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The Museum Post

Winter 2023-2024

Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday, 12 noon—4 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays

From the Director's Desk—Priorities for 2024

Haisla Artists Exhibition

[Haisla Artists](#), set for May 8 to July 13, 2024, is an opportunity to celebrate cultural and artistic identity. For the Museum, it is critical outreach to foster relationships with local artists. It is also the way forward with reconciliation and the plan to share a future facility for arts, heritage, and culture with the Haisla Nation. Of note, arts can be any creation and can be contemporary or traditional or both.

Funding is needed to cover the costs of paying artists a competitive amount for their participation as stated by CARFAC (Canadian Artist's Representation), shipping/crating, advertising, and producing an exhibition booklet. Preference for production of the exhibition booklet – research/writing, photography, and editing – will be given to Haisla community members. Additional planning includes an opening reception for artists and community

members on Friday, May 10, with a performance by a Haisla drum group. The opening will occur at the City Centre Mall, with opportunities to walk over and view the show in the Museum Upstairs Gallery. A photographic exhibition of the artists and their artwork will be hung in the City Centre Mall space. Interest has been expressed by both emerging and professional artists including Lyle Wilson.

The total cost of the show is anticipated to be \$21,000. Funding partners include District of Kitimat, Rio Tinto, JGC Fluor, and LNG Canada. The Exhibition Committee will assist with sharing the Call for Entry and planning, and encourage all artists to get involved. There is still time. The entry form deadline is Friday, February 16.

New Permanent Exhibitions

Work will proceed on assessment and maintenance of permanent exhibitions. Images need updating, drawer sliders need repairing, and natural history displays need cleaning, setup, and information review.

In the town history area on the main floor, discoloured images will be replaced. Two history panels recalling transportation on the Alcan Project will be created. Research and writing continues on the Gisela Mendel Geology and Fossil Collection area panels.

Feasibility Study for a Shared Museum

Conversation continues with the Haisla Nation and District of Kitimat regarding investing in a [shared museum facility](#) that explores the history of both communities and highlights the rich culture and achievements of the Haisla Nation. A Planning Committee will be identified in the near future. Museum staff are arranging to take elected officials, community members, and staff to visit two Indigenous-run museum facilities in the Northwest region in May.

HAISLA ARTISTS ya'uc'
REGISTER
Open Calls for Entry

Indigenous art is diverse, dynamic, and always relevant.
The artistic tradition of the Haisla has existed for millennia and remains integral to the culture. As an institution founded on unceded Haisla Territory, the Kitimat Museum & Archives would like to acknowledge this ongoing legacy by hosting a Haisla art show from May 8th until July 13th, 2024.

Both emerging and established artists are encouraged to submit original pieces, either to showcase or to sell.
Artists will receive payment for their participation.
An exhibit booklet will feature artists and photographs of their work.

Painting
Sketching
Carving
Jewellery
Textiles
Weaving
Photography
Music/Film
Written Word

Find entry forms online at
www.kitimatmuseum.ca
For more information call 250-632-8950

Temporary Exhibitions 2024

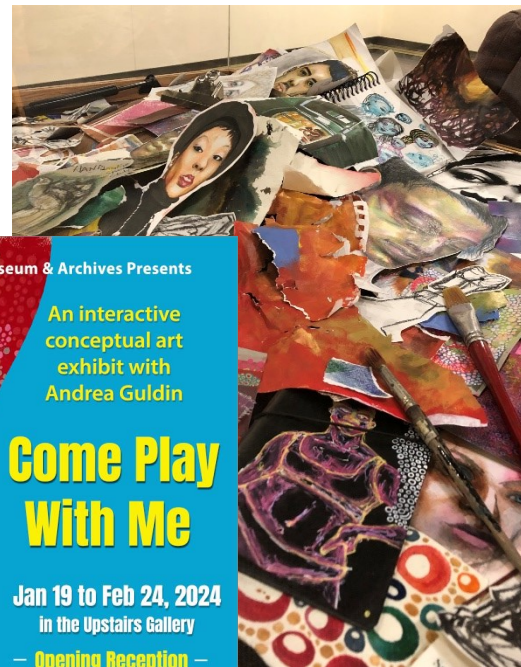
We are getting the year rolling with our first art exhibit “Come Play With Me – An Interactive Conceptual Art Exhibit,” by local artist Andréa Guldin, continuing until February 24.

