

LiveSmart Community Heroes

'REVISION' EXHIBIT TURNS TRASH INTO ART

ReVision — the Art of Recycling is a two-day juried art exhibit featuring works made up of, according to its organizers, "anything reused, recycled, salvaged, scrounged or found." Its first edition took place last year, coinciding with national Waste Reduction Week. The show proved very popular, and it returns this year on November 8 and 9, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, at the Granville Island Hotel (1253 Johnston Street).

Show coordinators Carl Anderson, Janet Lee and Launi Lucas participated in the following interview. For more information, visit www.revision-theartofrecycling.com

What is the concept of ReVision — the Art of Recycling?

The concept of ReVision — the Art of Recycling was to provide a venue for artists using recycled materials, materials that have been culled from the landfills and restored in another form. Recycled art has, at its heart, an affinity with folk and outsider art and is not well represented in a traditional gallery setting. We felt this is important work, and something that the public would enjoy seeing. Because most established galleries have planned their shows many months in advance, we decided to host a 'guerilla gallery' at the Granville Island Hotel — and we like the fact that Granville Island is a 'recycled' place, too.

Twenty-six B.C. artists are participating in ReVision this year. How did you solicit for participants? Did the response exceed your expectations?

We placed a call for submissions in the usual places: the Opus Newsletter, Alliance for the Arts, CARFAC, and others. Last year was our first show, and, to be honest, we didn't quite know what to expect. I think in total we had about 20 submissions and 14 selected artists. This year we had about 40 submissions and 26 selected artists. So, we are definitely growing and word is getting out. Even now, we've had responses from artists who didn't see the call and are waiting for next year to submit. So, this is a very popular art form, and one that is continuing to grow.

What are some of the more interesting pieces people will see at ReVision?

It's difficult to pick just a few, but off the top of our heads are two of the returning artists from last year, Doug Walker (from Black Creek on Vancouver Island) and Arnim Rodeck (from Vancouver). Doug's kinetic, musical-instrument-based sculptures are always a treat. He's a very talented guy and is spreading a lot of joy in his work. Arnim recycles found wood and creates new pieces from the old. This year, Arnim is showing a "rain forest" music stand made from reclaimed old-growth wood. We have a strong musical theme this year, which will also be highlighted by our guests, SWARM, a high-energy percussion group — they will be giving an impromptu performance or two on their instruments, which are made from recycled materials. One of the new artists exhibiting this year is Diana Durrand; she is showing work from her McMono Series, called McMono Fry Box. Her use of French-fry boxes, combined with Japanese design, gives a nod to the artistic potential in an everyday object. You'll never look at another French-fry box in quite the same way!

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