

Winter 08 / Spring 09 Some Kootenay Arts Talk vol. 4, NO.1

SKAAT

A Free Artist Run Magazine

In the Moment

Lasha Mutual

Art Classes

Ted Crosfield

Art for the Heart

The Abusive Father



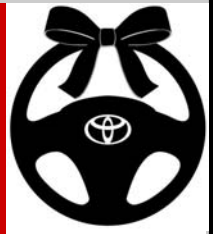
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We are always interested in
 submissions of short stories,
 reviews, poetry, artwork
 and cartoons

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Editors Note

Some Kootenay Arts Talk, SKAT known by most, is a free artist run publication that serves the West Kootenays. It's main goal is to help promote individual artists and give a free voice to anyone in the community that wishes to speak. In turn this publication is supported and paid for through the community it serves and has no government funding.

The very first Skat came out in Feb 2004 and consisted of two folded pages. In Dec 2005 I put out the last issue, making 22 issues in total and then put the publication to sleep due to professional burn out. I guess I'm a sucker for punishment because three years later, I'm doing it again!

The thing about running an underground publication is that you never really know what is going to happen. I've been fortunate to met some very interesting people through Skat who I would never have met otherwise. Strangely enough, Skat made it into the in the Northwest US, well outside its distribution. It was known as a very cool underground Canadian publication and it's issues became quite sought after. Bizarre eh? I hope you enjoy this, our 23 issue of Skat and please feel free to let us know what you think.

Editor Karla Pearce



YELLOW-JELLO MOON

cougar eyes
 road lies
 ribbon light
 devil night
 cloud song
 nothing wrong
 burned hill
 road kill
 coyote yip
 rose hip
 caddis fly
 blink of eye
 winter soon
 yellow-jello moon

Linda Lee Crosfield

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Call For Submissions

Artists are needed to submit material for local art book. This hard cover book will provide an overview of contemporary art in the East and West Kootenays. The goal of the book, *Fine Art of the Kootenays*, is to stimulate, broaden, encourage and facilitate the continuing development of artists and their projects. Plans are in the works to have the book placed in Vancouver at the 2010 Olympics be a resource for artists, galleries, schools, museums, dealers and art collectors who are interested in learning about the artists and the art unique to this region. The goal is 100 pages of 100 artists. The book is currently 1/3 full with artist such as Graham Gillmore, Sandra Donohue, Jenny Baillie, Rick Foulger, Mary Anne Bidder and Ted Wallace to name a few. For more info contact editor at www.karlapearce.net

On the Cover



Photo- Karla Pearce By Jennifer Bredl. Jennifer Bredl is a West Kootenay poet, scriptwriter, publisher, actress and photographer. She lives in Nelson BC with her partner and her six children.

Women and Their Wisdom the fine art of Lasha Mutual



A Taste of Kootenay Arts by Kristin Krimmel

Rossland Community Pottery Society in the historic Miner's Hall.

In a recent mid-career shift, Mutual has moved from oil painting and architectural stain-glass work to pottery, currently focusing her energy on learning to throw basic forms on a wheel, then experimenting with under glazing and glazes to decorate the them before firing. She's excited by the idea of painting on functional, three-dimensional forms to create an object that might become a person's favorite vase, mug, cup or bowl.

With mural sized mosaics and stain glass architectural elements, Lasha Mutual has established a career in architectural decor. At Heriot Bay Inn on Quadra Island, light shines through underwater images, separating booths in the restaurant and coloring the lights above the exterior doors. Her most recent stain glass windows project uses an image of birds perching on a telephone wire. These have been incorporated into the lights above the two washroom doors on the main floor of the Old Firehall.

On the main floor of the Old Firehall the Rossland Tea and Coffee company and the OFH Wine Bar share the same space. Mutual's large oil paintings hang on the darkly varnished wood walls, bringing life and mystery to the grand open space. The paintings are filled with half life sized figures, mostly of women, in symbolic stance. The women symbolize life events and emotions, many relating to Mutual herself. Recently sold, *The Three Sisters*, shows three women in print-patterned dresses. One is holding a cabbage representing earthiness, fertility, the life cycle of women, and their wisdom. The next figure holds flowers and the third is covered with a butterfly print dress. Mutual says she the symbolism comes unconsciously. It's not pre-planned but develops as she paints.

