



Eve's Easel Talk

July-Aug-Sept 1999 — Published in *The Artist's Journal*

D*ragon Arts* in Vancouver was the first art store in North America to import and carry a complete line of Oriental artists' materials. Several years later, they added western (regular) art supplies. Dragon Arts is owned and operated by *Shawn Wong*. He established Dragon Arts in 1983. Shawn is a frequent advertiser in *The Artist's Journal*, and I'm grateful for his generous support. Recently, Dragon Arts moved a few doors down, to a new location. They're now at 41 East Pender Street in Vancouver. Phone number remains the same: (604)689-7188, Fax (604)689-7181. Shawn is a talented Chinese Calligraphy artist. His works have been collected by well-known art galleries in China. The City of Vancouver once purchased one of his calligraphy pieces and presented it as a gift to the City of Guangzhou, China. Be sure to visit Dragon Arts at their new location and browse through their wide selection of art supplies (*See their ad at right*). They retail, wholesale and do mail orders at great low prices. Dragon Arts is open from 10am-6pm, Monday through Saturday (closed Sundays).

A talented artist and inspiring educator, *Tim White*, passed away April 23. Tim was recently diagnosed with cancer. With his wife Jean, he lived in Burnaby where his *Shagy Dog Studio* is located. Tim was a gifted, renowned artist and a true friend and mentor to his many art students. He'll be missed.

My sincere apologies to the organizers of Whistler's first annual arts festival — and to the many artists who tried to contact them. I published misleading information about the event in the last issue. The festival was not open to calls for entry; its participating artists were prearranged by invitation. The first annual *Whistler Arts Experience* was a three day festival of fine arts, workshops and performances for the entire family. The event was held June 18-20 and was presented by the *Whistler Resort Association*, the *Whistler Community Arts Council* and the *Resort Municipality of Whistler*.

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There were gallery tours, theatre performances and hands-on workshops with professional artists (Toni Onley was one of the featured artists this year). Watch for this exciting annual event next year; We'll mention it (correctly) in the Artist's Journal. The festival organizers say, at this point, the festival will continue to be by invitation only and they do not wish to be solicited by artists. However, be sure to visit the festival next June -- it's a great opportunity for artists to learn, mingle with other artists, or simply relax and enjoy the spectacular scenery in Whistler.

Two local art suppliers are ceasing their services to artists. *O&E Enterprises* in Langley will be clearing out their stock until the end of July. Owner *Ole' Berg* is returning to his homeland of Denmark where he owns another hobby store. Tough competition made him decide to close shop here, and he'll miss the area. He'd like to extend his sincere gratitude to his many friends and loyal patrons. O&E is located in Langley at #106-20551 Langley By-Pass. Phone 517-7006. Drop in for up to 50% off on a wide range of art supplies, and say goodbye to Ole'. Also, *Earl's Woodroom* in Langley has stopped offering Custom Framing to artists. They still remain in business as a major woodworking operation (custom mouldings, joints, etc.), but unfortunately, they no longer serve the artist. Earl sends his gratitude to his artist clientele.

Grant Smith and his wife Dawn own and operate the *Canadian Picture Framers School* in Langley. They are loyal supporters of *The Artist's Journal* and I'd like to tell you about this knowledgeable, hard-working couple and their unique service.

In October 1995 Grant and Dawn purchased the *Canadian Picture Framers School* from Ed Warkentin, who founded the School 13 years ago. Grant earned his B.Ed from the University of Alberta and his Masters in Educational Administration. He was an industrial education teacher, a principal, and assistant high school principal. Grant also graduated from BCIT in Building Technology and worked in the construction industry for several years before becoming an educator. Both Dawn and Grant are artists who hope to return to their art when they have more time (Dawn, a former nurse, did needle art and oil paintings, while Grant enjoyed watercolour, oil and clay).

The *Canadian Picture Framers School* is the only one of its kind in BC, and one of three in Canada. Each year over 200 students — professionals and hobbyists — from all over the world attend the School to learn both the theory and practical aspects of the industry. The School's spacious facility is equipped with a variety of state-of-the-art equipment. There are several courses offered and they vary in duration and

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content, from basic to professional levels. For example, the School offers evening courses (6 sessions) to the hobby picture framer. It covers basic skills in mat cutting and assembly of art in wood and metal frames. There's an advanced course which introduces picture framers to the more specialised aspects of the trade — such as conservation framing, French mating, object box framing, creative matting, glass etching and image transfer. Gilding will be added this fall. The School even assists galleries with projects that may require equipment the gallery is lacking, or procedures they may not be familiar with.

Grant and Dawn also host workshops with professional artists and occasionally offer drawing and painting lessons for all ages and skill levels. And if you're not looking to take a course, check out their full line of matting and frames for all your artwork. *Canadian Picture Framers* is at 20678 Duncan Way in Langley. Call 533-5328 or fax 533-9680 for information.

Congratulations to *Maxwell's Artists Supplies* on their 50th Anniversary. I'm flattered by their constant support of *The Artist's Journal* — just another example of how Maxwell's has always supported artists. See their full page ad on page 6 for a two-part look at their store's history. They have an interesting and impressive past, and were the first to bring many art supplies into Vancouver.

Last issue, I mentioned Ingeborg Raymer is recuperating nicely from open heart surgery -- a *very* major operation when you have as big a heart as Ingeborg. She offers life-drawing sessions in her Burnaby studio, and I messed up her phone number. She can be reached at 421-0810.

B.C. Hydro has generously donated \$3,500 to *Summer School of the Arts* in Wells, B.C. The school, now in its 23rd year, provides opportunities for children and adults to develop their artistic talents. The school's variety of art programs are organized to enable parents to enrol in courses, and register their children for art, theatre or music workshops at the same time. B.C. Hydro made the contribution in recognition of the School's own contribution to the town of Wells (located about 80 km east of Quesnel); *Summer School of the Arts* in Wells attracts full-time professional artists to live in the area, and it contributes more than \$2000 annually to the local economy. Contact the school at *Island Mountain Arts*, Box 65 Wells BC V0K 2R0. Ph(250)994-3466. Fax 994-3433. E-mail ima@goldcity.net Web: www.imarts.com 