

Juried Exhibition At Latcham Gallery

By Chai Duncan

It's that time of year when you're all invited out to get to know your artistic community. Come view a fabulous selection of artworks in a variety of media, style and subject matter at The Latcham Gallery's Annual Juried Art Exhibition.

The exhibition kicked off with a reception on April 27 where everyone had a chance to enjoy all of the selected works, talk with the artists and help choose the piece of art that will receive the People's Choice Award. Come down and check it out for yourself and help us select the winner by casting your ballot for your favourite artwork in the show.

Later in the month you can find out what the jurying process is like. Laura Millard, artist and professor at OCADU in Toronto, will share her experiences and her expertise at a talk and discussion on Wednesday May 8 at 7 p.m. at the gallery.

Ms Millard was one of our jurors this year, along with Katerina Atanssova, curator at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg and Sean McQuay, artist and professor in the School of Media Art and Design at Durham College in Oshawa. The talk is open to everybody. Visit the gallery's website for further details at www.latchamgallery.ca.

Sign up for our P.A. Day Art Workshops for children ages 4 to 10 to get a chance to draw, paint, sculpt and have fun with an experienced art educator. Our next P.A. Day is on Friday June 7. Please visit our website for details.

Summer Art Camp registration is open. Be sure to register early as spots do fill up quickly. We offer full-day and half-day art camps in July and August for children and youth to get creative this summer.

Chai Duncan is curator at The Latcham Gallery



Comparative Cultures

Who Am I?

By Kinjal Dagli-Shah

Since I became a mom, I've had ample opportunity to think about why women always have to be on one side of the homemaker-career woman schism. What about those who straddle both universes, as I believe most women and mothers do?

Who am I, if I give up a corporate job I love and a career that's taking off superbly to get married, move home and country, and have a baby? I made a conscious choice, and even though I made some people gasp, I continue doing what I love best - writing. But I've fielded several questions, some unwitting, some curious and some plain offensive. And this is not about me; it's about every woman out there who makes a choice and is judged.

Who am I if I don't wear a suit and drive to work every day? Instead, I stay in my pyjamas until noon and think of story ideas while feeding breakfast to my child. In fact, I get my best stories from interacting with my daughter, her peers and other wonderful moms. And I write best while watching my child play with water in the bathtub, as I am doing right now, because my heart and mind are in the same place.

Who am I if I don't have the latest i-thing and a cell phone that needs all my attention? I used to be someone that went to sleep with my phone by my bedside but that was before responsibility took on a whole different meaning. I can actually give my family

undivided attention when they are talking without having half an eye on the phone.

Who am I if I am not financially independent and drawing a salary that can pay two mortgages? I am a wonderfully relaxed person who doesn't have to wait for her next paycheck.

Okay, I'm kidding - we do plan, save, invest, enjoy and worry, but the onus of paying the bills isn't on me. That's freedom of a different kind. And, knowing that if and when the need arises, I'm capable of getting a "real" job - whatever that means. Besides, I believe money is much like love; when you aren't chasing it, it chases you. But I'm no financial advisor so don't take my word for it.

Here's the answer - I'm neither a homemaker nor a career woman, and I'm both, depending on how you look at me. I am a journalist and a writer who is also a wife, mother, teacher, part-time potty trainer, (bad) singer, chef-by-necessity and often a horse or cow or pig depending on day and time.

It is true, however, that it takes a very secure man and family to continue giving you the respect you deserve for staying home and working far more than you'd have to for a weekly paycheck. It isn't always fun or freeing or fantastical but then, neither is a "real" job.

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