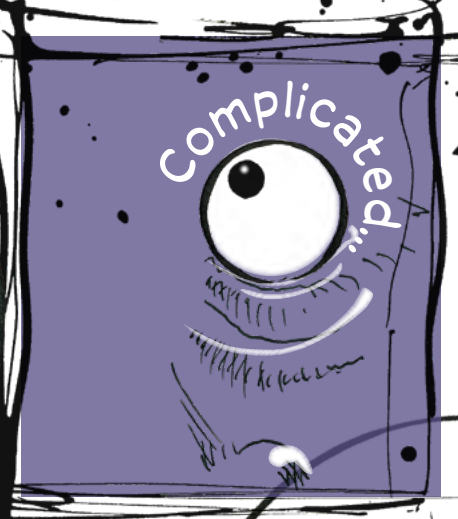


Pandora Arts Collective

Stay-at-Home Studio



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The Covid Chronicles

12 Collective works

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.

"Why don't we just run it ourselves?" the History of the Pandora Arts Collective Society

By P Jean Oliver, Founding Member

Is the fire abject, raging, out of control? Is the woman beaten, facing the fire alone, are her shoulders slumped in defeat, her back to the onlookers? Bystanders who say, "That is not my house, that is not my fire." Or is her back straight, is she facing her brigade, preparing to organize them into a front-line mastery of the blaze will they save the little house? They shout with her, "No one knows, but we have to try!" Or are the silhouettes serene, resolved and accepting, cleansed; waiting for the fire to burn itself out? Waiting until things cool down so they can build again from the ashes.

In the first five years of building Pandora, we used to joke that we were only ever thirty days from closing. Like accepting that sometimes our mental health will work against us, in the same way we accepted how precarious things were for us and our members. Denial would have been a kind of neglect of our commitment, in the same way it can derail recovery. We had learned this hard lesson from our various mental health journeys, that blunt realism is usually best. Acceptance enables a person to go to the next level of belief. In this way, we believed that even if we did close, it would only be for long enough to regroup, find some money and help, and reopen.

Much is made of the word closure. Learning to live with mental illness means accepting there's no such thing, and then being all right with that. It means ignoring the mind when you ache for sleep at night, and choosing the attitude you take with you through to the next day. It's all about deciding how we're going to face the new normal.

We need both the artist and the witness-viewer, recovery and stability for all comes from the symbiotic relationship of both (With the possible exception of juried art shows and art critics!)

But sometimes the artist needs help. Art supplies are expensive, so is transportation, affording a good breakfast, and a studio space.

Without the freedom to make art, what would there be for us to see? Artists need the crowd gathered nearby to decide what is their perception of art, and even of the mentally ill? And by association, of themselves. An onlooker? A bystander? Or someone who will pick up a bucket, fill it with water and pass it along?

Art has the power to teach us all how to look at the fire, not as a deadly inferno, but as a strengthening forge.

The Pandora Arts Collective Society is a registered charity where members meet twice a week to experience the healing power of creating art together, while collaborating on community, and art events throughout the year.

Participate:
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Support:



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Since its beginning in 2005, *The Pandora Arts Collective* has been about creativity, mutual aid and community outreach. Despite the pandemic, PACS continues to impact dozens of individuals weekly,

When it became necessary to cancel F2F studio sessions. Our facilitators established the 'Stay-at-home Studio' program involving using Zoom. At first only offered once a week, soon demand resulted

in twice weekly gatherings. Some participants found the Zoom experience allowed the positive experiences of PACS energized their home life. It is anticipated that when we are able to return to F2F studio gatherings we will add a third weekly Zoom-based session as an ongoing program development.

This 'zine was originally planned to highlight guest artists and F2F studio

activities. In adapting to the pandemic to a series of weekly posters featuring participants work around a weekly challenge. The posters provided an on-going and expanding display, visible to the community, in the little Fernwood gallery that ran for months during the height of the lockdown. The posters selected here were also bound as a 'zine that was featured in a small press show sponsored by the Open Space Gallery.

Enjoy!





Pandora Arts Collective

Featuring
Linda, Devorah, Jane,
Beth, Ann, Jae, Karen

THAT WHICH CREATES ITSELF CANNOT BE DESTROYED
SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY



Week 3
Creative
Up-Cycling
the Egg
Carton
Challenge



Join us?
we Zoom
Tuesdays
at 1pm

Details?