In another large oil, *Jonah's wife*, a long dark-haired woman represents female attributes, speaking about beauty below the surface and the expectation of women to have a pretty veneer.

In *Root*, Mutual herself is reflected in the woman standing with a large ginseng root representing being uprooted by moving

In a small studio in Rossland's Old Firehall, Lasha Mutual leans over her potter's wheel embracing her latest lump of mother earth's clay, centering it, pulling it, coaxing it into a vessel. The surrounding walls are lined with shelving to store her drying pots. When time and circumstances permit, she joins other ceramicists of the

Rossland Community Pottery Society in the historic Miner's Hall.

from place to place. The unusual object is held out at arms-length. It's certainly not a traditional self-portrait, but it speaks strongly of her quiet interpretation of events in own her life, while still providing an archetypal message for all women.

Mutual's imagery returns frequently to the female form because, she says, "it is a reflection of my own experience as a woman.



"Three Sisters" by Lasha Mutual

on? In a collaborative effort, Lasha Mutual is doing the decorative glazing of a hand made washbowl, a large lavatory sink thrown by her pottery mentor, Caroline Freeman. Mutual is providing a painted scene of a forest floor on the interior curve of the bowl, complete with life-sized birds, leaves, rocks and a snail within the composition. She says, "I wanted the viewer to feel like they were peeking into a forest scene and having the birds looking up at you.

The strength in Mutual's imagery is its uniqueness. Her ability to translate idea to image and to commit them to a surface, be it canvas, glass or ceramic, with skill and an understanding of the media and its technical craft make these exceptional works of art

If you are visiting Rossland, take time to have a cup of coffee at the Rossland Coffee Company or a glass of Wine in the Old Firehall Wine Bar, all the while enjoying her paintings on view

If travel is not in your upcoming plans, you can see her work at www.lashamutual.com/watercolours and www.lashamutual.com/oils

Kristin Krimmel is a Vancouver based artist, photographer and writer. You can see her work at www.kristinkrimmel.com and read her art commentary at www.artiseterernal.wordpress.com

Somehow, transferring positive sentiments within the work to the viewer is very important to me". It's significant that three of her images on the oil painting section of her web site are entitled Three Sisters. Family and female friendships figure largely in her work.

So what is she currently working

In the Moment

**Karla Pearce
The Creative
Edge**



Like most artists I got hooked on painting at a young age and never stopped. What got me making art was

the way the world melted away when I got deep into a painting. I discovered that when I painted, if I really got into it, I didn't think about the past or future, I was able to release any emotions that I had into the piece and focus on doing that thing, creating right then in the moment. The experience can be quite euphoric and productive at the same time. I guess artists have been doing this since there was art.

Recently some new age enthusiasts have gotten a hold of this idea and use the phrase *livin' in the now* but I don't think it refers to anything creative.

To become an artist a person forms a type of relationship with creativity. It then becomes a learning process where the teacher and pupil are the same individual. Getting there can be quite the journey. It takes many years, hundreds of paintings and a few mind bending euphoric moments. Eventually thinking and seeing creatively will become normal.

One of the things that can happen when artists immerse themselves in their creative now is that they tend to lose other skills like, being organized or decisive or good at doing taxes. They can seem a little distracted or disjointed from everyday life. This is because it is necessary for artists to breathe in the now and live with their eyes wide open, to see the colours of the mountains and sky, perceive the light patterns of rustling leaves or discover a hundred different tones of white in the snow. Artists notice and think about things. Artists collect experiences and shape them into ideas and forms that can later be of use.

The notion of waiting to be inspired is very bizarre to me. A painting starts with some bones of an idea that you have previously collected. The inspiring part comes while you are working, not before. As we paint we may look at a tree or flower or mountain but it is not an artists job to see it as it is; a camera can do that. It is our job to see the thing as we are in that moment in time and record it.

When the brushes are down, and the painting is finished, so is the artist's job. The outcome or the future of a painting is irrelevant. In the end all that matters is the connection with the moment transcribed in such a way that the viewer can see and experience what the artist experienced. It is from this place of communication that new ideas are born, enabling people to focus less on what is there and more on what is possible.



Blueberry School has a new mural!

