

CONNECT... ART HISTORY CULTURE

The Newsletter of Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History

Director's Message

By Leah Best

Here at Touchstones Nelson we're hoping for a strong summer tourist season. Like many Nelson businesses, we rely on the period between mid-June and mid-September to make our greatest revenue gains of the year. With this in mind, we schedule summer exhibitions that have broad public appeal and that also relate in some way to either the history of Nelson or feature a professional artist from Nelson and Area.

This summer we are very pleased to present the work of local artists Kristi Malakoff and Angelika Werth. Kristi's wildly colourful and wonder-provoking installations of miniatures are a perfect pairing with sunny summer days and the fun of holidays and experiencing new places. Angelika, known to Nelsonites as an accomplished fibre-artist, will be presenting her latest dresses that evoke shelter and tents. These dresses link in theme to our large fall exhibit in Gallery A, *Shelter*, an exploration of alternative and affordable housing options for Nelson.



The Golden Bell
Installation detail
Photo Credit: Kristi Malakoff

In Gallery B, well, we're going to explore another fun side of Nelson—beer brewing history. Drawn from the permanent collection and from loans of material from local collectors, this exhibit will trace the prestigious history of Nelson brewing companies including the Nelson Brewing Company and Columbia Brewing (the brewers of Kokanee beer) that started in our community. Touchstones Nelson will host a beer garden this summer, July 10th, to celebrate the show. Make sure you come out to support your local museum at this licensed event.

A special note to our members—don't miss this year's annual Heritage Home Tour. Taking place on **Sunday, June 13th from 11am to 4pm**, this year's tour returns to the Uphill neighbourhood and will feature a variety of homes and commercial and faith-based buildings for you to explore. A pre-tour program featuring local architectural historian, Bob Inwood, will take place on Thursday, June 10th from 7-8pm at Touchstones Nelson. New this year—guided walking tours of the heritage homes on the tour. With limited spots available, each tour will feature an expert guide who will focus on a particular theme (Architectural Restoration, Nelson History, Interior Design and Architecture). Information on how to reserve your spot on these tours will be available closer to the date.

Visit us this summer at our facility or at local events including National Aboriginal Day (June 21st) and Canada Day at Lakeside Park (July 1). Touchstones Nelson makes a great outing for visitors, family and friends!

Spring/Summer

2010

Issue No. 2

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CONNECT is available as a pdf, deliverable by email upon request. Call 250.352.9813 or email info@touchstonesnelson.ca

Spring and Summer Exhibitions and Programming

Selkirk College Digital Arts and New Media Graduation Show

■ April 10 to April 18, 2010, Gallery B

This exhibit features the work of graduating students from the Digital Arts and New Media program at Selkirk College. Students work in a variety of traditional and electronic media will be displayed.



Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College Graduation Show

■ April 24 to May 30, 2010, Gallery B

■ Opening Reception: Friday April 23, 7-9pm – *Members are invited to come mingle with KSA grads at this public event*

This exhibit features the work of graduating students from the Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College. Student work from each of the four studios (Clay, Fibre, Jewellery & Small Object Design, and Metal) will be displayed. KSA's programs place emphasis on the skills necessary to become a successful and professional arts practitioner.



Kootenay Breweries Truck
Circa 1950s
Photo Credit: Touchstones
Nelson Collection

History of Nelson Brewing

■ June 5 to August 1, 2010, Gallery B

■ Beer Fest Fundraiser, Saturday, July 10, 1pm to 4pm

Beer and brewing have long been a part of Nelson's culture - this exhibition traces its history, including the evolution of Riesterer's Brewery from its inception in 1893 through to its present form as the Nelson Brewing Company.

Kristi Malakoff: The Golden Bell

■ June 22 to September 12, 2010, Gallery A

■ Thursday June 17, Open House Installation Preview with Kristi Malakoff, 5-8pm (Free to the public)

■ Opening Reception: Friday June 25, 7-9pm (6:30-7:00pm Members' Only Reception)

■ Artist talk: Thursday September 9, 7pm

Kristi Malakoff is an emerging Canadian visual artist who has participated in artist residency programs at the Banff Centre; the Stride Gallery, Calgary; SÍM, Reykjavík, Iceland; and most recently, Moscow, Russia. She has exhibited widely and rigorously in both group and solo shows throughout Canada and in England, the US, Germany and Mexico. She currently resides in Nelson, BC.



