

From: vibrown
Sent: August 2, 2010 1:13 PM
To: MapleLine Magazine
Subject: Sooke Fine Arts Show

Hi Mary –

Have you been able to squeeze in any time in to see the show? I don't know if you are planning on writing on the topic. Here is some input for what it's worth!!

I go to it every year but this year was somewhat disappointing and I know others feel the same way.

Just a quick run down to give you the flavour of some opinions -- I'm not 'artsy' and like to go to learn and enjoy. I saw one piece entitled "Purple Forest" and was wondering how that got into a juried show. I was so surprised at this entry and tracked someone down who could enlighten me. I was told to look at the website of John Luna – he was on the jury – and then I would understand. I did so and I now understand.

The other juror – Jeffrey Spalding is a historian. Diane Farris was more contemporary. So what is my point? The entire Sooke Fine Arts Show had a totally different flavour because of these jurors. It was far too eclectic for many people's tastes. Some of the works were downright unskilled – *Purple Forest* and *When a Star Shines Somewhere* – both by the same artist [Mie Akatsu], and I'll also include *Mother & Child* [Melanie Dawson-Whisker].

Just as an aside – one of my artist friends sold a \$2,000 acrylic work last year and was selected as Children's Choice (beautiful white stallion). This year she also wanted to submit a work but was turned down by the Jury. I was stunned.

Everything was so eclectic and there was little realism in the show.

Bottom line – a juror's background and interests dictate the choices that are accepted for entry. Whoever is in charge of Jury selection should be well aware of the backgrounds and interests of each one of the jurors.

I checked all through the entire Sooke Fine Art Show catalogue/brochure but could not find anyone's email address to convey my disappointment – so you got it!!!! -- Vi