

Artists of Fernwood



Pandora
Arts Collective
THAT WHICH CREATES ITSELF CANNOT BE DESTROYED



A 'Great Neighbourhood' project featuring
the Pandora Arts Collective with
other supportive Fernwood artists.

Artists of Fernwood...

Fernwood bubbles over with creativity. Everywhere you turn there are musicians, performers and artists. And sometimes, even real bubbles! With support from the city's *My Great Neighbourhood* grant program, *The Pandora Art Collective* (PACS), in its 14th year, invited Fernwood neighbours to our weekly open studio. Creative neighbours met creative neighbours. PACS shared their approaches to creating community and well-being and guest artists showed their art practices and creative ideas. Several dozen Artists of Fernwood got to know and be inspired by each other.

This 'zine reflects the result of those creative gatherings and a years worth of art-making.

A 'Great Neighbourhood' project featuring
the Pandora Arts Collective with
other supportive Fernwood artists.



The My Great Neighbourhood Grant program was created to help residents of Victoria animate public space, develop and enhance a sense of community and leave a positive legacy in our neighbourhoods

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/Neighbourhoods/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-program.html>



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Mission:

The Pandora Arts Collective is a caring and open community of people whose mission is to join together around the creative arts as a healing process.

Vision:

To facilitate and support mental health through the social and educational benefits of a free and welcoming creative art space.

Purpose:

- (A) to educate the public by providing courses, workshops and lessons about visual arts.
- (B) to break the isolation and improve the mental health of persons who suffer from mental illness by operating a drop-in arts therapy program.

Join the collective - in the studio or as a supporter

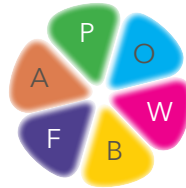
<https://pandoraarts.ca>

...Creating Together!

Fernwood artists come together in a variety of ways. Throughout the neighbourhood, power poles reflect that coming together. The little fernwood gallery (<http://www.littlefernwoodgallery.ca>) exhibits emerging artists every month. Events like the Art Stroll (<http://fernwoodartstroll.ca>), and Fernfest (<https://fernwoodnrg.ca/events-directory/fernfest/>) feature the studios and works of many active creators. In this mix, the *Pandora Arts Collective* has served as a converging point for experts and beginners who know that making art is good for you.

* **A Special Note:** For some PACS studio participants, their art work and work toward wellness is never done. This is to acknowledged the importance of those community members who have chosen NOT to share their artwork in the 'zine. They too are an essential part of PACS and the Fernwood community.

Participant
Administrator Original member
Facilitator Workshop presenter
Board member



This 'zine features 25 artists who have all come together to support the Fernwood neighbourhood and its creative culture by supporting the PACS open studio. Each page includes a multi-coloured flower icon that indicates that artist's specific involvement.

IN MEMORIAM

Scott Dawson & Karen Horn

The cover includes a collective collage created by the PACS community to memorialize **Scott Dawson**, an active studio member who was making art in the Fernwood Neighbourhood up to his last days.

The 'zine is also dedicated to **Karen Horn**, an early, kind and creative studio member of PACS who we lost in the past year.

Both Karen and Scott are important parts of the PACS story and Fernwood community.

Look for their work and contributions as part of the artists' pages.

eAR.°

Jillian Anstey



Making art is a nice process to empty my mind and remove myself from the world.



The Pandora Arts Collective is a place to come to elevate my spirit in a creative environment. And builds a greater connection to the community.

Clive Beal



As a founding member of PACS, I have long enjoyed the rewards of participating in PACS' programs and in operating the lfg.

More recently, I am developing a direct engagement with landscape, painting in oil, *en plein air*. I have a new website, where patrons may find artwork, poem, story and music:

<http://truvuart.ca>





Lindsay Beal

<https://spiderseye.ca>

These two creative endeavors were gifts: the chevron pattern quilt for my grandson, and the drawing, Dad at Home, for my father.



Even though the main character in the drawing



is Melody, the cat, the composition captures how my dad lives. Melody is by his side all the time, so he carefully steps around her, and reaches down to pet her. He is attentive and nurturing.

The quilt is made from new and vintage fabrics, with varied textures, worn garments, and sentimental remnants. To me, my grandson is much the same way. My art is my appreciation for the gifts I receive, in witnessing others living true to themselves.