Maibaum
Black paper, black foamcore
and hard ware, 2009
Installation detail
Photo Credit: Kristi Malakoff

Malakoff installations involve repetition of two-dimensional motifs assembled to create a three-dimensional fantasy landscape or icon image. Her creative process is such that the work is made complete through a labour intensive installation process with some pieces requiring 9-14 days to install. Art critic Gary Pearson says of Malakoff, "Part of the visual appeal of [her] work rests in the sumptuousness of its craftsmanship and its luxurious presentation, yet in a non-ironic turn, it's the works' appeal to the imagination that makes the most lasting impression."

The Golden Bell will consist of some of Malakoff's favourites, including *Resting Swarm*, an installation made of meticulously cut out photos of 20,000 life sized honey bees pinned into one large mass of bees.



Maibaum
Black paper, black foamcore
and hard ware, 2009
Installation detail
Photo Credit: Kristi Malakoff

Spring and Summer Exhibitions and Programming (continued)

Angelika Werth: Ladies in Tents

- August 7 to October 17, 2010, Gallery B
- Opening Reception: Friday September 17, 7-9pm (6:30-7:00pm Members' Only Reception) **Please note this special opening reception will be held in conjunction with the opening of September's Shelter*
- Artist talk: Tuesday, September 21 at 7pm

This exhibit features local fibre artist Angelika Werth installation of a series of dresses focusing on the dress as a shelter or home. The material used in the making of the dresses will be derivative of the building industry and temporary shelters such as tents. This show overlaps with our fall exhibition, *Shelter*, to provide another perspective on this concept.

Werth's hand-sewn dresses are made of recycled tents, from classic white canvas with grommets to shiny royal blue nylon. "The tent dresses are big enough that you could sleep under them," says Werth. "I quite often think of the kilt, which used to be a bedroll at night and then was worn as a garment in the day." Her designs reflect hours of hand felting, embroidery and beading, and many have a historical genesis.

Werth started her career with a three-year dressmaking apprenticeship, followed by work at Yves St. Laurent in Paris, a Master's degree in design and finally emigration to instruct in the Fibre Department at the Kootenay School of the Arts in Nelson. A sought after instructor, she teaches dress making all over Western Canada.



Home sweet Home
Tyvek, silk, antique hardware, 2010
Installation detail
Photo Credit: Angelika Werth

Sneak Peak at the Next Season: Coming in Autumn 2010 from Touchstones Nelson



- *Shelter* – September 18 to November 14, 2010 (Opening Reception Friday, September 17, 7-9pm (6:30-7:00pm Members' Only Reception). A *Community Matters* exhibition that will look at the many facets of shelter through an engaging mix of large scale installation, individual stories and interpretation (developed in partnership with the Social Planning Action Network of Nelson and its member organizations).
- *Quickdraw* – Thematically tied to our *Shelter* exhibition, this fundraising event will feature drawings by local artists for auction!

Archives, Affleck and MemoryBC

By Laura Fortier

The Shawn Lamb Archives are open to the public once again!

Some exciting transformations are taking place in the Archives under the direction of recently appointed Archivist and Collections Manager Laura Fortier. One major push is to have content descriptions of Touchstones Nelson's archival holdings on MemoryBC, the Archival Association of British Columbia's online database of all the province's archival institutions' holdings. This change is in keeping with the Archives' mission to make the collection more accessible to the public—the major goal of any archivist. Introducing these changes to the public will hopefully enable people to more easily and independently obtain the information they are seeking; however Laura will continue to be available to assist in any way she can.



Jon Lavinnder, Laura Fortier, and Reverend Marcella Mugford. Jon donated a book to the Archives Library that he recently edited and compiled entitled *Flagship of Kokanee: St. Saviour's Pro Cathedral*.
Photo Credit: Touchstones Nelson

How does one get started on archival research the old-fashioned way? Laura says, "The best way to start any archival query is to phone ahead, so we know what you'll be wanting to look at. That way, the Archives and our volunteers can be prepared and you can make the most of your visit."

(Continued on page 4)

Touchstones Nelson's Collection Moratorium Over

By Laura Fortier

The 2009 moratorium on new acquisitions for the Touchstones Nelson collection is now over. Touchstones Nelson is once again welcoming new items into the Collection.

