



Mouse Woman drawing by Luke J. Parnell

The Beat

**A monthly newsletter about the art of
First Nations on Canada's West Coast**

We respectfully acknowledge the Coast Salish Peoples, on whose traditional territories we live and work, and all the First Nations of the Pacific coast.

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This is the forty-sixth issue of The Beat, a free, independent newsletter that brings you up-to-date on the art, artists and events of the First Nations on Canada's Pacific Coast.

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Michael Dangeli and Mique'l Askren
Wedding and Potlatch August 2011, Metlakatla Alaska

Photo: Ann Cameron

Nisga'a artist **Michael Dangeli** and **Mique'l Askren**, a PhD candidate in First Nations art history and Director of the Duncan Cottage Museum in the Tsimshian community of Metlakatla Alaska were married in a beautiful ceremony that drew on both their traditions, and their creativity. At the wedding potlatch, the day after the marriage, spectacular dances by performing groups from Metlakatla, Ketchikan, White Horse and Vancouver entertained the guests, who also had the privilege of eating traditional native foods over the two days of celebrations.



Haida artist Holly Churchill weaves at Santa Fe Indian Market

The **Indian Art Market**, held annually since 1922 in **Santa Fe** New Mexico in mid-August is the largest event of its kind in the world. The emphasis is on quality and authenticity, said the organizers, citing its mission of bringing "Native arts to the world by inspiring artistic excellence, fostering education, and creating meaningful partnerships." Many awards honour outstanding exhibitors. Artists work in traditional media, but also cinema, photography, and clothing. This year 1100 artists participated, attracting over 100,000 visitors from all over the world; the economic impact is estimated to be over \$100 million. About two-thirds of the vendors are from New Mexico, and until this year only those with membership in Federally-recognized tribes in the United States were welcomed to the market. Sealaska Heritage Institute, a native company formed in 1980 to develop culture and language programs, sent its first delegation to the Market, with the goal of eventually developing a native art market in Alaska on the model of the Santa Fe event. Weavers played a larger role in 2011 than ever before. **Holly Churchill** and **Clarissa Hudson-Rizal** brought Haida and Tlingit weaving to the event. This year for the first time First Nations artists from Canada joined the Market as exhibitor/vendors.

Santa Fe 2012 Indian Market applications will be available online in November. If you would like an application, email your address to privera@swaia.org.



State of Flux, Steve Smith
Lattimer Gallery

The **Lattimer Gallery** in Vancouver is presenting *State of Flux*, a show of work by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Steve Smith Dla'kwagila, September 24 to October 8 2011.. The project began with a commission, entitled *Sea to Sky*, from the Vancouver Airport, for twelve 36" elk-hide drums. Unfavourable environmental conditions interfered with the original pieces, since replaced at the airport. The re-worked original drums are now to be exhibited along with the replacement pieces. A preview will be available online from September 17.

<http://www.lattimergallery.com>



Two Works by Sonny Assu from his exhibition *Longing*
West Vancouver Museum September 14 to November 5 2011

Artist **Sonny Assu's** exhibition *Longing* opens at the West Vancouver Museum with a reception at 7 pm on September 13.

Longing includes found cedar 'masks' retrieved from piles of debris left over from the manufacturing of prefabricated log homes. The masks will be exhibited along with photographs of them installed within three sites: The UBC Museum of Anthropology, a commercial NWC art gallery and a tourist shop.

Assu will give a talk at the Museum about his work on October 19. The show continues until November 5 2011.

http://westvancouvermuseum.ca/exhibitions/upcoming_exhibitions/sonny_assu_longing

Art, Revolution and Ownership: Who Owns the Public Domain? Artists in Conversation with Copyright is a series of events concerned with issues of ownership and art. On September to 10 2011, performances and discussions will be held in or near the Simon Fraser University's Woodward's downtown campus in Vancouver. First Nations artists **Sonny Assu** and **Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**, as well as dance and legal experts in the field of copyright law will present ideas, art and lead conversations.

For more information see <http://aro.artistslegaloutreach.ca>



Corey Bulpitt and his mural, 2011

Haida artist **Corey Bulpitt** has completed a street mural on 4th Avenue under the Granville Street Bridge in Vancouver, sponsored by Native Northwest. Bulpitt painted a wide Raven mural in the same location in 2008.

Native Northwest/Garfinkel Publications has released its 2012 calendar, *The Gathering*, illustrated with outstanding First Nations art.

To see the full range of Northwest Coast First Nations material, including educational publications for children, see: <http://www.nativenorthwest.com>

The **Stonington Gallery** in Seattle has opened two exhibitions of contemporary Tlingit art. In her first solo show, **Clarissa Rizal**, Tlingit weaver and painter, is exhibiting colourful paintings inspired by Chilkat weavings and button robes. <http://www.stoningtongallery.com>

The **Museum of Anthropology** in Vancouver is celebrating the gift of a Musqueam name for the museum's welcome plaza on September 18: *aḥiwān ce:p kʷθəθ nəVéyət* /Remember your teachings. Also of note is the installation of two new Musqueam artworks, *Salish Footprint* by **Susan Point** and *Transformation* by **Joe Becker**. <http://www.moa.ubc.ca>



Hakai Luxvbalis Conservancy Area
Photo: Gail Ross, BC Parks

Calvert Island, on the central coast of British Columbia, is a site of increasing interest to First Nations and archaeologists. The Heiltsuk and Wukinuxv bands claim the area as part of their traditional territory. It is very likely the legendary Heiltsuk winter village of Luxvbalis.

