



express

▪ connecting people through art ▪

spring 2009 ● in-definite arts news & information

News & Events at In-Definite Arts

Featured Artwork



**“Brown Eyed Susans Floating
in the Sky”**

**Acrylic on Canvas
by Jessica Kowalski**



“School in the Field”

**Acrylic on Canvas
by Jessica Kowalski**

Renovations are ongoing slowly within our new space at the community building. Although we had hoped to be finished by this point, we've encountered many obstacles along the way. When demolition started both asbestos and mold were discovered. This caused the work to halt completely while the mold & asbestos abatement crews came on site to clean everything out. Not only did this cause us a delay of almost a month, it meant an additional cost of over \$100,000 to our renovation budget. Once all renovations are complete, the upper level will house studio space for drawing & painting, fiberarts, ceramics, fused glass and general arts. In addition, our kitchen, reception and offices will be located there. Fifteen skylights will be installed in the roof so that there will be plenty of natural light into the art studio areas. The lower level will have our gallery/multi-purpose room, meeting areas and some extra offices.

At this point we're hoping to have the upper level completely renovated by May 1. We'll then move our programs upstairs into the renovated space and the lower level can receive some improvements.

With a grant from the City of Calgary we were able to offer a six week pilot after school art program in November and December. Evaluations of the pilot program from both the children and par-

ents were very positive. We're pleased that the City of Calgary has agreed to fund this again for an additional ten weeks starting in February. Once we are moved into the renovated space we will be adding additional child and youth programs, as well as sessions for seniors on Friday mornings. We have just received word that the Calgary Foundation has given us a grant to offer community programming throughout this next year. In addition, we have applied for funds from the Telus Community Board to be used towards community programming for youth.

We were sorry to say goodbye to IDAS Staff Artist Andy Tarrant recently. Andy is moving on to other artistic challenges, but we are pleased to announce that Roxanne Driediger, our amazing summer student during the past two years, will be finishing school soon and has agreed to accept a full time position with us starting on June 1, 2009. Roxanne will be teaching in the studios as well as coordinating our exhibition schedule.

The IDAS Board of Directors and all the artists and staff from our programs would like to thank the Fairview Community Association for their recent donation of \$100,000 to be used towards our renovations. With the renovation budget increasing this money was very much needed and appreciated!



Dates to mark on your calendar

Monday, April 6

Spring Programs start at IDAS

Monday, April 13 and

Monday, May 18

IDAS Closed for
Easter Monday and Victoria Day

Month of May

Matthew Carberry
Exhibition at Steeps Tea House

Monday, May 25

IDAS Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 25

Spring Programs finish at IDAS

June 29 - July 20, 2009

IDAS Closed for Summer Break

Contact Us

In-Definite Arts
8038 Fairmount Drive SE
Calgary, AB T2H 0Y1
Phone: 403.253.3174
Fax: 403.255.2234

email: ida@indefinitearts.com

Funding for In-Definite Arts is provided by:

Calgary Region Community Board
Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Strengthening the Community



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

Portfolio Project at In-Definite Arts

Roxanne Driedger, IDAS Exhibition Coordinator, worked on a pilot project with a group of IDAS artists over the past year. Their goal was to develop portfolios and marketing materials and to learn skills to market both themselves and their artwork.

The group has finished their project and they have produced some amazing promotional items. Each artist has an artist's statement, biography, printed portfolio, brochures and business cards. In addition to the production of these

items, artists learned about exhibiting and marketing their artwork and participated in occasional art fairs and sales throughout the year. One of the participants, Matthew Carberry, has his first solo show coming up as a result of the work done through this pilot project.

In this and upcoming newsletters we will spotlight an artist who participated in this group. The artist being featured this month is Jessica Kowalski. Printed below is her Artist Statement and two of her artworks are featured on the front.

Artist Spotlight - Jessica Kowalski

"Art is her niche, allowing Jessica to express herself in a way that is unique to herself..."

Jessica's love for natural forms centres on the notion of the picturesque. In surveying our romanticized relationship with

nature, Jessica creates harmonious images (out of her imagination) that are connected to, and transcend, the natural world.

Jessica strives to create beautiful, even decorative works that are rich in color and texture. In the making of her artwork, Jessica is very process-oriented. Giving primacy to color over line, she builds form and volume by layering paint; as the color achieves richness, the painting resolves itself. This aesthetic sensibility (tied to an interest in the surface touch of paint and the pleasure of description) is



underpinned by a sincere enjoyment of the activity of creation.

An element of inventiveness also inheres within Jessica's decision-making-process. In her work, elements (the color, the form, the shape) are ad-

justed intuitively to contribute to the harmoniousness of the picture. Working in this way, Jessica creates realistic scenes of rural life that blend the imaginary with the observational.

Jessica draws inspiration from nature, and the time she spends camping with her family. "I feel happy when I paint", Jessica likes to say. Like Jessica, her artwork conveys this experience of tranquility with nature. Jessica is beginning to paint *en plein air*, allowing Nature to continue to inspire her imagination and motivate her practice.



MATTHEW CARBERRY SOLO SHOW

STEEPS TEA HOUSE

880 - 16 AVENUE SW

FULL MONTH OF MAY 2009

www.indefinitearts.com