As you can imagine, adding new items into any museum's permanent collection requires careful consideration. During the moratorium, specific guidelines were developed and a Collections Committee has now been put in place to support and assist Laura Fortier, our new Archivist and Collections Manager, in making acquisition related decisions. Specifically, Touchstones Nelson's goal is to acquire materials created in, or directly concerning the geographical area bordered by South Slokan to the west, Queens Bay and Proctor to the east, Apex including Whitewater Ski Area to the south, and the area of Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park to the north. It has also been recently decided that materials from the Slokan Valley from South Slokan to Slokan Lake will also be accepted into Touchstone Nelson's collection until Slokan Valley has its own facility in place.



CPR SS Bonnington, on ways at Nakusp, 1911 (Affleck fonds #2004.003.003.055)
Touchstones Nelson
Permanent Collection

There are many factors to consider when deciding whether to accept a new acquisition into a museum's collection, for example: relevance, origin (provenance), condition, duplication, space, and money. If the Touchstones Nelson Collections Committee decides to accept a donation, the donor will be asked to sign an agreement that transfers legal ownership to the museum.

Most of the items within our collection were acquired through gift, transfer, or bequest. The new guidelines developed mean anyone who would like to gift an item or a number of items is advised to contact Laura Fortier, the Archivist and Collections Manager, before bringing anything to the facility. This important initial conversation will allow Laura to acquire background history from the donor that could assist in any decision concerning the item(s). Once Laura and the donor meet, a receipt can then be issued allowing the museum temporary custody of the item(s). Then the item(s) can be put on the agenda of the next Collections Committee meeting, where the Committee can evaluate the latest potential additions to the Collection.

So, to anyone with any treasures in their attics or basements they're considering passing to Touchstones Nelson, we're looking forward to hearing from you!

Summer Heritage Tours at Touchstones Nelson

Planning a leisurely summer at home this year? Are guests coming to stay? Everyone can explore Nelson's heritage this summer with Touchstones Nelson!

- The **Heritage Home Tour 2010** will take place on **Sunday, June 13** from 11am to 4pm. See our *Spend the Summer with Touchstones Nelson* insert and watch your Touchstones Nelson email updates for more details.
- Touchstones Nelson's **Guided Heritage Walking Tours** also return this year, with tour guides to share their expertise and stories of Nelson as you leisurely explore historic downtown Nelson. Tours are scheduled for every Saturday at 11am in July and August beginning July 10.

Rates and information on Touchstones Nelson's programmed summer activities are available in the *Spend the Summer with Touchstones Nelson* insert in your April *Connect* newsletter and from our website. If you have more questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kaley Ewart at 250-352-9813 ext. 465 or kaley@touchstonesnelson.ca.

Archives, Affleck and MemoryBC (continued)

Some material held by Touchstone Nelson is already on MemoryBC (www.memorybc.ca) and soon the newly described personal papers of Edward L. Affleck will be added. Although not a local sternwheeler captain, 'Ted' was passionate about boats, having grown up in Nelson during their decline. He was an accomplished editor and established the Alexander Nicholls Press. The papers the Archives is preparing for MemoryBC depict his research into the history of the Kootenays, sternwheelers, steamships, and paddlewheelers in Western Canada as far as Alaska.

The Shawn Lamb Archives are open Thursday to Saturday from 11am to 4pm and are free to the public.

Touchstones Nelson's Early Spring Arrival: Laura Fortier



Laura Fortier
Photo Credit: Gary Linn

By Deborah O'Keeffe

Only a few weeks ago, Touchstones Nelson hosted a welcome reception for Laura Fortier, the Society's new Archivist and Collections Manager. For members who didn't get a chance to meet her at the March reception, Laura's multiple skills sets and work experiences stand her in excellent stead as she assumes the role held so long by our retired Shawn Lamb.

Like any Archivist and Collections Manger worthy of the title, Laura possesses a passion for preserving historical records and making them accessible to the community. A recent graduate of the Master of Archival Studies program at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Laura also studied Museum Studies at UBC's Museum of Anthropology. Combine that with her degrees in both art history and studio art from the University of Saskatchewan, her work at both UBC and Simon Fraser University in the Special Collections and Rare Books, at the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster, and at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and you can understand why Touchstones Nelson is excited to have her as part of the team.