“Come Play With Me” is half interactive conceptual art, half artist’s showcase. It invites the viewer to explore with their hands and minds while enjoying Andréa’s unique, textural, and colour-saturated style. Subject matter ranges from abstract colour exploration to nuanced explorations of humanity.

Andréa is an art teacher, creative writing coach, and accessibility advocate. This is her second solo show with the Kitimat Museum & Archives. She also exhibited a piece in the summer 2023 community show, “Made by Hand.” Through her series of interactive artworks, she proposes the theory that while the desire to create may be an innate human need, creativity itself is a learned skill – one which anyone can develop.

The line-up of exhibitions for 2024 continues with the following:

- ◆ **Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art**, March 1—30
- ◆ **Insights: High School Art**, April 5—May 4
- ◆ **Haisla Artists**, May 8—July 13
- ◆ **Rebecca Mason Art**, July 19—August 30
- ◆ Royal BC Museum Travelling Exhibition, **BC’s Marvellous Mushrooms**, September 7— Nov 23
- ◆ **Artisan Christmas Gift Store**, November 29—December 24



Upcoming Exhibit: Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art

Since 2010, the KMA has had the privilege of hosting the annual student exhibition of the [Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art](#), from [Coast Mountain College](#) in Terrace. This unique institution — the only school of its kind in Canada — offers Fine Arts Certificates and Diplomas with a focus on traditional First Nations Pacific Northwest Coast art, including painting and woodcarving. The yearly exhibition gives first- and second-year students the opportunity to showcase their art to the public in a gallery setting.

The show is currently on display at the Terrace Art Gallery for the month of February. It will be at the KMA from March 1st to 30th, in the upstairs gallery. A public opening reception will be held on the evening of March 1st.

Freda Diesing School is named after Skil Kew Wat, also known as Freda Diesing (1925-2002), a Haida master carver from Prince Rupert. She and several other Indigenous artists helped bring about a reawakening of Northwest Coast arts and culture in the 1960s. Diesing received an honorary diploma from Coast Mountain College in 2000.



Collections Corner

Holly Peterson, Collections & Programming

Since our Fall 2023 newsletter was published, we've received quite a few interesting additions to our collection—including artifacts, archival materials, and even archaeological finds! Let's take a look at them in this issue's Collections Corner.

The Kitimat Museum serves as a repository for items uncovered in archaeological digs throughout our area. Last November, we were sent a number of artifacts collected by the archaeological firm Stantec during work near the LNGC terminal. These items represent multiple layers of Kitimat's history. The oldest is a stone hand maul dating to between 3,500 BCE (BC) and 500 CE (AD). These hardy tools were used by the Haisla and other Indigenous peoples for crushing, grinding, and hammering. Other archaeological items discovered were stone cores with flakes removed, several bird and mammal bones, and turn-of-the-century refuse from the Anderson family farm (1898-1926). These items were recently shown by Museum staff to visiting Grade 7 students from Mount Elizabeth School.



Archaeological items received by the Museum. L: horse, cow, heron and eagle bones. Bottom left: stone maul and cores. Bottom right: glass bottles, part of a leather shoe, ceramic bowl fragments, steel plate, all from Anderson ranch. (KMA No. 2023.40.1-14)



Raechel Tupman of Victoria recently donated several documents owned by her late father, Dennis Tupman. Mr. Tupman was well-known for establishing the school band at Mount Elizabeth, where he taught from 1957 to 1971. It was under his leadership that the band performed at the Expo '67 World's Fair in Montreal. The documents donated by Raechel include programmes for school concerts, Christmas concerts, BC centennial celebrations, Remembrance Day, and the official opening of Mount Elizabeth School, all dating from 1958 to 1967.

A former resident of Kitimat, Keith Williams, sent us a lovely green Cub Scout sweater that he had worn here as a boy in the 1950s. It includes patches from both Canada and England, where his family moved after leaving Kitimat. I had a wonderful phone conversation with Keith in which he reminisced about his childhood down at Smeltersite — which he has described as an “amazing experience” and a “wonderful time.”



Keith Williams' Cub Scout sweater (KMA No. 2024.3.1)

Some readers may have known Gisela Mendel, the Museum's first Curator, who worked here from 1969-1981. Mrs. Mendel's family recently sent us some mementoes of her time in northern BC - photocopied log books from her family's cabin on Clague Mountain (1960-1970), written records of trips the family took throughout the region, and a scrapbook/photo album documenting her 1999 trip from Smithers to Telegraph Creek. Although not all these records relate to Kitimat specifically, they reflect Gisela's vision of the Museum as having a regional, rather than just a local, scope. They have been added to our archives' Gisela Mendel fonds.

