



The  
**KENT HARRISON ARTS COUNCIL**  
**RANGER STATION ART GALLERY**

98 ROCKWELL DRIVE - HARRISON HOT SPRINGS - 604 796 2723 - kentharrisonartscouncil@shaw.ca

## **KHAC Newsletter Summer/Fall 2017**

This year is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Kent Harrison Arts Council.

For the past forty-five years, the Arts Council has been committed to creating a community that supports and values artists, where exposure to the Arts stimulates imagination and creative expression, and where the Arts is an integral part of the community improving the overall quality of daily life.

Through the operation of the Ranger Station Art Gallery, the presentation of many workshops for individuals of all ages and the administration of the nationally acclaimed Artist (Writer) in Residence program, the Arts Council is continually trying to enhance the quality of life within the local community.

### **Ranger Station Art Gallery**

#### **Schedule: August-December 2017**

**August:** Bold abstract paintings of **Claire Sarfeld**

**September:** Framing Femininity – large scale photo collages by **Candice Okada** & intimate sized acrylic painting by **Kendra Schellenberg**

**October:** Through drawing, paper sculpture and collage work **Caitlin Chaisson** explores the architecture of the body.

**November:** Small works by emerging and established local artists. Open call.

**December-February:** Kent Harrison Arts Council Members' Show

*I make art because the process of making art makes me happy. - Emily Barletta*

### **Fall 2017 Workshops**

Workshop plans for the fall are not finalized yet; however, watch for the return of Corey Bulpitt and of course workshop(s) by the incoming Artist in Residence.

Please stay tuned to your inbox, our Facebook page, and local posters for upcoming workshops and events as the fall progresses. There will be lots to come!

Workshops are free to Arts Council members and low-cost to others thanks to a generous grant from the Kent-Harrison Foundation!

### **Artist in Residence News:**

#### **2017 –2018 Artist in Residence Announced**

The Kent Harrison Arts Council is pleased to announce we will be welcoming Sean Karemaker in September as the 2017-2018 artist in residence. Sean Karemaker is an artist living in Vancouver, BC.

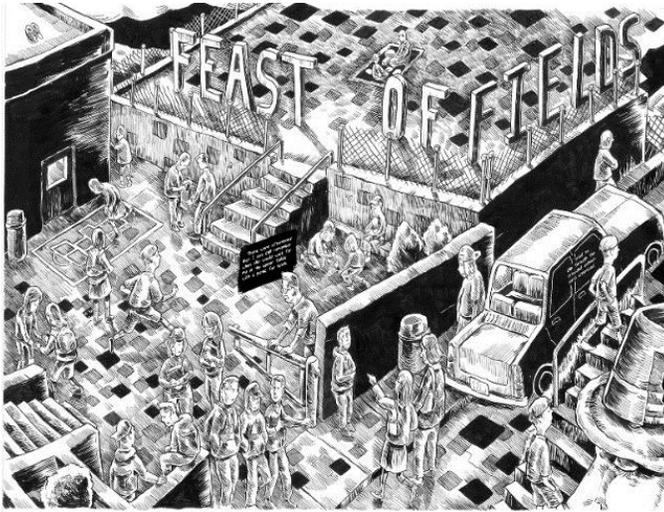
After a childhood obsession with reading and writing comics, he obtained a diploma in graphic design from Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo (2002) and began a career in 3D design for video games, while also doing freelance

work in graphic design and illustration. Personal narrative is a common element in his body of work, which encompasses diorama sculptures, comics, scrolls, and paintings. Sean's work has been exhibited at such local art galleries as the Gam, the



Gropps, the Seymour, the Pendulum, and the Ayden and YVR airport.

While Sean is in residence, he will be completing his graphic novel, *Feast of Fields*, forthcoming with Conundrum Press (Halifax) in 2018. The book weaves through a cerebral account of his mother's childhood in Esbjerg, Denmark in 1961, Sean's interpretation of her stories, and his relationship with his mother. The story begins in the Esbjerg orphanage with Hanne and her brothers.



Their mother was suffering from mental illness, when their father simply left them behind. Time setting of the book will switch between 1960's Denmark and 1990's British Columbia, highlighting the connection between past and present.

Sean is also working on a virtual reality component of the book that will provide an immersive storytelling experience.

Sean will be joined by his partner Pricilla Yu, a multi-disciplinary artist, illustrator, and designer. We are excited to have Sean and Pricilla with us and look forward to all they have to offer to the community, while we give them space, opportunity, and a beautiful setting in which to work.

[www.seankaremaker.com](http://www.seankaremaker.com)

## A note to our members from outgoing writer in residence, Bren Simmers

By looking at the width of a tree ring you can tell if it has been a good growth year—the



wider the ring, the better the conditions. This past year living at the Ranger Station Art Gallery with my husband Adam Hill has been one of the best years of my life. With the space and time to write uninterrupted, I've worked on two separate book-length projects. Having my first art show in June challenged me to think about how poetry can be presented in a gallery setting. And I even collaborated with Adam on a piece for the Harrison Festival Lit Café that featured poetry and stand-up bass. We plan to explore this creative partnership further at a couple of residencies in Oregon this fall before moving to New Brunswick where Adam will be teaching next spring.