"It's always been my dream to work with an exciting organization and live in a vibrant community," Laura says. "I can't wait to visit the ski hills next winter!"

Since Laura comes to us from outside the region, we're sure that all of Touchstones Nelson's members join the staff and volunteers in welcoming Laura to the organization and to our city. Welcome aboard, Laura!

Volunteer Profile: Chris Ingles

By Deborah O'Keeffe

To our Thursday regulars stopping by the front desk, Chris is already a familiar face. Born and raised in Stafford, England, Chris came to Canada thirty-six years ago, and made the move from Edmonton to Nelson twenty-four months ago. Why the migration to Nelson? "My wife and I fell in love with Nelson after a road trip to the Kootenays and we were determined to make it our home."

Retired after 40 years in commercial banking, Chris began volunteering at Touchstones Nelson in November, 2009 out of a life-long passion for museums and art, and from a recognition of the importance of preserving history and making it relevant to present and future generations. Chris' corporate experience has already proven valuable as Touchstones Nelson continues to look for opportunities to improve experiences for staff, volunteers and visitors alike. As for other activities, Chris enjoys hiking and biking around Nelson and exploring his own artistic endeavours through painting and drawing.



Chris Ingles
Photo Credit: Gary Linn

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their ongoing support and dedication. If you are interested in volunteering at Touchstones Nelson, please contact Kaley Ewart at 250-352-9813 ext. 465 or kaley@touchstonesnelson.ca.

Staff Directory

Executive Director:
Leah Best—director@touchstonesnelson.ca

Archivist/Collections Manager:
Laura Fortier—collections@touchstonesnelson.ca

Curator (shared):
Rod Taylor—rod@touchstonesnelson.ca or exhibitions@touchstonesnelson.ca

Curator (shared):
Deborah Thompson—deborah@touchstonesnelson.ca or exhibitions@touchstonesnelson.ca

Visitor Services Manager:
Alexandra Dudley—shop@touchstonesnelson.ca

Executive Assistant, Volunteer/Membership Coordinator:
Kaley Ewart—kaley@touchstonesnelson.ca or info@touchstonesnelson.ca

The Shop: New Season, New Products!

By Alex Dudley

The Shop at Touchstones is gearing up for an exciting summer with new artists, new books, new products and exciting events.

As always, one of our greatest goals is to find original artists to bring to you. During May and June, we hope to have work by the 2010 graduating students of KSA. We're welcoming fresh additions to our existing collection on a regular basis, so make sure to drop in and see what's new. **Don't forget, Mother's Day is right around the corner!**

Our wide selection of books relevant to local art, history and culture is a source of pride for our Shop, and one of our favourite authors, Dr. Kenneth Morrow, is soon releasing a new book, tentatively titled *The Doukhobor People: In Tribute to Good Citizens*. Growing up in Nelson, and practicing optometry in Castlegar, Dr. Morrow has many close friends in the Doukhobor community. Their insight, along with countless hours of research from respected sources, promises to give this new book a balanced and informative perspective. The release is expected around May 31st, and we'll be sure to notify members as soon as more information is available.

We're also very proud to be a part of ArtWalk once again this summer. During ArtWalk 2010, the Shop will join other local businesses as a venue for many more of Nelson's talented artists. We are still waiting for the details of this year's ArtWalk so stay tuned for more information...

If you are an artist interested in joining the Shop or for more information on any of the Shop artists or events, please contact the staff at 352-8262.

Calendar of Events (for further event listings, check out Nelson's online cultural calendar at events.nelson.ca)

APRIL 2010

Touchstones Nelson

- Continuing to June 13, 2010: *Refuse Culture: Archaeology of Consumption* (Gallery A)
- Friday April 9, Opening Reception, *Selkirk College Selkirk College Digital Arts and New Media Graduation Show* 7:00pm-9:00pm
- April 10 to April 18: *Selkirk College Selkirk College Digital Arts and New Media Graduation Show* (Gallery B)
- April 11: *Trashtastic: Trash to Treasure*, 1pm-3pm
- April 14: Touchstones Nelson AGM, 7pm
- Friday, April 23, Opening Reception, *Kootenay School of Art at Selkirk College Graduation Show*, 7:00-9:00pm
- April 24 to May 30: *Kootenay School of Art at Selkirk College Graduation Show* (Gallery B)