Michael Bourque

<https://www.facebook.com/MichaelGBourque>

Since childhood, the potential of a blank piece of paper has inspired me. I have always wanted to draw and paint. My ideas are to create positive emotional responses through my art.

Since moving to B.C. from New

Brunswick, I have been constantly inspired by the skies of the prairies, the mountains of the interior and the rugged coasts.



In the last few years, I have been able to explore my artistic side more fully as I continue on my journey of personal exploration and discovery.



Michael shared paintings ranging from dynamic landscapes to more abstract compositions that combined rich colour with energetic movement. He discussed how the links between his interests in the science of alternative energy and his painting expanded creative possibilities.



Jae Brown

I came to the PACS experience as a support for Karen-Anne. Soon, however I was hooked, joining in with my own creations. Art, for me, is an opportunity to let go of the seriousness of life and explore



From my fellow artists I have received so much inspiration. Inside of everyone is an artist waiting to manifest. I am so grateful to have found a place to come and let mine out to play.



Karen-Anne

When Karen-Anne meets people, she says, "You look nice." She always sees the goodness and beauty in the world, and radiates these qualities herself.



For Karen-Anne, PACS provides the opportunity for conversation and fellowship. Together with Jae, she creates art that reflects the love of humanity in her heart. Flowers, hearts and butterflies abound in her pictures.





Jane Chadwick

My art is eclectic. I play with fabric art, printmaking, encaustics, acrylic and water colour painting, and essentially love messing about with art. I experiment with processes I need to teach and also with my own self expression. I particularly enjoy the process – making a cup of my favourite tea; putting on a blues cd; arranging tools and equipment; getting into the zone, playing and exploring; and then packing it all up.



I have a BEd from UVic with a concentration in art education. I currently work as a facilitator at PACS, as a visual arts instructor with artsREACH, and assist with the art program at the Aberdeen Hospital Recreational Therapy Program. After working as an elementary teacher for 10+ years I could not be more pleased to discover I also have a passion for working with adults, helping them develop their artistic expression.



Mila Czemerys

<https://www.milaczemerys.com>



Mila Czemerys lives and works in Fernwood, Victoria. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus on Visual Arts and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria in 2009. Her artistic practice includes painting, drawing, ceramics, collage, leather work, social practice art and graphic design.



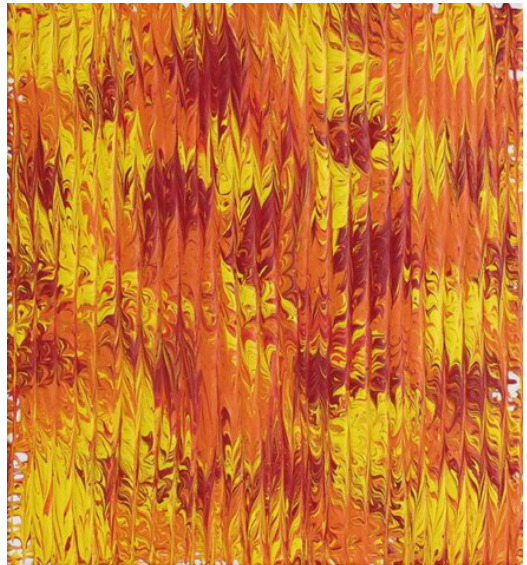
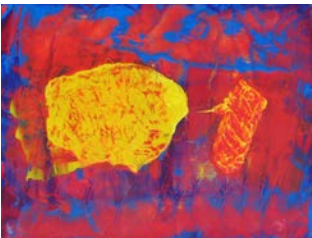
Mila got us busy, messy and experimental with her hands-on shibori workshop. She showed us many ways to wrap cloth to create traditional shibori patterns. It was lovely to work with the indigo dye and exciting to see the results of our experiments. We spent a beautiful afternoon outside in the sun exploring shibori dying with Mila.

Scott Dawson

IN MEMORIAM



Scott, who died recently, was a dedicated studio participant and active member of PACS. He was a great volunteer helping kids at the PACS workshop for the Moss Street Paint-in. He combined an inquisitive intelligence and a sharp sense of humour with an experimental approach to abstract painting. Recently he was introduced to monoprinting and was enthusiastically productive and creative with this new process.





Jan Dong



I discovered my passion for painting 11 years ago as a form of art therapy. Painting enables me to look inward to focus on my expressive and intuitive personality. I am interested in exploring change, growth and personal perspectives. The environment, current events and life experiences influence my paintings. I want to evoke a sense of energy and movement using a vibrant palette to create a body of work.



