

CULTURE, CONSCIOUSNESS AND NATURE

ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS, AND MUSICIANS

Friday October 17 Artists Exhibitors

Arnt Arntzen

Biography

Arnt was born in 1958 and raised in North Vancouver, BC.

Interest in metal began when building a 36 foot steel schooner in the backyard with his father. His first sculptures were created from the scrap pieces. Woodcraft and design developed through renovating vintage houses.

The years from 1984 to 1987 were spent in Los Angeles turning his attention to furniture design.

His major influences come from architecture, 50's furniture design, Frank Lloyd Wright, Frank Gehery, David Smith, Isamu Noguchi, Charles and Ray Eames, Gustav Stickley, Le Corbusier, George Nelson, C.R. Mackintosh and Phillippe Starck.

Since returning to Vancouver, he has shown in California, New York and various galleries across Canada.

Artist Statement:

I have been designing and building furniture for the last twenty years.

My designs are influenced by my surroundings, which is the wild west coast and the abundance of wood and found metal objects. The wood is hand cut by myself from windfall trees in and around the city of Vancouver. Many of the metal objects are aircraft parts such as propellers, helicopter blades and wings. Most of my material is recycled.

Joining found objects with large slabs of wood has forced me to innovate new construction methods and has greatly influenced my designs. The challenge is to design and build objects that will withstand the test of time

structurally as well as visually. This is what I endeavor to do with my designs.

I prefer contemporary design because it is more challenging to create something that is not familiar and by this process I think we can better our living environment.

Although my main influence is contemporary design I am a throw back to the time when you respected your elders and they in turn passed on the secrets and skills that allowed you to carry on these traditions.

Bettina Matzkuhn

Biography

Bettina Matzkuhn has worked in fibre for 30 years with an emphasis on embroidery and fabric collage. She holds a BFA in Visual Arts and an MA in Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University. In the 1980's she animated and directed three award-winning films using textiles for the National Film Board of Canada and an interest in narrative continues to inform her work. She exhibits her work in Canada and internationally, writes professionally on the arts, and is a sessional instructor at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada.

Artist's Statement

Fibre interests me as a language of visual narrative. Textile has a long history of inscribing social and personal stories; I am part of this continuum. Embroidery lends itself to extreme detail and is rife with the possibility of exaggeration and delight. I have examined themes such as my ambivalence towards my German heritage, flooding as a metaphor of overwhelming change and most recently, fictional maps that play with history, language and social comment.

Michelle Sirois-Silver

Fibre Artist

Vancouver, BC
bigdogrugs@yahoo.ca

Artist's Statement

My work is informed by where I live; my designs are organic, inspired by a natural environment that co exists in and around an urban environment. My approach evolves with each piece and transcends the traditional into the contemporary. A passion for colour and texture inspires my creative process. An ongoing exploration of concept and form has been a journey that reveals how subtle and not so subtle creative choices such as design, shape, mood, materials, technique, and colour can alter the emotional impact of a piece. My own creative and conceptual preconceptions are always challenged as a piece begins to take on life and new directions of its own.

The Hosta triptych on display at the conference is inspired by the Hosta leaf. I am drawn to its languid beauty, shape, the simplicity of its lines and dramatic value contrasts. Over an eighteen month period beginning in the spring of 2007, I photographed the leaf and it is from these digital images that a series of motifs were chosen for this ongoing body of work.

In my studio I'm committed to using sustainable practices. My teenage son says that being green can be simple and easy and that my work is sustainable and it leaves a small ecological footprint. The technique I use to create my textile art is called hand hooking which dates back thousands of years and was used by the Coptic's to create decorative borders on clothing and in Norway and England to make rugs. Its exact origins are unknown. In the 1850's burlap was introduced to North America. It was cheap, accessible, and the burlap seed bags were reused as backing for hand hooked rugs. Salvaged clothing torn into long narrow strips was used to hook a loop pile into the backing. The hooks used to 'hook' the fabric into the backing were fashioned from nails hammered into handles of wood, bone or antler.

I often think about the men and women who hooked rugs in the 1800's and early 1900's when it was a matter of thrift, a way to use materials they had on hand to create a functional piece of art. Not that they ever called it that.

I think many of them would laugh to hear me refer to their rugs as art, as well as being sustainable. They believed they were making rag rugs to warm their beds and keep out cold winter drafts. They didn't hook rugs to last a hundred years and yet they left us a legacy rich in history and storytelling. My technique is inspired by this eastern Canadian tradition.

Image List

1. Artist: Michelle Sirois-Silver

Title: Hosta 1

Medium: Hand hooked, hand dyed new and recycled wool on linen.