MAY 2010

Touchstones Nelson

- Continuing to June 13, 2010: *Refuse Culture: Archaeology of Consumption* (Gallery A)
- Continuing to May 30: *Kootenay School of Art at Selkirk College Graduation Show* (Gallery B)

Grand Forks Art Gallery (reciprocal program member)

- Madeliènes and Ladies in Tents*, Angelika Werth, continuing to June 12
- Explorations*, School District #51 Student Exhibition, May 8 to June 12
- Folk Art of Spree-Neisse District of Brandenburg, Germany*, May 8 to June 12

Langham Cultural Centre (reciprocal program member)

- April 23 to May 30, 2010, Prince George artist Annerose Georgeson

Kootenay Gallery (reciprocal program member)

- Young Visions 2010*, paintings and sculptures created by Grade 8-12 Students & Teachers School District, continuing to May 30

JUNE 2010

Touchstones Nelson

- Continuing to June 13, 2010: *Refuse Culture: Archaeology of Consumption* (Gallery A)
- June 5 to August 1: *History of Nelson Brewing* (Gallery B)
- June 10: Heritage Home Tour pre-tour program featuring local architectural historian, Bob Inwood, 7-8pm
- June 13: Heritage Home Tour, 11:00am to 4:00pm
- June 17: Open House Installation Preview with Kristi Malakoff, 5:00 to 8:00pm
- Friday June 25, Opening Reception, *Kristi Malakoff: The Golden Bell* 7:00-9:00pm (6:30-7:00pm Members' Only Reception)
- June 21: National Aboriginal Day Touchstones Nelson celebration
- June 26 to September 12: *Kristi Malakoff: The Golden Bell* (Gallery A)

Grand Forks Art Gallery (reciprocal program member)

- Yahgulanaas: Red: A Haida Manga*, Michael Nicoll, June 19 to August 28
- Haida Manhwa Bang* (Reading Room), June 19 to August 28

- A Survey: 1946-2002*, Toni Onley, June 19 to August 28
- Recent Paintings*, Leta Heiberg, June 19, to August 28

Kootenay Gallery (reciprocal program member)

- West Kootenay Camera Club Photo Salon, June 1 to June 6
- Modus Operandi: Ideas and Process*, Sarah Lawless, Marilyn Lee, Peter Galonski, Wendy Allen, Maria Medina, June 11 to July 25

Langham Cultural Centre (reciprocal program member)

- June 4 to July 18, 2010, Wells, BC artist Claire Kujundzic
- July 23 to September 4, 2010, Boundary area artist Tajai Alexev

JULY 2010

Touchstones Nelson

- Continuing to September 12: *Kristi Malakoff: The Golden Bell* (Gallery A)
- Continuing to August 1: *History of Nelson Brewing* (Gallery B)
- July 1: Touchstones Nelson @ Canada Day Celebrations, Lakeside Park
- July 10: Beer Fest Fundraiser, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- July 10: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- July 17: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- July 24: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- July 31: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)

Kootenay Gallery (reciprocal program member)

- Ride Off Any Horizon*, Royden Josephson, July 30 to September 12
- Break Land*, Asha Robertson

Langham Cultural Centre (reciprocal program member)

- July 23 to September 4, 2010, Boundary area artist Tajai Alexev

AUGUST 2010

Touchstones Nelson

- Continuing to September 12: *Kristi Malakoff: The Golden Bell* (Gallery A)
- Continuing to August 1: *History of Nelson Brewing* (Gallery B)
- August 7 to October 17: *Angelika Werth: Ladies in Tents* (Gallery B)
- August 7: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- August 14: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- August 21: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)
- August 28: Heritage Walking Tour, 11:00am (providing participation limits met)

Langham Cultural Centre (reciprocal program member)

- April 23 to May 30 2010, Prince George artist Annerose Georgeson

SEPTEMBER 2010 *Sneak Preview!*

Touchstones Nelson

- Friday September 17, Opening Reception, *Angelika Werth: Ladies in Tents and Shelter* 7:00-9:00pm (6:30-7:00pm Members' Only Reception)
- Tuesday, September 21: Angelika Werth Artist Talk, 7:00pm

The Society recognizes the generous and ongoing support of the City of Nelson and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and Gaming Revenue and premiere exhibition sponsor Nelson & District Credit Union

City of Nelson



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia



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