

Entertainment



Local artist Alex Walton incorporates humour into his art, which is currently on display at the Kamloops Art Gallery's Cube.

—KATE LERMAN

Alex Walton's art of humour

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Omega Contributor

Kamloops-based artist Alex Walton is making art and making fun.

Walton's *Supercilious Silliness: Man's Co-existence with the Natural World*, is a collection of watercolour paintings on show at the Kamloops Art Gallery (KAG) until Nov. 1.

Walton's collection is being displayed in the Cube, which can be found by turning left at the gallery store.

"It's a smaller, free-admission gallery," said Emily Anderson, a gallery attendant and visual arts student at TRU. The Cube is designated for artists from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

"We try to give some of the local, lesser-known people a chance to display some works," Anderson said.

She urges students to apply for grants and put together show proposals.

"There are tons of opportunities for students in town," she said.

KAG assistant curator Craig Willms agreed, but said that there aren't many in Kamloops that showcase local art.

"Even in our main exhibitions, people don't realize how much of the artwork actually comes out of our region."

Willms approached Alex Walton about displaying his work in the Cube, which is currently a "show-and-sale" space. Walton's is the last local exhibit at the Cube this year.

"He's been around town for a long time," Willms said. "I think we intercepted each other at TRU years ago."

Willms called Walton's style distinct and engaging. Walton developed that style when he studied art

in Kamloops and at Capilano College.

"Art was always in the family conversation," said Walton, whose parents were art instructors at TRU.

Walton then decided to follow a more "responsible" career path, so he completed a degree in natural resource science. He believes one discipline influences the other when it comes to his art.

"It's a combination of my two passions, the outdoors and our relationship with the outdoors. Most of it is more or less about man's interaction with nature."

About the work shown in *Supercilious Silliness*, Walton said the characters show disdain for their surroundings.

"They're so self-absorbed that they're oblivious to what they look like and what they're doing, so I'm just making fun of people."

Sagebrush's "No Exit" spooky show

SHARON NICKEL
Omega Contributor

Western Canada Theatre produces a live-cinematic experience for audiences in its new atmospheric show.

Theatre-goers are accustomed to being "inside" the room with actors, but Kim Collier's adaptation of Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* turns the usual production inside out.

Produced in association with The Virtual Stage and Electric Company Theatre, *No Exit* involves the audience in a whole new way.

"This show is unlike any other I've seen in my years with the company," said box office staff member, Geraldine Penny.

She adds, "They really use all of the available space to involve the audience in the show."

An interesting visual experience, actors are placed within a contained room and the show is watched primarily on large screens set up on stage.

But this isn't where the effects end. Slightly surreal, audiences

will see the actors on screen, see the shadows of their feet under the doorway and hear them on stage.

Carpenter, Joel Eccleston, says that the character of the valet plays a small part, but his role is just big enough to make audiences think.

"The valet alleviates the strict concentration on the contained events in the room, providing the stage movement you usually see in live productions," Eccleston said.

Pushing not only the boundaries of the expectations of theatre and film, *No Exit* also pushes the boundaries of identity and morality.

Darker than Kamloops' usual theatre fare, the final performance plays on Halloween night.

Following the performance there will be a Halloween Bash Party in the lobby of the Sagebrush Theatre, complete with tasty treats, beverages and an exciting prize for best costume.

Tickets are available by calling Kamloops Live Box Office, (250) 374-5483, or by visiting the web at www.kamloopslive.com.



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