Date: 2008

Dimensions: 66cmx198cm

Description: Part of a body of work in progress inspired by the Hosta, a shade plant that grows in the garden in front of my home in Vancouver, British Columbia. I photographed the group of Hostas over an eighteen month period. Images for the designs were selected from the digital images. Cropped and enhanced using paint shop. Maquettes were drawn onto linen backing and then hooked. A series of colour fabric swatches are dyed and samples hooked. The images were then enlarged to their full size and transferred to a linen backing and hooked with ½" wide fabric strips. Part of an ongoing body of work.

2. Artist: Michelle Sirois-Silver

Title: Hosta 2

Medium: Hand hooked, hand dyed new and recycled wool on linen.

Date: 2008

Dimensions: 66cmx198cm

Description: as above

3. Artist: Michelle Sirois-Silver

Title: Hosta 3

Medium: Hand hooked, hand dyed new and recycled wool on linen.

Date: 2008

Dimensions: 66cmx198cm

Saturday October 18 Architect Exhibitors:

Yin-lun Chan

Yin-lun Chan completed his Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia. He currently works as a landscape designer at the Greenways Branch of the City of Vancouver, and sits on the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Planning and Development Committee. His research surrounds issues of migration and in rethinking notions of heritage.

Courtney Hunt and Alex Witko

Organelle, founded by Courtney Hunt and Alex Witko, is a small, independent design studio based in Vancouver, BC. We work outside normative architecture, interior and industrial design practices, reshaping the relationship between designer, client, communities and materials. Our projects utilize off-the-shelf products in innovative ways, while also reinventing uses for found objects and wasted goods. We think on our feet, allowing the project needs and materials to inform designs that are both cost and environmentally effective. Following this strategy, each outcome is inherently unique, from the subtle to the fantastic.

Courtney received her education from the University of British Columbia with a degree in Environmental Design and presently works as an architectural designer. Alex has been studying and practicing architecture and design for the past ten years, receiving architectural degrees from The University of Maryland and The University of British Columbia. He was recently awarded the UBC Outstanding Thesis Prize for his work on material salvage techniques and community rooted design. Organelle is continuing to research and prototype these concepts and is currently contributing design work to a local women's health care clinic.

Ellen Pond

Ellen Pond received her Master's of Landscape Architecture from UBC in the spring of 2008, where her thesis work focused on neighbourhood retrofits for radical reductions of greenhouse gas emissions across energy, transportation and food systems. She currently works with the Collaborative for Advanced Landscape Planning at UBC on climate change visualization and

planning, with an emphasis on transitioning to low-carbon, resilient communities. Research interests include site adaptive and systems-based mitigation, advancing the integration of climate change into the landscape architecture profession and curriculum, and urban agriculture. She has an undergraduate degree in Human Geography, and is also a ticketed carpenter. As the UBC nominee for the Olmsted Scholar Award recognizing academic excellence, Ellen was chosen as a 2008 North American Olmsted Scholar Finalist by the Landscape Architecture Foundation jury. Other interests include performance art -- an ephemeral form of site intervention and design -- and working to support multi-media projects with high-risk youth in her inner-city neighbourhood. Her graduate project was recently awarded an ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) Honour Award in the Student Research category.

Musicians:

Thursday October 17 Reception

ANAGRAM - ANNA LUMIERE and GRAHAM ORD

Anna Lumiere, piano (Mimosa, Green Room) and Graham Ord saxes and flute, (NOW Orchestra, Hard Rubber Orchestra, etc.) have been making music together for 10 years. Both seasoned musicians, and composers Anna and Graham pour their collective heart and soul into their music. Ninety percent of the music played by Anagram are original compositions ranging from Brazilian and Latin rhythms to Funk and Quirky grooves. Influences range from Keith Jarrett and Charles Lloyd, Randy Weston, Joe Henderson, Eddie Harris and John Coltrane.

<http://web.mac.com/grahamord/iWeb/Grahamord/ANAGRAM.html>

Saturday Night Banquet

Carol Dymond, flute, is a busy Vancouver performer and music teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from UBC and has continued her studies with such international players as William

Bennett and Peter Lloyd. Carol has a wide range of performance experience, including the West Coast Symphony and the Fraser Valley Symphony.

Thomas Evdokimoff is a freelance guitarist and music teacher. He studied guitar with Michael Strutt (Vancouver) and Robert Hamilton (Toronto). He holds a Masters of Arts degree from UBC in music theory. Thomas has been involved in many arts organizations in Vancouver, including the Burney Ensemble and Standing Wave.