Jan was a PACS participant 10 years ago. Her presentation on the intuitive abstract style of her current work resonated with many PACS artists

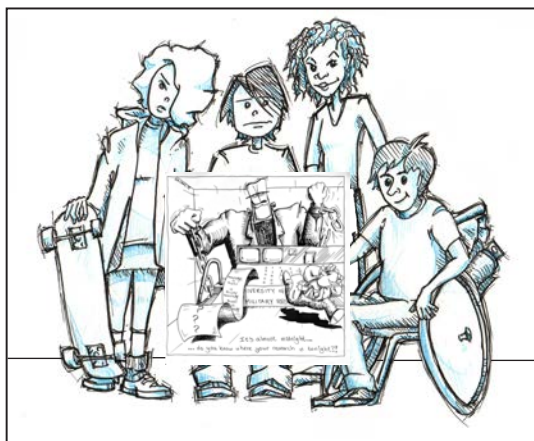


Mike Emme <https://michaeljemme.ca>



I am some where between a printmaker and a photographer with a bit of cartoonist thrown in. I teach art, so my daywork involves provoking others in their creative processes. I guess it isn't suprising that my own imagery tends to grow out of the art tools I am using at any moment. I wouldn't say I have a full 'art practice' (though I respond well to deadlines) but I would definitely say that I do have 'an artlife'.

PACS is a collective of artful individuals who have experienced enough of the complexities of life to know the wisdom of being kind and giving kindness in return. I have been involved with PACS for about 8 years as an occasional studio participant, a board member who changes hats all the time and the workshop leader for this, and one other 'zine.





Randie Feil

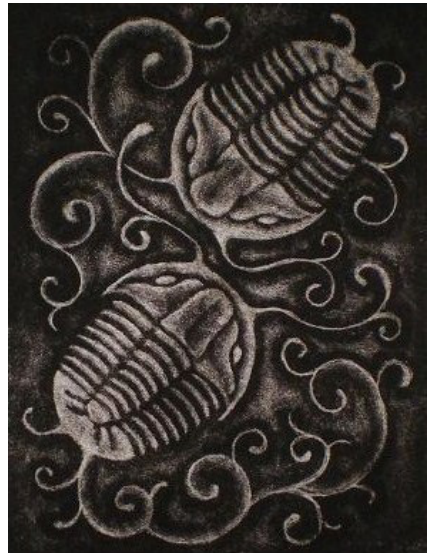
<https://randiefeil.com>



Randie showed us the mezzotint printmaking process that includes using a rocker to create the black and then incising, polishing and printing. PACS studio participants asked lots of questions and enjoyed the discussion.



Creating a mezzotint is a time-consuming and hence contemplative process, appropriate for dwelling upon the various yet simultaneous means - including language, scientific inquiry, and myth - by which the natural world may be explored and interpreted.



Bill Goers



My study of Buddhist philosophy and meditation supports a mental state conducive to the kind of art-making process I have developed over the years.

The painting and drawing elements: composition, colour harmonics, classical and modern philosophical concepts, coastal British Columbia light, the observation of nature and study of art history, are the origins of a personal and cultural aesthetic and spiritual art practice.

I have been involved with PACS since 2012, and have served on the board since 2013. Being a participant in the board program has given me a mostly gentle nudge into the world of art administration, broadened my relationships with our many members, and provided emotional and intellectual support for my personal and artistic life. Thanks Everyone!!



Janine Hannis

I love to celebrate the beautiful surroundings of my region through photography. My property and its bounty of fruit and vegetables constantly inspires me to capture the essence of the ever-changing fruit throughout the seasons.



Being a part of the Board for PACS has made me appreciate creativity in a much broader sense. I love PACS for its inclusivity, its welcoming nature and its incredible community of people who breathe life into it each week.



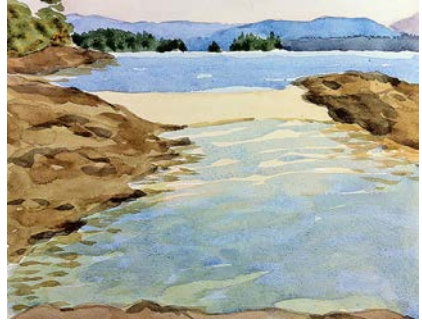
Margaret Hantiuk



<http://www.margarethantiuk.com>

Painting is a slow medium that reduces time to an endless loop with the painterly markmaking; the painting becomes a fossil of the experience, a relic.