A year-long residency has a huge impact on your practice—it rearranges your priorities, it places art at the centre of your life, it encourages you to honor your own rhythms, and it allows you to take a break from the hustle of paying rent to dive headfirst into projects. Essential to the creative process, this looseness of time allows for both reflection and inspiration. The days at the Ranger Station were my own to structure as I chose. I often went for long walks in the woods on the Bridle Trail or to Whippoorwill Point. More than once, ideas would come to me as I walked, bookended by taking pictures or recording bird song.

Living on the shores of Harrison Lake, inspiration is everywhere. The ever-changing hues of the clouds, the tall Douglas firs across the road, and the smell of spring pine sap wafting in the windows. We spot seals, herons, osprey, bats, and owls on a regular basis. Call it lake life, its soundtrack built from clanging halyards, December winds howling from

the north, barred owls calling at four am. This place and its people will continue to affect us far into our future.

From the very beginning, I have felt so welcomed into this vibrant, supportive, and big-hearted community that values the arts. Thank you to everyone who shared their stories, attended gallery openings and workshops, and hosted concerts; you are the greatest resource this town has. The Harrison Festival was a culmination of this community feeling as we danced together and celebrated this “little slice of paradise.”

It has been a great privilege to work with the artists in the gallery and share thoughts about process or tips on hanging shows. I even had the pleasure of meeting two past artists in residence this year, Siobhán Humston and Aimee Henny Brown. For 45 years the Kent Harrison Arts Council has been fostering this legacy, and I am honoured to be a part of it.

With gratitude,  
Bren Simmers

*The Kent Harrison Arts Council wishes to thank Bren for all her hard work and contributions to our community and council in the past year. We trust she enjoyed her time with us and benefited from the residency. All the best in whatever the future may bring.*



## KHAC 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The Celebration



The 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House of the Kent Harrison Arts Council was a resounding success. The turnout was wonderful, with probably more than 60 people attending over the course of the afternoon. The conversations were many and diverse, and hopefully guests went home with a deeper appreciation of the importance of the arts in our communities.



Mother Nature cooperated as well with almost ideal weather. The temperature was just right, although the wind at times

threatened to blow away napkins and other light objects on the refreshment tables. People gathered in small groups to look at the June Gallery Show, to peruse the KHAC historical display outside, and to partake of the delicious refreshments. Over the course of the afternoon there was a steady flow of people from inside the gallery, to the grounds outside, and back in.

The Gallery Show, entitled ‘Narratives of the Lost’, was a collaboration between writer in residence Bren Simmers, visual artist Laurel Terlesky and musician Adam Hill. This was a multi-disciplinary exhibit that combined photography, drawing, poetry, and music.

Adam Hill and fellow musician Andy Hillhouse entertained the guests inside the Gallery with two musical sets. Once



the music started people drifted back indoors to enjoy the show. Toes were tapping and dancing broke out from time to time.

Current KHAC Chairperson Ed Stenson gave a brief overview of the history of the organization, much of which came from personal experience as a longtime member of the council. Bren Simmers, the current Writer in Residence at the Ranger Station, and Squamish artist Laurel Terlesky described how they came to create the current works on display in the gallery.

Councilor Samantha Piper brought greetings from the Village of Harrison, and Laurie Throness, MLA for Chilliwack-Kent spoke on behalf of the Provincial Government. Both levels of government contribute to the ongoing success of the organization through yearly grants, without which the Arts Council would not be able to operate.

Greg Laychak, a reporter with the Agassiz-Harrison Observer attended the open house and you can see a snap shot of the event by watching his video at: <http://www.agassizharrisonobserver.com/entertainment/video-exhibit-opens-as-arts-council-celebrates-45-years/>

A big thank you to the members and others who provided and set up the refreshments and displays, the musicians who entertained, and the many guests who attended to help celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Little Arts Council that Could”.



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### Contact us:

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P.O. Box 502 Agassiz, BC V0M 1A0  
Phone: 604 796-2723

### Visit Us:

In Person: Ranger Station Art Gallery  
98 Rockwell Drive, Harrison Hot Springs  
*On the Web:* [kentharrisonartscouncil.com](http://kentharrisonartscouncil.com)  
[facebook.com/Kent Harrison Arts Council](https://facebook.com/KentHarrisonArtsCouncil)

### Gallery Hours:

Weekdays 10 am to 4 pm  
Weekends 1 pm to 5 pm (closed weekends from mid December to the beginning of March)

The Kent Harrison Arts Council is a registered non-profit society. We are run entirely on clean, environmentally friendly energy from our dedicated group of volunteers:

Ed Stenson: President

Rosa Quintana: Gallery Director

Patti Turner: Secretary

Vicky Sparks: Treasurer

Sharon Weeks, Darleane Cunningham, Liz Webber:  
Members at Large

### The KHAC is supported by:

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs  
The District of Kent  
The Kent Harrison Foundation



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ARTS COUNCIL  
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

We also thank our community partners:  
Agassiz Public Library, Harrison Festival Society,  
Back Porch Coffee, Harrison Hot Springs Resort,  
Harrison Beach Hotel

