Youth art is front and centre

The New Wave, celebrates next generation of artists

Arnold Lim
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West Shore youth are front and centre. Approximately 200 pieces, crafted by the students of Royal Bay, Belmont and the Westshore Centre for Learning and Training, show off more than just the artistic acumen of young artists. Royal Bay art teacher Regen Rasmussen says The New Wave, hosted by the Coast Collective, is a collection of stories told by local youth.

"I think what viewers will be really impressed by is the range of vision through the eyes of the students, they speak through their art," she says. "The students want the viewer to see the wide range of media and wide range of narrative they have to tell... That is what art is. We live narratively and art is part of our narrative voice."

Grades 9 through 12 are represented at the show featuring numerous mediums from photography, painting, transfers, drawings and 3-dimensional art. The showcase has already begun at the new home of the Coast Collective gallery on Wale Road and runs through May 15. The awards reception takes place tonight, May 13, at 7 p.m.

"What we do throughout the year is encourage all the students, not just those that know they are artistically talented to seek their inner artist and become able to express themselves through their artistic voice," she continues. "It's not just for the elite, what it's shown is a really high calibre - we have beginner arts students to advanced placement."

Eighteen-year-old artist Hannah Jubb says the annual exhibit provides an important experience for young artists and appreciates the opportunity to present the hard work amassed over the year.

"It's nice to express the creativity and invite everyone to see what me and the classmates have been doing," Jubb says. "(The art) has been held in our classroom and now we are just breaking it free."

The Colwood resident, sees three pieces showcased at the exhibit, two photo transfers onto wood, and a still-life drawing with chalk. She welcomes the public to take it in and meet the artists.

"What you see is not always what the story is, that is what is really neat. I can talk about what it means and show off what I have," she says. "One thing nice about art is you can find new things in what you do, I guess through making a lot of my art I found new ways to express myself."

The exhibition runs daily until May 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Coast Collective gallery, 103-318 Wale Rd. For more information visit coastcollective.ca

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Eighteen-year-old Hannah Jubb, shows off some of her work at Royal Bay secondary school.

Helping the hungry isn't rocket science for these builders

M'akola and architect last teamed up on Goldstream Ave. build

Charla Huber
Special to Black Press

Kevin Albers and Christopher Rowe, along with their teammates from M'akola Development Services (MDS) and Low Hammond Rowe Architects, have created a rocket out of cans of food.

It's all part of Canstruction, an event that began with the building by teams last weekend and continues this week at Mayfair Centre. It's a cross between an artistic competition and a food drive.

"We've partnered with Low Hammond Rowe Architects on many projects and it's great we spend time with their team outside of the office and help people at the same time," said MDS CEO Kevin Albers. "At MDS we are thriving on constructing affordable housing. Unfortunately, many of the tenants living in M'akola Housing's homes and other affordable housing depend regularly on food banks."

The rocket, inspired by the 1953 Adventures of Tintin comic book *Destination Moon*, stands 2.5 metres tall. "Our spaceship uses the nostalgic imagery of Tintin's adventures to remind us that optimism for the future is always needed. It is ready to launch, with the message that helping the hungry isn't rocket science," explains Rowe, an architect and partner with the firm.

"I designed it using tiny cylinders and stacked them in virtual spaces," said Rowe, whose firm is based in Saanich. "It's still very similar to designing buildings."

This is not the first time MDS and Rowe's firm have partnered. The firm has created and designed several projects for M'akola Housing and its clients across the province, including the organization's latest completed project, at 550 Goldstream Ave. The building brought 36 new affordable family homes to Langford, as well as the M'akola Housing and MDS provincial head offices.

"Whether we are teaming up for a new development or a charitable event such as Canstruction, we are always excited to be working with M'akola," Rowe said.

Albers echoed the sentiment. "Low Hammond and Rowe create beautiful affordable housing projects and we are happy to partner with them in this charity project, bringing thousands of cans of food to help out our tenants and others in the community."

The Dahlia Society organizes the event and all of the food used will be donated to the Mustard Seed Food Bank.

"Last year at this time, their shelves were bare and when we delivered all the food the volunteers were in tears. It was moving," said Christopher Mavrikos, founder and executive director of the Dahlia Society. Last year 30,656 cans were donated.

The colossal can structures will be on display until May 16 at Mayfair Centre. Family Can Day is tomorrow (May 14) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be face painting, kids' activities and a media challenge.

The public is encouraged to vote on their favourite structure. To vote, bring two cans of food or a $2 donation.

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Kevin Albers (right) and Chris Rowe adjust soup cans as they build a rocket ship at Mayfair Mall.
Photo by Charla Huber