

Plenty to See at The Tutt Street Gallery

Another visit to the Tutt Street Gallery is to be another visit of discovery. I mentioned before, the personal appeal of the art of Danny McBride, Hans Bachmann and Dongmin Lai makes it always a treat to see new works from each of them. Mr. Lai, who largely through his recent Canadian Citizenship and the efforts of Sandra at the gallery, has become the Canadian agent for two new Beijing artists who have chosen to exhibit in China. Xiao Peng paints detailed realism in vibrant colours while Yu paints more thought provoking pieces with a tone-on-tone approach. I prefer this softer style. "Suchow Mother and Daughter" transports me to what I fantasize would be the wonder of exploring the peaceful beauty of non-commercial everyday life in this city of islands. The tranquility captured in this scene is hard to describe. "Cobblestone Alley", while not a lot different in colours, evokes an entirely different emotion for me. Rather than providing answers, this piece created intriguing questions about the mysteries of the Orient off the beaten

track. Both are beautiful, but I vote for "Suchow".

New, at least to me, are the wildly colourful, charming folksy and very popular pieces by Quebec artist Diane Brunet. Simple, ordinary folks, involved in simple everyday tasks and pleasures, presented in a simple uncomplicated style are sure to generate a smile and a sense of personal identity with the simple unstressed part of your life, whether that's reality or just a fond memory.

I find the work of Michael O'Toole of Vancouver to be very strong. His representational realism is presented in blocks of deep, rich colour. The greens and blues that predominate the Canadian wilderness landscapes create a sense of unthreatening but also uneasy awe at the sheer scope of our bigness. The warm shades of gold, orange, brown and red in his Mediterranean and Tuscany images are enough to prompt a call to the travel agent. I love the wine, music, joie de vie and romance of the Southern Europe so pieces like "Tuscan Orchard House" and "Shadow of Portovenere" really touch me



WAYNE
EVANS

Fine Art and You

where I live.

I have mentioned the metal sculpture of Kelowna's Greg Metz before, but I can't end this without expressing again how magic it is. I've been focusing on three dimensional art around the city and there is no shortage of beautiful work. Greg's creations are an entirely different kind of beautiful. Highly stylized, intricately simple (there's an oxymoron), these steel and brass sculptures are in a class by themselves. My favorites at the time of my visit were: "Jazzman", "Dip", and especially "Precious", a full size "other woman" I could have in the house with no fear of wifely jealousy. There are plenty of reasons to revisit the Tutt Street Gallery. Try to get there before my favorites go away.

Even before that, go to the **Hambleton**

Gallery this evening to enjoy the artist's reception for the opening of the Ken Gillespie show entitled "Merging Influences". This Penticton artist will be in attendance and you can preview the exhibition at www.hambletongalleries.com. The reception hours are 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

The art of Isaac Bignell has become increasingly rare and in great demand in recent years. This woodlands Cree artist died about 4 years ago so fewer collectors are prepared to part with his work.

Turtle Island Gallery is thrilled to report they recently gained access to a collection of 12 originals: The early bird gets the worm!

Stop in at **The Evans Gallery** and ask to see "Up a Tree - Lion Cub". This new Robert Bateman print is the most delightful to come along in recent years. It is a small print, both in dimensions and edition size, that is headed for a quick sell-out. If you are a Bateman fan or a wildlife collector, get your name on this one.

Watch for my column May 3rd for details of the special events and artist appearances planned for Spring Wine Festival at the Galleries on Saturday, May 5th from noon until 4:00 pm.

ught to you by your favorite Kelowna Galleries:

TUTT STREET GALLERY
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Kelowna
Phone: 861-4992

THE EVANS GALLERY
EST. 1986
571 Lawrence Avenue
Kelowna
Phone: 861-4422
Fax: 868-3377
email: wevans@okanagan.net

THE GRAND GALLERY
Grand Hotel Lobby
Kelowna
Phone: 860-2242
Fax: 860-2054
website: www.einerssen.com
email: gmdgalry@silik.net

HAMBLETON GALLERIES
781 Bernard Avenue
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