**This mural was inspired by a photograph taken in 1943 of Blueberry Creek's original school house and student body . With the help of a BC150 Grant Karla Pearce and the local community created a contemporary/ historical vision of the community in which they live.
Special thanks to Bev George.**



Rekindle the Spirit of Christmas at Rouge starting Dec 6. New for the Season: Affordable Originals by Rouge artists, Painting Workshops by Karla Pearce, Andrew Raney sculpture, "The Storytellers" will be unveiled at Rossland Library Dec 6 at 1:00, refreshments afterwards at Rouge Gallery

*Rouge Gallery of Local Art
2123 Columbia Ave in Rossland
Open Mon-Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 11:00-5:00
Tel 250-362-9609*

The Abusive Father

**Robert
Genn
Twice
Weekly
Letter**



Lately there has been a pileup of emails asking for ideas in dealing with abusive

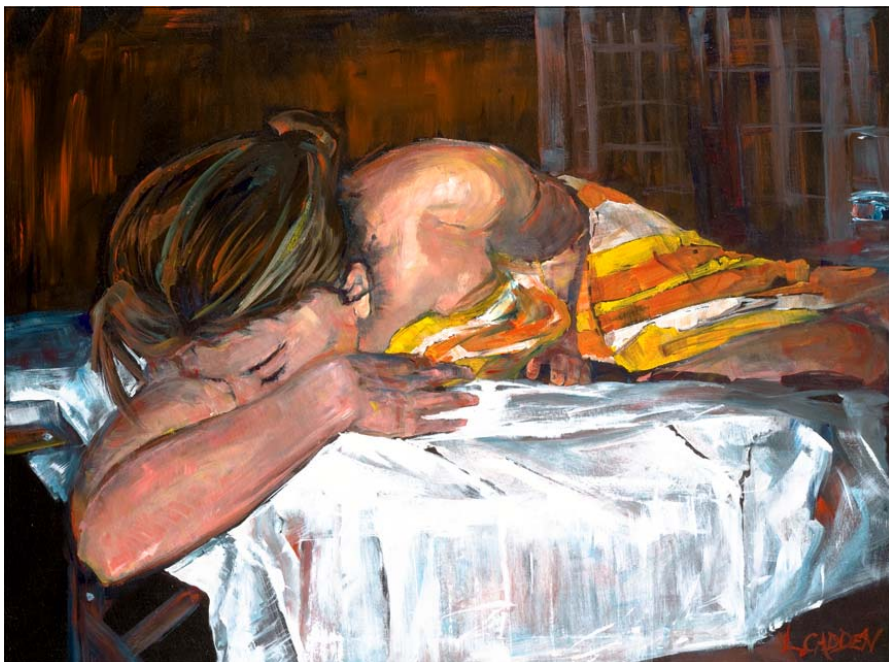
fathers, spouses, and other family members. Writers report stymied growth, inability to concentrate, trust and authority-figure issues, fear, depression, anger and other unpleasanties.

It seems this sort of thing rolls along in some families like a snowball. In talking to former victims, it also seems that forgiveness, together with the calculated act of leaving the abuser behind, can be a key to moving on. Frequently mentioned was the coming to terms, particularly in childhood, with the dual personas--the "bad" one as seen in the eye of the abuser, and the "beautiful" one they feel themselves to be. Interestingly, these transferred, beautiful people are often attracted to quiet, solitary work, the gentleness and nurture of nature, and the private joys of creativity. The "art persona" seems an appealing choice, perhaps because it's more closely attuned to the beautiful inner being.

Abused folks often report trust issues. Distrust of one person migrates to distrust of many. These distrusting folks need to feel a greater calling, and art fills the bill. But there's a catch. Art requires creative evolution, and an artist's self-esteem often depends on external evidence--improvement of work, cash flow, etc. Perceived progress generates self-worth. Without progress, creators wither and die, and they know it. Those without trust may not want to risk progress. Locked learning and the flat-lining of growth are common results. These artists need to be shaken up and reborn. This can be done by solitary self-will or together with a trusted friend or mentor. There's good news--many terrific artists rise and fly from the tangle of abuse.