Dr. Farid Rahemtulla of the University of Northern British Columbia initiated a dig in the shell midden with students this summer. They have found stone tools and bone implements possibly 6,000 to 10,000 years old.

See http://www.unbc.ca/releases/2011_/08_04fieldschool.html



SFU's Rudy Reimer holds a replica of a the bentwood boxes that will receive the remains of the Namu ancestors

Photo: SFU

In the 1960's and '70's Simon Fraser University Professor **Roy Carlson** lead a group of archaeologists who excavated 1,000 to 5,000 year old remains of Heiltsuk ancestors on the island of **Namu**, north of Vancouver Island. The remains were studied, and DNA and other analyses are being carried out.

Now, the ancestors are coming home to their burial place. On September 2 2011, Professor Carlson, **Chief Harvey Humchett** and the **Heiltsuk Tribal Council** reburied the remains.

<http://www.sfu.ca/pamr/media-releases/2011/ancestral-remains-make-historic-trip-home.html>

The **Vancouver Art Gallery's** exhibition *The Colour of My Dreams: The Surrealist Revolution in Art* has brought a large number of visitors to the gallery. Before its closing on October 2 2011, a lecture series is being offered to deepen public understanding of its complex themes. On Tuesday September 13 at 7 pm, Haisla artist **Lyle Wilson** and **Jennifer Kramer**, curator of the Pacific Northwest at UBC's Museum of Anthropology, give a talk on Cognitive mapping, the Surrealists' interest in indigenous cultural materials and contemporary ideas on repatriation of cultural property. For further information:

http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events_and_programs/lectures_talks.html#ss1

In Victoria BC, the University of Victoria's **Legacy Art Gallery** has reopened in its downtown location at the corner of Yates and Broad Streets, with extensive renovations that have added teaching and research facilities. The former Maltwood Gallery on campus will be used for another purpose.

The current exhibition at the Legacy gallery, to October 1 2011, is *Convergence/Divergence: Landscape and Identity on the West Coast*. The selected works focus on First Nations' and settlers' contrasting cultural beliefs and ways of relating to the land on the West Coast. The Gallery has received a BC Arts Council Project Assistance grant to increase accessibility to Indigenous art Collections. For more information, see <http://uvac.uvic.ca/>

Haida artist **Michael Nicoll Yahgulaanas** has been appointed to the Audain Professorship in Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest at the University of Victoria. The teaching appointment is for one year.

His predecessor in the position was **Rebecca Belmore**. Belmore is exhibiting at the University of Victoria, at the Audain Gallery and Atrium, opening at 7 pm on Thursday, September 8 2011.



Bear Pole by Donny Varnell, 2011
Photo: Ann Cameron

Two new poles were raised in August at the **Saxman Totem Park** outside Ketchikan Alaska. The poles are replacements for two deteriorating 1930's poles on the Frog Wall at the entrance to the park. In size and shape they resemble house posts. The Bear poles, carved by Haida artist **Donny Varnell** and Tlingit **Fred Trout**, were raised

with a traditional Tlingit ceremony supervised by senior Saxman artist **Nathan Jackson**.



Israel Shotridge

The exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum *Behind the Scenes: The Real Story of the Quileute Wolves* closed on August 14 2011. (See the excellent SAM website at:

<http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/exhibit/interactives/Quileute/index.html>).

(*Twilight* is a series of fictional books and movies, aimed at young people and involving werewolves, which has brought popular attention and tourists to the community; the hero of the series is ostensibly a community member.)

Recently **Israel Shotridge**, a Tlingit master carver, has undertaken to carve poles and an entrance archway for the Quileute Cemetery in LaPush, Washington, commissioned by the Quileute community leaders.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20110822/news/308229998/master-carver-to-begin-creating-poles-facade-for-quileute-cemetery>

Auctions:

Bonham's in San Francisco will hold its *Arts and Artifacts of the Americas* auction on September 12 2011. See

<http://www.bonhams.com>

Kilshaw's in Victoria holds its *Collectibles & First Nations* auction on September 22 2011. See <http://www.kilshaws.com/>

Cowan's auction of First Nations material will be held in Cincinnati on September 9 2011 at 10 am. See <http://www.cowanauctions.com>



St. Paul's University College at the University of Waterloo in Ontario is looking for a First Nations artist to design an entrance foyer for its new wing dedicated to aboriginal education.

Deadline for submissions is September 30 2011. More information is available at

<http://www.stpauls.uwaterloo.ca/downloads/STPAboriginaArtDesignCompetition.pdf>

For more about St. Paul's aboriginal services

<http://aboriginalservices.uwaterloo.ca/>

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<http://www.coastalartbeat.ca/2011/>

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