More artifacts donated in the last few months include:

- A wide assortment of items from Maria Knight, most of them advertising local businesses and organizations: 4 baseball caps, phonebook covers, letter openers, 6 pens, 11 matchbooks, a Hudson Bay Company penknife, and a stamp used by the Kitimat Choristers; as well as mementoes given to her husband during his time with The Bay and Alcan: a silk sash with the names of his HBC coworkers, 1963, and a set of aluminum napkin rings made by a member of Alcan's HR dept.
- A gavel used by the Kitimat Kinsmen Club—from Glen Kaldenhoven.
- A aluminum ingot from Josephine Kaldenhoven, found under her house and likely made by her grandfather Hans, who used to work at Alcan.
- A JGC Fluor/LNG notebook with a pictorial timeline of the project's development—from Mike Avery.
- A framed thermometer from Coulter Electric Limited—from Grant MacDermid.

Museum in the Classroom

We are pleased to welcome Anna Robertson and Hayley Dennill, the new Instructor and Assistant for our **Museum in the Classroom** Art Workshops! This fun and popular program introduces students in grades K-7 to the use of oil pastels, tempura paint, charcoal and more. We currently have over 100 sessions booked in Kitimat's three elementary schools as well as Haisla Community School in Kitimaat Village.



Museum Explorers

We are currently seeking a new instructor for our **Museum Explorers** program, which delivers educational kits and activities to local elementary schools. Our previous instructor, Reid Nelson, has accepted a teaching position in Nunavut until mid-June. Best of luck to Reid — we will all miss his enthusiasm, can-do attitude, and excellent sense of humour.

This is a short-term position with sporadic hours, and is best suited to someone with a flexible schedule and lots of free time, such as a retired teacher.

Wage: \$26/hr. + mileage. Approx. 22-30 hrs. of work
Contact hpeterson@kitimatmuseum.ca or phone 250-632-8950 if interested!



Living Landscapes: Memories of the Project—now online!

Back in 2005, the Royal British Columbia Museum launched the Northwest chapter of its Living Landscapes project. This ambitious initiative was an effort to amass a record of BC's human and natural history from museums, archives, First Nations, and other agencies across the province. As part of this endeavor, the KMA interviewed around 30 individuals who had been involved with the Kitimat Project in the 1950s. Their stories were added to the RBCM's website as part of the Living Landscapes project. However, as time went on, this website was eventually taken down.

Recently, KMA staff have re-created our portion of Living Landscapes as one of the virtual exhibits available on our website. "Living Landscapes: Memories of the Project" tells the story of the Town of Kitimat's early days through quotations, photographs, and a wealth of thoroughly-researched information. It recounts the origins of the Kitimat Project in the post-WWII aluminum craze, the

Living Landscapes: Memories of the Project

Royal BC Museum's Living Landscapes

Setting In

Kitimat Beginnings

It was a neat community because everybody was new there. We were meeting new friends and they were coming from all walks of life and parts of the world... British name it... it was like little Europe at that time. (Terry Vlastchovsky not Coghlin)

The Stage is Set

The Vision, the Plan

Making It Happen

Reservoir and Dam

The Tunnel

Powerhouse

Kemano

Transmission Line

The Smelter

The Town of Kitimat

Jack Cummer worked at first for the Hudson's Bay Company at Smeltersite, an record store as well as Coghlin Hardware in Nechako Centre.

I left the Hudson's Bay Company with another fellow. By this time the Nechako (neighborhood) had opened up the big shopping centre. We opened a company called Northern Radio and Record Supplies... Johnny was the radio operator in Kitimat. And so I went in with him and managed the record business. And it was certainly interesting because there was no radio in Kitimat at all... we had a clothing business... every night a fellow that became a friend of mine who worked in the pharmacy... would come over to the store and we'd have a few drinks. He had a great big record player with a twelve-inch speaker on it. I guess we were sort of carrying on, having a bit of a party. We were called weekly. One night I got outside and there were about 40 or 50 cars.

A screenshot from the Museum's newest virtual exhibit.

Kenney Dam, the Mount DuBose tunnel, the Kemano Powerhouse, and the transmission line to smeltersite; and the creation of the new, multicultural town of Kitimat. The website can be accessed at <https://search.kitimatmuseum.ca>