Psychologists also talk about the "Stockholm Syndrome." The name is based on a situation where thieves broke into a bank in Stockholm and held four people hostage for 131 days. The hostages came to like their captors and tried to defend them when they were finally set free from them. One hostage even accepted a proposal of marriage from one of the thugs. The Stockholm Syndrome suggests a belief in and sympathy for the abuser/controller. Abused people need to understand this condition and the co-dependency that can go with it.

PS: "The only tyrant I accept in this world is the still small voice within me." ([Mahatma Gandhi](#))



Painting by Leanne Cadden
www.leannarto.com/about.html

Esoterica: Late at night, leaving a performance of the National Ballet in Kiev, Ukraine, we made our way through boisterous crowds of young people apparently waiting for buses or trains. Many of them were drinking beer from giant bottles. One couldn't help but notice the collegiality of the scene. It was rough, yes, and full of individualists, but they seemed comfortable and at ease with one another. Something to do with the social fabric, I was thinking. Ukrainians dine together as families, struggle together to make ends meet and seem to know how to interact without passive or other aggression. Anyway, no need for water-cannons in this crowd.

Anise and the Magic Fish

Written and Illustrated by **Karla Pearce**

A girl's magical journey through time and space with a couple of flying fish. Found at Otters Books Nelson, The Kootenay Gallery, Karla Pearce Studio Castlegar and www.lulu.com

The Natural Wood Creations of Ted Crosfield



Ted Crosfield

It's been over two decades since I became interested in the art and craft of woodturning. My interest in turning became a passion. My signed pieces now number over 1300. My work has been selected in juried art shows, and is collected internationally.

Although I work with a powerful motor-driven lathe, my turnings are truly handmade. Each is the result of the interaction between a sharpened steel edge which I guide by eye and hand



Ted Crosfield at work in his Studio in Castlegar

on a chosen piece of wood. I seek grace and animation in my turning so I may honor the spirit which gave life to the tree, a part of which I now use to create form.

The actual contours of the tree define the rim of a natural edge bowl. Inside what appears as a nondescript block of wood I may discover exotic landscapes as the keen-edged gouge slices away that which does not contribute to the final form. Wood destined for the fireplace can turn into a warm-to-the-touch artifact or functional bowl. Just as no two trees are identical, neither are the pieces I turn.

In order to achieve a quality finish I use ten successive grits of sandpaper followed by four coats of hand-rubbed, food-safe oil finish. A final, two-step buffing and the wood glows as if lit from within. By the time I sign one of my turnings, it has spent a significant amount of time in my hands.

When so much of the wood we see is in the form of 2x4's or cabinet doors, we tend to ignore the source. Wood comes from trees. Coniferous trees grow straight and true. Their wood is a delight for building houses or furniture but somewhat bland for turning. Deciduous trees are more likely to

twist as they grow, supporting heavy horizontal branches. Such stresses can appear in the wood as beautiful figure or interesting distortions. A grubby, hard-to-split piece of firewood can be a graceful artifact when turned. Ugly is only skin deep!

Small Dishes and Goblet by Ted Crosfield



Christmas at the Gallery

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www.kootenaygallery.com

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Art For The Heart

by Kate Bridger

One of the best things about a house is that it has walls. They keep out weather, offer privacy and provide places to hang art.

People acquire art for different reasons. Collectors buy it as a commodity. Interior designers use it as a fashion accessory. Homeowners often tack it up just to fill a space.

Others choose art from the heart so the monetary value and purpose of the artwork cease to be important and the simple pleasure of looking at it more than justifies its presence. A child's fridge art or a washed up piece of driftwood may possess far more artistic merit and meaning to you than an obscure abstract sporting a multi-thousand dollar price tag.

Often people say, 'Oh, I don't know a thing about art.' Probably the less you think you know about art the better. It will allow you to enjoy it more. All you really need to know is whether you like a piece, or you don't.

When selecting artwork, leave your fabric swatches, paint chips and couch measurements at home. Remember you are choosing art, not props.

Also, when framing a piece, your framer doesn't need to know all about the colour of your walls or the cushions on the couch. You are framing the art, not your living room.

