



**Avenue for/des Arts**

**COVER to COVER Exhibition  
Artists' Information**

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



**Safari Scribbles from Africa**  
Mixed Media Experiment  
Not for Sale

## Sandra Jane Shaw

B.A. University of California, Berkeley  
M.A. Art Education, University of British Columbia

*Safari Scribbles from Africa* - a mixed media experiment.

This is a book that speaks in the language of line.

In 1990, I had the opportunity to visit two retired school teachers living in Kenya, Africa. They were volunteer bursars for the Canadian Harambee Society, a group that provides African Students with tuition and uniforms for high school.

The month long stay included Safaris to the National Park at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

Between the slipping, sliding and bouncing along on the bumpy and often muddy roads, I managed to scribble quick gesture drawings of some of the wild life we encountered along the way. I was amazed and delighted by the character of the animals that emerged from the tip of my pen as I observed and drew. The drawings evoke vibrant memories.

Included is a page, "The Decade of Destiny, the 90's", which portrays the devotion and pride I witnessed at a church service we attended.

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



### **Sketch: The Unwritten Book**

Digital Print, 8.5 x 11"

\$75.00 Unframed \$125.00 Framed

Email: [emari@shaw.ca](mailto:emari@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.elainemari.com](http://www.elainemari.com)

## **Elaine Mari**

Elaine Mari has exhibited her work in Vancouver, Montreal and Newfoundland. She began her career as an artist in Newfoundland, where she showed her work at the Eastern Edge Gallery, St. John's, and at Arts and Culture Centres and other venues throughout the province. In Montreal she exhibited and performed from her artist's books at Studio XX: Women's Digital Resource, Alta Voce, a women's performance event, and other venues.

In 1997 she moved to Vancouver and returned to working in mixed media. Her work is available at the Richmond Art Gallery (RAG) Art Access Program, as well as by contacting her personally at [emari@shaw.ca](mailto:emari@shaw.ca). She has recently had her second solo show. Vista opened at Havana Gallery on September 18, 2005.

She exhibited, in her first solo show, at The Living Room Bistro Gallery, in 2003, and previously in group shows at The Helen Pitt Gallery and Gallery Gachet. Her art has been published in Front Magazine in Vancouver.

As an art student she received the Max and Emily Mullett Scholarship, awarded on the basis of achievement and promise to a student in the fourth year of studies in Visual Arts at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She was also awarded the Department of Visual Arts, Memorial University of Newfoundland Prize for outstanding work in the third year of studies.

She received her BFA, from Memorial University of Newfoundland, in conjunction with Concordia University of Montreal. She has studied at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and at Langara College in Vancouver. Her work is in collections in Canada, The U.S. and The Netherlands.

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



### **Edge of Sleep**

Assemblage using found books  
\$100

## **Bill Thomson**

Bill is a practicing visual artist working primarily in found object, mixed media sculpture. After careers in forestry, the federal civil service and the west coast marine industry, Thomson began his 'alternative' art practice in 1986. A unique artist's journey that includes extensive community orientated cultural development work and an ongoing passion for the object d'art.

Bill approaches art making as a transformational, recycling exercise. His work is often whimsical and is informed by the art of Marcel Duchamp, the philosophical underpinnings of Phenomenology and early 'Hockey Night in Canada telecasts.

Juxtaposing disparate objects Thomson revisits traditional perceptions of the relationship between form and function. He creatively finds hidden meaning in the common object. His work is found in public and private collections within Canada and Internationally.

Avenue for/des Arts

AVA

COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



## **The Mermaid's Three Wisdoms**

Cover: Clay Tablet

\$60

Leaf: Paper

\$40

## **Helen Spaxman**

Helen Spaxman instructs the adult's and the children's pottery programs at the Britannia Community Centre where she sits on the Community Cultural Development Committee. She is the Art and Literacy Specialist for the Partners In Education Program with the Canucks Family Education Centre. Honours Grad from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

"I am very inspired by the joy my students achieve through their learning about the materials and methods that I introduce to them."

Helen's work for this exhibition was inspired by *The Mermaid's Three Wisdoms* by Jane Yolen.

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



**The Secret Garden**  
Mixed Media Collage  
\$400

## Famous Empty Sky

Famous Empty Sky lives and works in a funky heritage house just off Vancouver's Commercial Drive. An innovative artist, curator, arts educator and producer of short films, she is an active member of the vibrant BC arts community.

She exhibits extensively in both group and solo shows. When AVA became the first Resident Visual Artists at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, she was Project Director for two seasons of residency. She has taught classes and workshops on collage at Britannia Community Centre and elsewhere for over a decade.

