



SALT SPRING ISLAND PRINTMAKERS

Newsletter February 2024

Print Café

Our last Print Café was so much fun and so informative that we've decided to do another one! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 10th**, for a potluck lunch and a time to share our prints and processes.

Vote Now! Vote Often!

Lori nominated SSI printmakers to win a \$1000 Opus gift card, which would "go a long way to helping this small but mighty group of printmakers to do a lot of good in our community and schools". If you haven't already, can you please take a moment to vote for us to win! Fingers crossed! Thanks to Lori and thank you for your help! See Link Below:

opusartsupplies.com/blogs/resource-library/nominations-for-art-brings-us-together-20232024

May 6th is International Printmaking Day!

Any ideas for how we might celebrate our special day?

Studio Gallery

We've talked about it, now let's do it. The cork boards are available for you to show prints that are unframed, in plastic sleeves and backed with something stiff to keep them from curling. Bring up to 3 to the Print Café and we'll get them up! If people want to buy a print we'll ask them to contact you directly.

Workshop Registrations

NEW! You can now register online and pay by e-transfer, as well as by credit card. Follow the links to buying a ticket and look for the e-transfer option. This means that we can now offer all 'seats' in our workshops online, and it also means that there may be spots now that you didn't see before. Plus we've had a few cancellations, so do check out those workshops you'd like to attend!



On Saturday, March 16th we're going to learn a lot at **Another Take on Gelli Plate Printing with Francesca Reside**. She will guide us through the possibilities of printmaking using Gelli Plates. No need to buy them. Cost: \$85 members, \$95 non-members.

We'll be starting to think about Fall workshops and Activity Days soon. Please let us know what you'd like to learn about and do!

We had a blast at our first Activity Day on Tuesday, Feb 6th!!!

Monoprinting with Plastic Bags & Eggshells with Dan Tirel is an online youtube that you can watch any time and try out. We also worked with one of his monotype videos. He has a whole suite of fun, experimental videos.





Register now for our 2nd **Activity Day on March 26th. Frame it UP** will be an opportunity to learn about framing your prints for shows in cost and time effective ways. Plus, after the learning part we'll take old frames and paint and print them up! Who says they can't be art too! Cost: Full Access Members - \$10. Pay as you go Members - \$25 (Studio fee \$15 plus \$10 registration).

Shows

The annual **Guilds Show** will be held May 13-20th at Mahon Hall. We'll be there with the potters, weavers, woodworkers, painters, and basketry guilds!

The stage will feature **Feast Your Eyes**, a special exhibit with tables set for a banquet using our various art works, plus prints and paintings on the walls that refer to food, farms, eating, and/or nature, etc. The call for entries will be out soon but here's the scoop: submit 2 prints for the main display, up to 4 mini-prints, up to 10 original cards, and 1 print for Feast Your Eyes. While new works are always appreciated for the show, you can submit older pieces too. Get those brayers rollin'!

Impressions 9, our annual show of new works, will be at the Salt Spring Gallery, November 7 - 27. Let's make some prints with the number 9 in them for the poster! Stand by for more details.

The **First Islands Printmaking Biennial 2024**, June 8th - July 5th, hosted by the Printmakers Only Group, is now open for entries. Note that two prints that relate to one another are to be submitted, and that you must also submit photos of them. Which means we have to get busy!!! The deadline has been extended to March 15th, and the website is <https://cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca/event/draft-form-printmaking/>. Let's help make this an outstanding show.

NEWS: We will be the hosts of the 2026 Biennial!

A proposal for the **ArtCraft Showcase in the summer of 2025** is in the works. To be submitted by June. If you are interested in helping to design this exciting initiative, please let Nora, Phil or Wendy know so we can include you in the next planning meeting. "Of This Place" will be the show name and it will feature a set of big and small works created collaboratively by our members that celebrate all that we share our island home with. Stand by for more info!

Looking For ...

Newsletter lay out person ... very big thanks to Nanxi for stepping up to take on the newsletter lay-out!

Flat file cabinet – we're looking for an 8 drawer map or architect drawings cabinet. If you hear of one in good condition for a good price, please contact Lynda.

Studio Clean-Up Day!

Our Clean-Up Day in late January was a great success! We scrubbed and sorted and cleaned, and by the end of the day the studio was sparkling. And, we learned a few things:



- We have to get better at **cleaning the ink jars**. PLEASE wipe off the rims and sides before you put them back. WHY? So the next person isn't swearing at their dirty hands (and you!), and so the ink does not get contaminated with other colours.

- We also have to work harder at **cleaning the inking glass**. In particular, the more opaque inks (think Titanium White, etc) leave a residue even after a couple of wipes. Use the cleaners and clean rags and we'll prevent problems with ink transference.

- The **presses need your attention** each time you use them. Please turn each side an equal number of turns, and ALWAYS release the press at the end of your day. To ensure that the press rollers are even, you can measure the screws at the side metal bars.

- The water in the studio continues to be unpotable, so please use the dispenser in the kitchen for drinking. AND, **the pipes are causing water for soaking paper to be discoloured**. You may want to get water from the tap by the office, that is potable, for this purpose.

- If everyone takes a turn at **removing compost and recycling** it will get done and no one person will suffer.

-Remember, there are no cleaning fairies, so please do your bit!

Visitors to the Studio

Seven members of the **POG (Printmakers Only Group)** came to visit on Valentine's Day! We enjoyed lunch together and their members (who are very experienced!) showed us fabulous examples of their prints. It was great fun and they have invited us to visit them soon.



Library

Check out the new books in the Library! Remember, you can take them home for up to 2 weeks. Any suggestions? Please talk with Suzanne.

Other Stuff

We now have a box of sample mats from **Custom Mat**. They are in the drawer on the left at the back. www.custommat.ca/?gad_source=1

And after speaking of mats in the last issue, Nora checked into **Opus Art Supplies'** mats and discovered that all windows are ¼" narrower than what is listed on the website.

Members' News

Member Jim Malo has a retrospective show coming up at the



Cowichan Valley Arts Council's Annex, February 29th to March 13th. Jim has been a printmaker for about 40 years. At present he works primarily in etching at his studio in Crofton. Jim also paints in water colour, oil & acrylic & creates in other media.

Lost & Found

Lost: Cathy's green table cloth that she loaned for the Deck The Walls celebration in December.

Found: a pair of glasses, notes from 2 workshops, many fun prints from the Golden day. All at the front of the studio.

Mentored Tuesdays

Don't forget that an experienced member will be in attendance on Tuesdays to help you find things and support your printmaking processes.

Studio Hours

Mon – Fri – 9 am – 7 pm

Sat & Sun – 9 am – 4 pm

Closed – all stat holidays.

Please – always check the online calendar to make sure that the studio is not already booked for a SSIPS event, school class or meeting.

Contact us

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THE FIRST

Islands Printmaking Biennial

A show connecting printmaking groups and societies on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

June 8th - July 6th 2024
at the **Cowichan Community
Arts Council Gallery** in Duncan, BC

Exhibition theme

AFFINITY: connected relationships

Call for registration of 2 related prints will open January 15, 2024 and close on March 1, 2024.

All forms of printmaking are welcome including lithography, intaglio, relief, screenprint, monotype, and other expanded and mixed media practices in printmaking. 2D works must be framed and ready to hang. 3D works are welcome. Larger sizes may be accommodated.

Works must have been completed in the last two years and incorporate 70% printmaking mediums.

For more information please contact
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