I often juxtapose the built environment against the natural, wild environment to create a taut dynamic composition. I see the built environment as an intervention in the natural world.



Margaret's workshop introduced us to acrylic inks. She emphasized playful approaches and the wide range of tools, like sponges, cotton balls and tape as ways of applying colour.

Karen Horn

IN MEMORIAM

Karen was best known for her beautiful and delicate water color paintings.



She was a master of flowers and landscapes, which she executed with care and ease. She loved the Arts and proudly supported other artists. She was a talented woman with a gentle loving spirit.

Karen Horn, who was a dear member of the PAC's artists collective for many years. Born in Africa, and lived in Australia, Brazil, and England, she retired in Victoria and is survived by her devoted husband, two loving sons, and her four darling granddaughters.

Karen's legacy at PACS will be forever remembered in her art and poetry book called *Glowing Embers*. (which includes the works reprinted here).

She is missed by all who knew her.

The Crest of the Wave

Life's a struggle.

Life's a puzzle.

Life's riding on the crest of a wave.

Life's sinking underneath the foam.

Keep floating or you will sink.

Kepp buoyed up or you will drown.

Life's hard.

Life's tough.

But the crest of the wave can still be ridden.





Jean Oliver

My art can be found:

On Facebook:

P Jean Oliver Writer and Artist

www.pjeanoliver.com

Or email me at: jeanoliveris@hotmail.ca



I came west to Vancouver Island to live near the wild trees and swirling skies of my idol and mentor, Emily Carr. Sometimes, when I'm outside painting, and struggling hard to capture a cloud circling a tall fir, I swear I can feel Emily looking approvingly over my shoulder, and perhaps raising an eyebrow.





Aline Prevost



I like developing my gift. I draw from my imagination and like designing jewelry and scenes.

Coming to PACS is therapeutic. I live alone and though I like 'being my own boss', I also enjoy being around other people.





RANDOM!

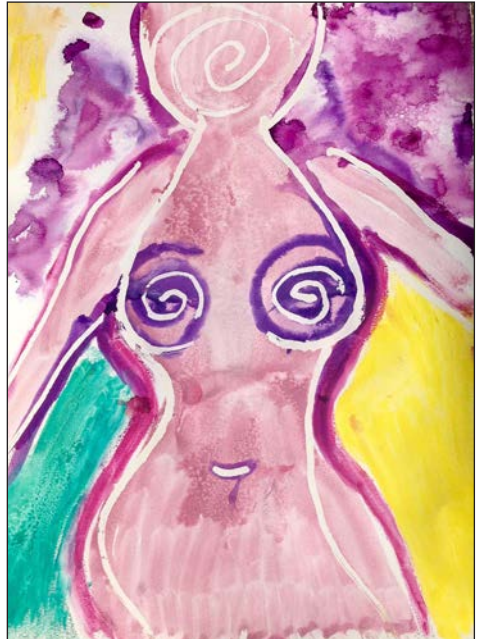
When I think of art I think of the word
'Enthusiasm' means 'the god is within you',
I feel I am being moved
by a force greater than myself.

My work is about actualizing
the goddess-self



My first show was called '*Apotheosis*',
which is the process by which
a human becomes a god.
Through my own art I hope to find
my own divinity

In my latest series '*Divine Spirals*' I am
exploring the sacred feminine.





Bob Rowe

I feel I echo the Group of Seven and am inspired by colour, shape and scenery.



I love coming to PACS to be around other people engaged in art making. Seeing other people doing art drives me to create too. Watching all the different styles of art making encourages me to try something new.



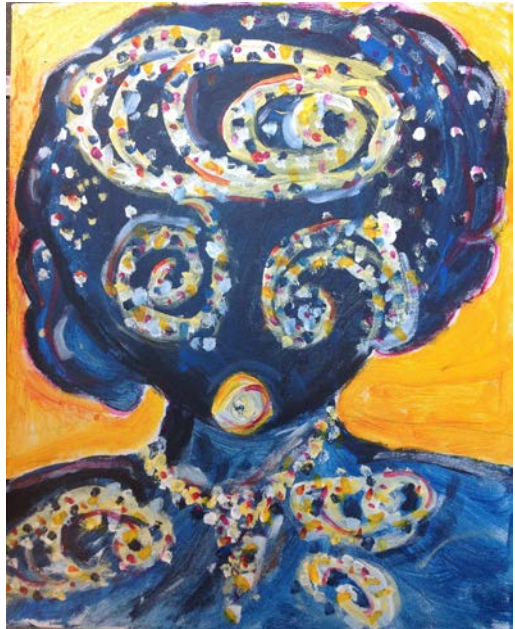


Devorah Stone



I love experimenting with taking a theme like “state of mind” and seeing what I can come up with.

