



Don Denton/News staff

Vancouver Island School of Art director Wendy Welch shows artworks on display that will be part of the upcoming Art Incognito Auction – a fundraiser for the school.

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The no name art game

Auction benefits school and up and coming local artists

Andrea Lavigne
News staff

Buying art based on your personal response to the piece? What a novel concept.

And it's one that worked successfully for the Vancouver Island School of Art fundraiser last year.

Art Incognito, an auction featuring works of famous local artists alongside students' pieces, raised \$28,000 for the school and guaranteed its place on the roster of annual fundraisers.

The Vancouver Island School of Art will be hosting its second annual Art Incognito gala function Sept. 7.

"I didn't realize it would be such a fun party. There was so much excitement. People got into the game of it," said director Wendy Welch.

By anonymously displaying students' art alongside professionals, people purchase pieces based on what they like – and sometimes get a steal of a deal.

"Sometimes a student's work will sell for \$600, where someone well known might not sell for that much," Welch said.

All pieces start at \$100, which is reasonable for people new to purchasing original works, she added.

"So next time, instead of spending \$100 on a poster, someone might think maybe I'll go to an art gallery and see if I can get an original print."

This year, 120 artists have offered up their work for auction, including works by Robert Bateman, Mowry Bateman, Part Martin Bates, Don Harvey, Graham Forsyth and more.

The willingness of the artist community to donate their work is a resounding endorsement of the school, Welch said.

"People really feel that our school has a role in the community and even though their piece might not go for the true value – that's one of the downsides of art auctions – they do it because they want to support the school."

And those who don't go home with a piece, can still have a good time.

Music at the catered event is being provided by Miranda Sage and guests.

Art Incognito will be held Friday, Sept. 7 from 5-9 p.m. at the Vancouver Island School of Art, 2549 Quadra St. Tickets are \$25 and \$10 for VISA students. All ticket and art proceeds will support the school, an accredited private post secondary art school that offers a three-year diploma and one-year certificate program. The school does not receive outside funding. Call 380-3500 for more information.

To preview the artwork go to www.artincognito.com or view them Thursday, Sept. 6 and Friday, Sept. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the school. Some pieces are also available to view at Prestige Picture Framing Etcetera at 2002 Oak Bay Ave.

6x2.5

young drivers