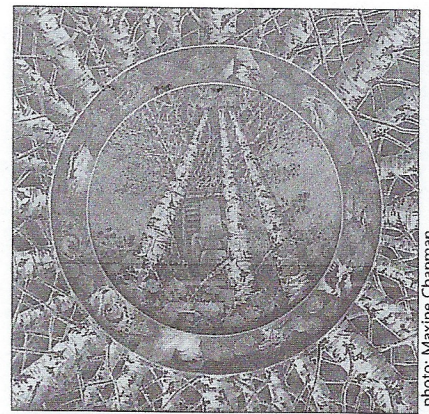
Fort St. John

Phōs (Greek: to shine or make manifest, especially by rays)

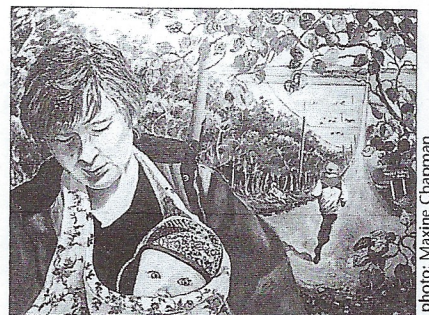
oil on masonite
 25" x 33"

A faint flame of fire
 a glimmer of glory
 on the rim of the world.
 Rays of radiance reveal
 a pathway through the rocks,
 rugged but real.
 One step at a time
 an inner light
 illuminates the way.
 Oh, the warm wonder
 of a light that shines
 in a dark place
 until the day dawns
 & the day star
 arises in our hearts.

I know.



Mattson: *The Last Fence Line*



Mattson: *Happy Valley Road*