

# Art gallery hosts monthly exhibitions

The Shuswap Art Gallery Association Public Gallery is easy to find. Just look for the building that is covered by Virginia Creeper. The street address 70 Hudson Avenue N.E.

The building itself is listed in the local Heritage registry, as it was built in 1937.

SAGA works hard at bringing exciting and interesting shows to the gallery every month throughout the year and this year is no different. It's open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that on the opening of any exhibit, there is an opening reception the evening before at 7 p.m.

**May** - "Who's Driving the Bus?" exhibition goes from May 8th to 30th. This is a collection of art from students around School District 83 and as it is with kids, anything goes.

**June** - "Retrospective - Bern Smith Invitational." Bern Smith passed away last year. His work is known and appreciated internationally. Smith moved to the Shuswap in 1969. He was a water-colour artist and often displayed work in the tea house called "The Beginning." He was actively involved in Shuswap Theatre. He began teaching at the Banff School of Fine Arts and moved there in 1985.

In this display you'll find Harlequin Romances on display from the early 70s because Smith did a lot of covers for Harlequin. There will be many of his pictures on display from private collections and Haney Heritage House will have, at the same time, a display of his pictures of early Salmon Arm pioneers. The show is on from June 5th to 26th.

**July** - The July "HERS - The Sky is the Limit: Portraits" exhibition artists are Izabela Orzelski-Konikowski and Bogdan Koral Konikowski. These artists are from Edmonton. While SAGA generally exhibits only local artists in the summer, this exhibit only travels in the summer, so SAGA made an exception this time because the exhibit is powerful and dedicated to important females in the artistic world.

**August** - "Paint the Town." This is now an indispensable part of Salmon Arm's summer. Thirty local artists pick locations around town and paint the scene on August 7th. The opening reception takes place that evening at 7 p.m. Part of its popularity, says Executive Director SAGA Public Art Gallery Tracey Kutschker, is that it "demystifies the artistic process."

Feel free to stop and watch or ask questions. They've all been doing this a long time and they look forward to the chats as well. The paintings created on this day stay in the gallery from the opening reception on the 7th until the 28th, and are auctioned off through a silent auction.



Paint the Town



SAGA Public Art Gallery is located downtown

**September** - "The Story of Ruth - A water-colour journal by A.A. Brooke." If you don't like anyone to see you cry, you might need to avoid this month's show. Artist Arthur Brooke lived in Silver Creek in the 1930s. He and his wife had a child later in life and from Brooke's journals his wife seemed to be sickly and little Ruth was her father's constant pal. The watercolours show the story of Ruth growing up with the first picture being Brooke's wife getting in the car to go to the hospital in the middle of the night when the baby was due.

This isn't a show you can hurry through as fragments of Brooke's diary will accompany the pictures and it's nice to read the commentary. Haney Heritage House will also have displays to accompany this show. It runs from September 4th to the 25th.

**October** - "Autumn - by Ed's Painters." Ed Fuginski and several ladies have been painting together in the SAGA Art Gallery for years. Instead of working in the lower level, they'll be on display in the upper level. This promises to be a fun show you won't want to miss. It runs from the 2nd to the 30th.

**November** - "Power Comes in the Form of a Circle - David Wilson: paintings." What year would be complete without some First Nations art? Wilson powerfully combines traditional elements with contemporary art. There are plans to include other local First Nations artists in this show as well. This exhibit runs from November 6th to the 26th.

**December** - "Affordable Art Fair." After a year's worth of exciting exhibits you will be inspired to spruce up your own space with some art. This is the chance to buy some at - like the sign says - affordable prices. The pieces which can range from jewellery to pottery to paintings are all under \$200. Buy yourself a Christmas present, something you can enjoy for the rest of your life. This show runs from 4th to 11th and a quilt exhibition goes up from the 12th to the 22nd.

For more information go to [www.sagapublicartgallery.ca](http://www.sagapublicartgallery.ca).

## Arts and crafts for children on Saturdays

On Saturday afternoons throughout the year, the Shuswap Art Gallery Association offers free arts and craft projects for families.

It's geared for kids aged 3 to 13. The parents and children come to the lower level of the SAGA Public Art Gallery to get involved in some kind of art. It could be watercolour or collage, flower petal pictures or card making, to name a few varieties. It only takes about half an hour so it's not a long time commitment.

"It's a time for families to be creative together," says Tracey Kutschker, Executive Director of SAGA Public Art Gallery. Not only is the goal to have families do something creative together, it's

also to help young people feel comfortable in a gallery and give them a lifelong appreciation of art.

"It's making sure kids feel welcome in the art gallery. There's a belief that kids aren't welcome - they might touch or break something. That's not the way we are."

The Family Saturdays go from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Sometimes it's busier than other times but there's room for everyone and kids get to take home their art projects.

The SAGA Art Gallery is located at 70 Hudson Avenue N.E. Phone 250-832-1170 for more information.