I use different surfaces and materials for various effects. Sometimes I have an epiphany, sometimes I ‘doggedly explore’, sometimes I have accidents that become ideas.





Beth Threlfall



<https://www.facebook.com/beth.threlfallenske>

As a 19-year Fernwood resident, I work hard to bring my art into the world on a day-to-day basis. Believing that art is a way of living — not a thing to do — has helped me experience community through my art.

I love doing tie-dyeing with groups of people. Taking a piece of material whether clothing or an old pillow case and transforming it into something new, is magical. It is more than repurposing, it allows you to express yourself through colour and design.



Beth gave a terrific workshop. We ended up with hands covered in dye and coloured clothing that was often surprising. She showed how to use folds to create patterns and we created a colourful communal tablecloth we now use for PACS events and as a symbol of working together.

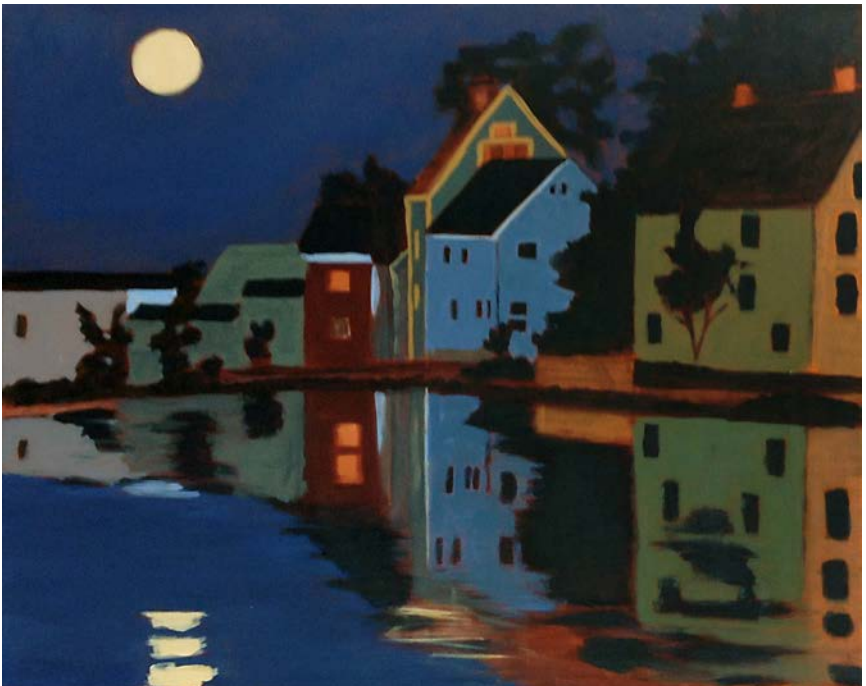


Glenda Turner

Being a part of PACS has made me appreciate creativity in a much broader sense. I love PACS for its inclusivity, it's welcoming nature and its incredible community of people who breathe life into it each week.

The PACS family shares concern for each other's well-being while being respectful of each other's boundaries and personal space

PACS really is a refuge for healing through creativity, and I consider it a great privilege to be a part of such a wonderful and caring organization.





Ilyanna Weeks

I use many mediums including acrylics, water color, and markers. to create art.

My gift is my inner spirit and this is where my love of color and energy come from.

I am at my best when I use my imagination and knowledge to create an original idea.



I am a founding member of PACS

PACS has enriched my quality of life and sense of identity because art better defines me, than my diagnosis of Schizophrenia.





Wendy Young

Intuitive Expressions In Painting



Creativity is a place I always go to, to experience the mystery, the magic of life and commune with my own inner world of my heart and spirit. Engaging with the mystery helps me break down the walls of my inner critic and tap into the source of creative abundance” I believe the spirit of nature informs my work with different layers of meaning in beautiful and subtle ways” and as Oscar Wilde so elegantly said; “even mere colour, unspoiled by meaning and unallied with definite form, can also speak to the soul in a thousand ways.”