Be patient, let the art find you. You may be relaxing on vacation, or on your coffee break downtown when something marvelous catches your eye and beckons

Art, found through the heart, is like a good friend; it will always fit into your life. If you respect and cherish it as you do other friends and treasures you have invited into your house, you can trust your heart to have chosen properly and your home to welcome it



**"Shutters" By Kate Bridger
from the Threading My Way
Through Tuscany Collection
www.katebridger.ca**

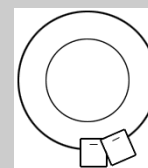
Recycled Christmas Wreath

Not so handy with a paint brush? Why not try a fun Christmas craft made from recycled toilet paper tubes?

You will need:

- Several cardboard tubes (toilet paper rolls or paper towel tubes)
- An old cardboard box, shoebox, cereal box or just a sheet of cardboard backing
- Several sheets of newspaper
- Red and green paint

- Paint brush or sponge brush
- Red 1/4" pom poms
- Thick craft glue
- Stapler
- Pencil and scissors
- Two plastic lids to trace circles, one big and one small OR Compass



1. Cut a strip up the middle of the cardboard tube, lengthwise. Then cut 1" strips crosswise.
2. Paint the front and back of the strips green.
3. When the paint is dry, staple the ends of the strips together to make the loops.
4. Cut a 6" ring with a 3" diameter opening from the cardboard box.
5. Cut small pieces of newspaper, about 2" x 1 1/2". Staple them to the outside edges of the ring. Paint both sides of the ring and newspaper green.
6. When the paint is dry, "fringe" the newspaper, cutting from the outside edge to the inside. If you want, you can curl the edges by wrapping them around a pencil and holding for a minute.
7. Glue the loops to the inside of the ring, like in the picture.
8. Glue on pom poms.

You can make a bow for your wreath out of a brown paper bag or newspaper. First, cut a strip of paper about 6" long and 2" wide. Paint both sides red. Staple the ends together to make a big loop. Then press the ends together with the other side of the loop to make an "8". Staple once in the middle. Cut another small strip of the bag or newspaper about 2" long and 1" wide. Paint it green or white. Wrap it around the middle of your bow and glue the ends at the back. Then glue it onto your wreath.

Community Art Classes

250-365-2032

Art At The Kootenay Gallery

Introduction to Colour and Light (Watercolor and Acrylic) Level 1

This is an introductory painting class for the student that is interested in exploring acrylic or watercolor paints. No previous painting experience is necessary. The first half of the class will focus on discovering colour theory and application techniques. The students will learn how to *see* color and will gain a new understanding of optical effects and spatial differences simply with the use of color. The second half of the class will focus on applying that knowledge and the student will create a finished painting of their choice. This class is open to all levels of students from beginner to advanced. Students must bring their own supplies to class.

Place: Kootenay Gallery
Time: Wed, Jan 7 – 28, 10:00- 2:00pm
Price: \$98

Painting Contrast and Visual Drama (Watercolor and Acrylic) Level 2

Learn how to see and apply value and contrast effectively in a painting. Utilizing elements of colour theory, West Kootenay artist Karla Pearce will demonstrate how to achieve visual drama through the use of contrast, neutrals and pure colour. The first half of the class will focus on perceiving light, shadows and learning to see colour in terms of value, the second half the students will create a finished painting of their choice. This class is open to all levels of students from beginner to advanced. Students must bring their own supplies to class.

Place: Kootenay Gallery
Time: Wed, Feb 4 – 25, 10:00 2:00pm
Price: \$98

Selkirk College Continuing Education

Painting Natural Elements- Acrylic or Watercolour

In this class students will be introduced to drawing fundamentals including composition, perspective, fore-/mid-/background and landmark representation. A landscape scene will then be developed using the painting techniques of colour theory/mixing and paint handling/application to achieve transitions, contrast and sense of depth. Students will explore forests, mountainscapes and water scenes. The class will learn how to use brushstrokes to create various effects such as blending, layering and colour transitions as well as the qualities of reflection, transparency, movement and depth to emphasize the interaction of the natural elements (sky, water, rock formation, shoreline).