Famous Empty Sky also organizes large exhibitions involving Public Art. *The Art of Juxtaposition*, for the Vancouver Public Library, included a series of free public workshops, 50 finished and exhibited works of art, an opening for 300 and her own 7 foot long collage on the theme of the history of art, which is on permanent display at Library Square.

*The Party of the Century* was a project that honoured the change of the millennium. It engaged 36 art makers and produced 146 caricatures of 20th Century notables. She used the collage portraits to create a 24-foot mural in six panels, which was shown at the Hong Kong Bank and continues to tour other venues today.

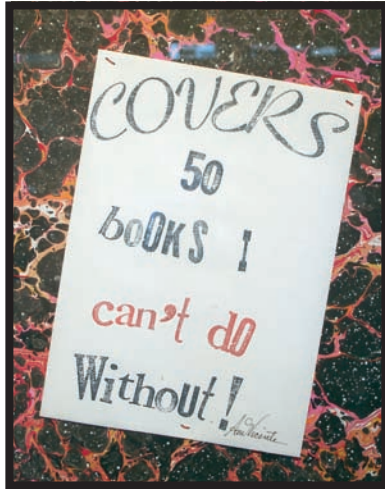
All of these projects helped prepare her for co-curating on the *Self-Portrait Exhibition* of 500 pieces for Artropolis in 2001 with Ed Varney.

Her focus since 2003 has been a unique and mysterious series of mixed media pieces: *The Nnots*. Her work is in many private collections in Canada, Europe and the United States, as well as in the public collections of the Vancouver Public Library and Britannia Community Centre.

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



**Covers: 50 Books I Can't Do Without**  
**Covers: 50 Books I've Done Without**

Laser copies of book covers placed in covers of Galen Berry marbled paper with found type labels.  
Not for Sale

## Ann Vicente

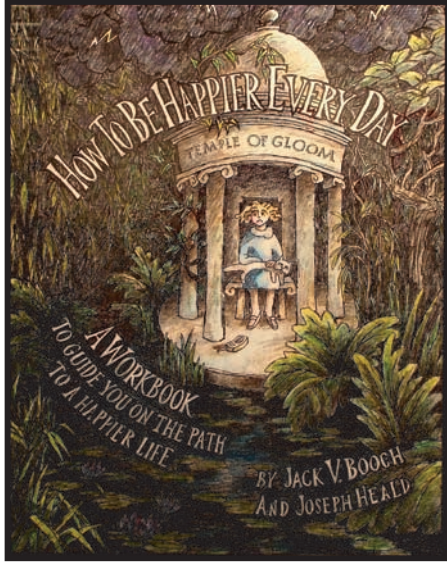
*Covers: 50 Books I Can't Do Without* - Copies of my favourite books' covers.

*Covers: 50 Books I've Done Without* - Found book covers with thanks to Alicia Greenwood

These two books were made for fun. When I had the chance to use the obscure covers from books I'd never seen it was an opportunity to juxtapose my favourite books in another volume. I hope the idea makes you smile.

For an opportunity to see inside these two books:

Please join us **Sunday December 11th at 2pm** for an Interactive Artist's Talk with Ann Vicente. Presented as part of the Britannia Gallery Second Sunday Series.



Avenue for/des Arts

AVA

COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005

### **How To Be Happier Every Day**

Coloured pencil on laser print enlargement of original 8.5 x 11" ink and pencil drawing.  
Not for Sale

## **Joseph Heald**

The cover design sketch for How To Be Happier Every Day is for a real self-help book currently in production.

In workbook format, each chapter of the book will present exercises for readers to evaluate their feelings, and then provide guidelines for them to custom design their own step-by-step programs of projects that can help them reduce or resolve the problems or attitudes that may be making them unhappy.

Stylistically, the workbook will exhort readers to grow up, take responsibility for their own unhappiness, and undertake practical measures to change their situations and/or attitudes.

To lighten the potentially arduous task of undertaking these projects, and to help readers maintain a realistic perspective on their own lives, the book will be extensively illustrated with comical cartoon-like drawings depicting various characters in exaggerated situations of unhappiness...

...such as in this drawing proposed for the cover.



Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



### **In Another Place, Not Here**

Digital photo stills and illustrations on foam board  
Not for Sale

## **Lynsey Hamilton**

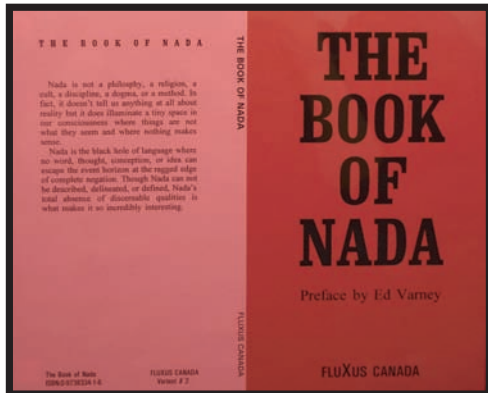
As a Scottish immigrant and first generation Canadian Lynsey Hamilton is interested in exploring issues of identity and how it is informed by both personal and cultural forces. How we navigate through our experiences and these forces determines our identity but even within this there are multiple identities that we can possess- our public and private faces at the very least. How do these faces change based on geographic or cultural location within different communities? Not only are we viewed differently in the context of another culture but also we can begin to view ourselves differently with this change of cultural perspective.

Lynsey's work for this exhibition is inspired by *In Another Place, Not Here* by Dionne Brand.

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



### **The Book of Nada**

Laser print on paper

\$25

### **Cover to Cover**

Exhibition case display of published book covers

## **Ed Varney**

AVA member Ed Varney has had a varied career as an artist, poet, curator, art consultant writer, printer, publisher, and book designer. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1967 with an MA in English.

In 1969, he founded Intermedia Press, which published over 100 books between 1969 and 1981. From 1971 to 1975, he and Henry Rappaport published poetry as The Poem Company. In 1985 he founded Bite magazine, and in 1991 he and Carolyn Zonailo founded the Poem Factory. In 2000, he founded Fluxus Canada, an experimental publishing project.

He was one of the first Canadians to participate in the Mail Art network and has produced numerous projects, generally with catalogues, including as many as 1500 artists from around the world.

Printing and publishing were always an important part of Varney's work, he enjoyed publishing work by others, particularly poetry although Intermedia Press did have a commercial publishing mandate as well. He designed most of Intermedia's books, sometimes using his visual art for covers as well as designing both the covers and the interior of each book. Around 1990, he began to concentrate on his visual art and writing slipped into second place although he still wrote numerous catalogue introductions, essays, and critical articles as well as poetry. In 2003, he moved from Vancouver, where he had lived for 35 years, to Royston on Vancouver Island where he continues to write, produce visual and conceptual art, and keep in contact with a host of other artists.

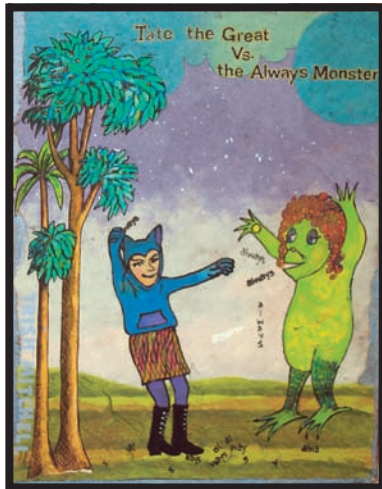
Ed Varney can be reached at [evarney@shaw.ca](mailto:evarney@shaw.ca) or at 250-703-0477.

Mailing Address: 4426 Island Hwy. S., Courtenay, BC, Canada V9N 9T1

Avenue for/des Arts



COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005



### **Tate the Great Vs. the Always Monster**

Acrylic, ink and Letraset on found book  
Not for Sale

## **Trish Mitchell**

The story behind *Tate the Great Vs. the Always Monster* was inspired by my good friend, Tate. Tate once worked in an office very close to a woman who over-used the word 'always', so we began referring to her as the Always Monster. She would begin almost every sentence with "I always do..." or "I always go...", this of course would drive my friend Tate rather mad. Always is such a definitive word and, really, nobody always does anything. The character of Tate the Great in my painting is grabbing the words always as they leave the Always Monster's mouth and breaking them apart. Now when my 5-year old daughter tries to say that I always do something - I tell her that the only thing I always do is love her.

The style of the painting was inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Avenue for/des Arts



### **Jitterbug Perfume**

Acrylic, FIMO and glitter on canvas  
\$323

COVER to COVER  
Britannia Art Gallery  
December 2005

## **Jenn Ström**

"To achieve the impossible, it is precisely the unthinkable that must be thought."

- Tom Robbins, *Jitterbug Perfume*

Jenn Ström is a video, animation, visual and graphic artist whose professional focus lies in artistic and educational initiatives through multimedia collaborations. She is a graduate of Vancouver Film School where she completed the New Media Program on a full scholarship in 2000 and currently teaches video editing. She works as a freelance videographer from a little coach house just off Commercial Drive.

Jenn has been a member of AVA for 3 years. She acted as coordinator for the Cover to Cover exhibition, and created the original image used in the promotion materials. She would like to thank Erin Johnson for posing for the Cover to Cover image. The image of Pan on the perfume bottle in her painting is a tribute to a woodcut by her grandfather, Warren Stannard.