The History of the Pandora Arts Collective Society

By P. Jean Oliver
Founding Member.



In one version of the myth, Pandora, “the all giver”, was the first human created by the deities. She was entrusted with a vessel filled with all the chaos and blessings known to humankind, but opened it when her curiosity got the better of her, releasing the contents to the world. Luckily, hope remained inside. In the same way, creativity is a tempting risk, an exploration, a hopeful endeavor. And like our sorrows and joys, creation, in all its messiness, is a gift we are meant to share.

The Pandora Arts Collective Society is a successful and robust registered charity art collective. Our members create art together in a vibrant studio program, and collaborate on community and art events throughout the year.

The concept had its start as a therapeutic art program initiated by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), originally located on Pandora Street in Victoria, and abruptly cancelled in 2004. Clients of that program, who had experienced its incredibly positive impact on their lives, chose to rebuild as a collective.

In a café after the closure, a small group of us discussed the notion of this writer’s casual observation of, “Why don’t we just run it ourselves?”



The temptation we felt perhaps not unlike Pandora's struggle trying not to open that container from the gods. And similarly, trying was never really in question. We would build this thing, and by doing so, take care of ourselves, and each other.

The legend of the first human, and her vessel filled with hope, encapsulates the struggles and victories inherent in surmounting mental health challenges.

There was healing in that decision that buoyed the early members. We'd made art together, we mattered to each other, and we were like family. We would use these strengths to now go into business together.

We organized on our own terms. The Pandora Arts Collective Society would be: member-directed, eliminate restrictive criteria barriers for admittance, have none of the destabilizing time-limits on participation, and not get tied to a single-funding source that dictated what kinds of programs we could offer. Our membership would include anyone wanting to improve their mental well-being through the practice of making art in a group.

With massive, timely, and sometimes miraculous, and ongoing support from friends, family, and the non-profit and business community, the group learned and grew. We wrote our first grants, and were rewarded with three years of funding from the City of Victoria. Other grants and donations followed, including successful Gaming grants in years the Arts were hard to fund.

By 2007 Pandora had grown beyond the capacity to run on a volunteer basis. The original members had become both facilitators and Board members. We realized for the group to be

safe and sustainable, for it to grow, some areas needed more expertise. The decision was made to hire a trained facilitator, and a sudden windfall donation from Opus Framing and Arts Supplies helped make it possible.

Over the years, businesses and citizens in and around Victoria have been inspired by the group's determination to self-govern. Catching the spirit of the enterprise, they back the project with money, resources, expertise, and time. Community members sit on the boards and give heroic contributions, ensuring the group's success. Pandora continued to mature and in 2013, became a registered charity in its own right.

The Pandora Arts Collective Society's continued success has been largely due to how we have persisted as a group. The program is protected by a deeply committed Board of Directors, dedicated staff, and by due diligence to financial stewardship. Decisions are grounded by a policy that ensures half the Directors are program participants, and by not overtaxing our facilitators or volunteer base.

The spirit of the Pandora Arts Collective is captured in our slogan, "That which creates itself cannot be destroyed." PACS is uniquely cost-effective, a model for others, and figuratively as transformative a vessel as that given to its namesake. Through the protection of hope, many hundreds of participants have been helped to better health.

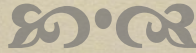
Ours is a history rich in compassion and determination, one that encompasses a dynamic past, an engaging present, a sustainable future...and an unshakable belief in the healing power of art.





Pandora Arts Collective

THAT WHICH CREATES ITSELF CANNOT BE DESTROYED



Thanks again to the city and UVic for the small grants that supported the community engagement programming and research behind this 'zine project.



University of Victoria
Education



Thanks also to the funders who help the many members of the Pandora Arts Collective find the people, place and materials that allow us to create together every week.



Consider becoming a Pandora Arts Collective studio patron:

- Studio Coffee break for a month \$35
- Art Supplies for a week \$50
- Supporting a PACS participant in exhibiting his/her work as an emerging artists. \$75
- One Studio day for up to 15 people \$125
- Studio for a week for up to 20 people \$250
- Little Studio monthly rental \$300
(The Little Studio is our permanent space for drying paintings, storing supplies and communication with the community)
- Art angel for a month \$1,000
(providing space, facilitation and supplies)

<http://www.pandoraarts.ca>

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