



## March 2016 Newsletter

### Changes



As first announced in December, Lindsay Beal resigned from her position at PACS after being with us for many years (since the beginning). Studio participants have continued to reflect on Lindsay's many contributions to their creative wellbeing by working together on a collage in her honour (above), which will be presented to Lindsay.

Glenda Turner has been hired as Administrator, Alex de Sousa as Office Assistant, and Geri Nolan Hilfiger as Lead Facilitator.

Katusha Dmitrieva will also be leaving us. Geri will take up her responsibilities. Follows is a farewell note.

### Thanks and Farewell!

The first thing anyone notices about Katusha is that she is a very joyful person. I was introduced to Ekaterina Dmitrieva by Lindsay Beal during a PACS open studio day back in 2011 and saw right away that her passion for supporting people, and her enthusiasm for art were generous and positive. I believe anybody who has spent time with her over the 5 years (plus!) that she has been an integral part of PACS will have shared that experience as well. Chatting with her recently Katusha described her now weekly time in the PACS studio as her "happy time". Sadly, she has informed us that because of other commitments, she has to move on. So, though I am sure that for many of us Katusha's smile and support will be a vitamin we will miss, now is the time to celebrate her gifts to the group.

Creative and compassionate, Katusha came to PACS as a volunteer with training in fashion design in Moscow and experience supporting individuals with brain injury. Her enthusiasm has set a tone in the studio that has played a big part in the safety and creativity of the PACS open studio experience. Katusha's generosity in terms of time has meant that good ideas, in terms of group shows and other events always seemed possible. This creative attitude and her range of experience has also meant that she has been able to be part of a wide range of PACS programmes and innovations including our Youth programme, Open Art Surge, and the added studio sessions with the Brain Injury Society.

As a friend and for the PACS board, Thanks Katusha! I trust that we will see you as a participant in the studio and at openings when your time allows. – Mike Emme

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### Interview with Geri Nolan Hilfiger

Geri first came to Victoria by bus, train and hitch hiking in the summer of 1980 from her home in Nova Scotia. She always wanted to see the land of Emily Carr. At nineteen years old she stayed for 8 months in Kelowna and knew she wanted to live in British Columbia, but she ran out of money. Her parents called her to come home for Christmas.



Back east she met the man, Ted, a blues singer/poet she would fall in love with, buy a house on a 10 acre farm land, fix it up, raise dogs and eventually marry. There they lived an idyllic life; he sang, did carpentry work, she got her degree in art from NSCAD (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design), later on worked at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, joined the Nova Scotia Photographer's Cooperative and taught at NSCAD.

A busy fulfilling life connected to friends and family they shared, on land they loved.

In 2006 it all changed when Ted got an X-ray which confirmed he had cancer. He told her, "You have a chance to start over. Go back to school. Go back to B.C." A year later, on the night of a blue moon, he died.

Two years of healing and sorting out followed. She told herself, "Everything is the same but nothing is the same here for me anymore. "

She had almost two decades of memories in a house to renovate, sell and pack up. She knew she wanted to help others. She knew from her work teaching and her own work as a photographer that art could heal. While in this process she met another man, John, who was open and excited about going west. Together they set out to Nelson where she took a two year post baccalaureate program at the Kutenai Art Therapy Institute. From there they moved to Nanaimo in 2012 where she taught children with autism and volunteered once a week at Our Place. That once a week experience confirmed she wanted to live in Victoria. Through her art therapy network she found out about Pandora through Patty Patching, a former facilitator and Marna Smith, a board member. She connected with Lindsay Beal. She started volunteering and that turned into a position as head facilitator.

"I'm very confident. It's exciting and growing. I like that it's open. Comfortable with my experience with people of all different backgrounds and experiences. It's an active community. You guys take a role in making it all happen!"



#### Art Stroll 2016

The Fernwood Art Stroll artists will have a yard sale to raise money for putting out the brochure, on **Saturday May 7, 9am – 1pm, at 1444 Begbie St.** Donations of art supplies or art related items are welcome. Contact Jo Vipond 250 595-2695.

#### Timeline for **Metamorphosis** - June Art Stroll group show

May 17 & 19	framing help, all titles in
May 26	all art <b>must</b> be in
June 2	hanging the show

Show runs from **June 7 to June 28** Tues. & Thurs. 12 - 4  
Opening **June 11 & 12** during Fernwood Art Stroll

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#### Poetry Corner

##### 4 Haiku

Butterfly of fall I see your winged approach Oh, too soon you call	Robin in stark oak winter cold is blowing in fly to warmer clime
Flower bloom of spring glowing life bright colors then, to earth give seed	Leaf in warm summer grow green in effervescence shortly, you will leave

Clive Beal

##### Poor Body Image

I walked towards the women's washroom

But the picture on the door was of a full bodied  
American super star Marilyn Munroe

I looked down at my shapeless body

Did I dare enter?  
Would they all laugh?

Would someone check for tits and hips?

So I walked into the men's

Soon I defaced the door and put up Twiggy

A waif like beauty  
Me egocentric – no way  
Just an anorexic having a thoughtful day.

Ilyanna Jones

##### Morning Glory

In the morning the sun shines  
Like the dew on the mountain air  
In turns the homeless tents  
Into mounds of passion  
Waiting to be resolved.

Annuska van der Pol