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, Feb 15 – March 8, 1:30- 4-30pm
Price: \$98

Personal Development Freestyle – Acrylic or Watercolour

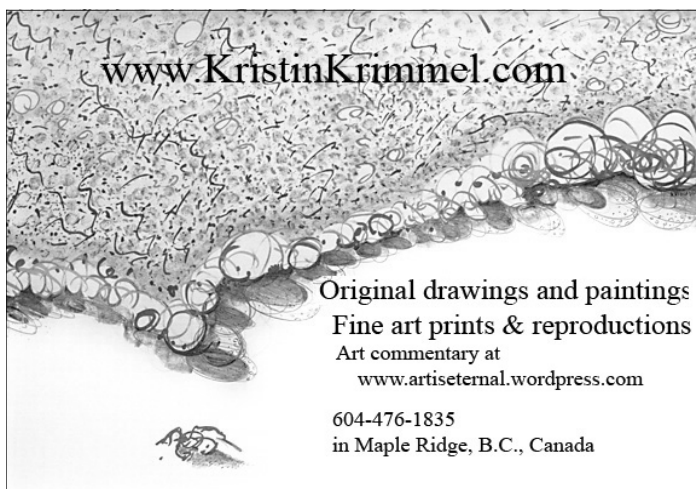
In this class the subject of study will vary according to the students' interests, with the objective being the continuation of developing one's own individual style and conceptualizing and producing paintings. Over the course of this class, students will look at how to successfully compose, build and finish a painting. Individual attention will be given to each student in order to further his/her painting goals. The class will focus on problem-solving techniques for painting issues that arise. Time will be spent on positive and supportive group critique.

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, March 15 – April 5, 1:30- 4-30pm
Price: \$98

Drawing with a Paintbrush - Acrylic or Watercolor

How do professional artists paint so quickly? One of the steps is they sometimes abbreviate the pencil drawing. In this class students will learn how to do preliminary sketch work using a paintbrush. Visualization techniques will be taught that will aid students in finding form, shape, light and negative space. This enables students to see and paint in a holistic manner. Several still life's will be used for inspiration. Students must bring their own supplies to class. This is class is for the student that has some experience drawing and painting with either acrylic or watercolor paint.

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, April 19 (Karla's B-day) – May 10, 1:30- 4-30pm
Price: \$98



www.KristinKimmel.com

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Community Art Classes 250-365-2032

Castlegar and Trail Recreation

Drawing with a Paintbrush - Acrylic or Watercolor

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, Jan 18– Feb 8, 9:30- 12:30
Price: \$98

Painting Natural Elements- Acrylic or Watercolour

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, Feb 15– March 8, 9:30- 12:30
Price: \$98

Personal Development Freestyle – Acrylic or Watercolour

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Sunday, March 15– April 15, 9:30- 12:30
Price: \$98

The Rouge Gallery Workshops

A day long workshop will be held every last Friday of the month at the New Rouge Gallery in Rossland. Workshops will include a drawing/painting demo from Karla Pearce demonstrating the day's lesson. Different topics will be covered each lesson such as drawing, color theory, contrast painting, gesture painting and expressionism.

Place: Rouge Gallery Rossland
Time: Jan 30, March 31, April 24
Price: \$45

After School Tutoring

(Ages 10 – 18)

This class is for the gifted child that would like to pursue independent art studies in a professional environment. Students will receive drawing and painting instruction as well as encouragement to develop and finish their own projects. Students seeking professional help developing a portfolio for academic art studies are also welcome. Students taking the school bus can be picked up at the Blueberry bus stop. This class has limited enrollment to ensure a high level of student / teacher interaction.

Place: Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St. Castlegar
Time: Wed, 3:30 – 5:30

Karla Pearce Studio Cool Yule Show and Sale!



With Christmas fast approaching it's fun looking around at all the cool stuff artists have to offer. On Dec 13 and 14 from 11:00 - 3:00pm, the Karla Pearce Studio will be opening it's doors to the public in it's first Cool Yule Show and Sale. This is a great opportunity to view some original art in the

home studio of West Kootenay Artist Karla Pearce. There will be original paintings as well as prints, jewelry, ceramics, books, art supplies and more. Karla Pearce Studio, 713, 107 St Castlegar, 250-365-2032.

Art Supplies

The Karla Pearce Studio also has a collection of art supplies for the art student or professional. The studio carries a selection of acrylic, watercolours, brushes, pencils, paper and more. For more info call 250-365-2032.



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 tographs
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Dec. 12, K. Linda Kivi, Purcell
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 & Luanne Armstrong, Blue Valley

Dec. 19, Zoe Caron, Global
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