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Stay At Home

STUDIO

PACS' art-ful response to covid

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Pandora Arts Collective

Featuring

Linda, Catherine, Jane, Devorah, Beth, Anne, Jae, Karen, Janine

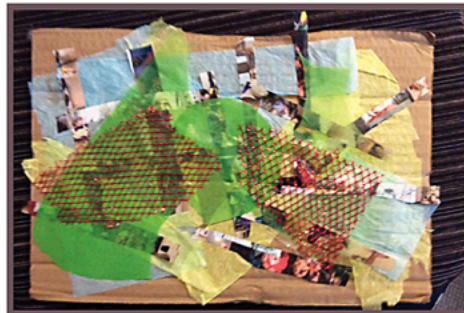


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SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY



Week 2 of Creative Up-Cycling the Collage Challenge



Join us?

we Zoom Tuesdays at 1pm

Details?

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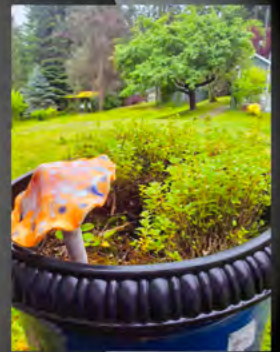
Pandora Arts Collective

Stay At Home STUDIO

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Week 4 Creative Up-Cycling
The covid challenge
'TIME' (or thyme?)



Featuring
Devorah, Jane, Beth, Ann, Jae, Karen, Wendy, Janine, Catherine



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we Zoom
Tuesdays
at 1pm

Details?



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Week 5
the Dot
Challenge



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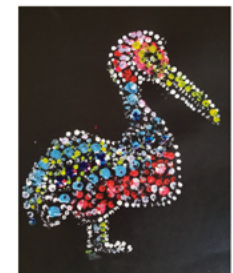
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Featuring

- Linda, Devorah, Jane,
- Beth, Ann, Jae, Karen,
- Catherine, Janine, Wendy,
- Louanne & Deb



PACS



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Stay At Home

STUDIO

PACS' art-ful response to covid



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PACS' art-ful response to covid



Pandora Arts Collective

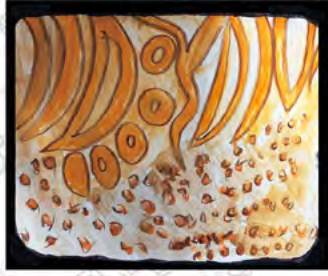
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Week 7
Challenge
Take a Walk on
the Wild Side

Featuring
Ann, Beth, Devorah,
Jae, Karen,
Jane & RANDOM!



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SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

Stay At Home
STUDIO
PACS' art-ful response to covid

Featuring
Linda, Devorah,
Jae, Karen & Janine



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Stay at Home STUDIO

PACS' art-ful response to covid



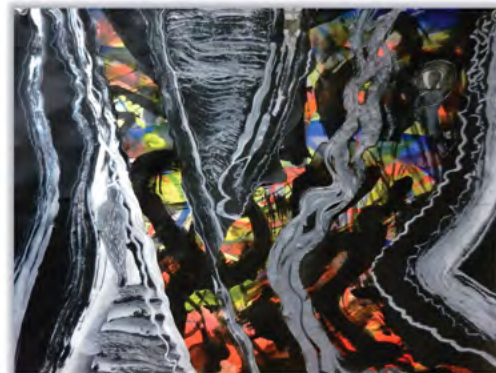
Taking a line for a Walk



Week 8 studio challenge
Featuring:
Beth, Linda, Devorah, Jae, Karen, Jane, Wendy Catherine, Louanne

Join us? we Zoom Tuesdays at 1pm

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Oh Canada

Week 10 studio challenge

Featuring:

Linda,
Devorah,
Jae,
Karen,
Beth

Join us?

we Zoom
Tuesdays
at 1pm

Details?



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THAT WHICH CREATES ITSELF CANNOT BE DESTROYED



non-dominant hand

Week 9 studio challenge

Featuring:

Linda,
Jane,
Devorah,
Jae,
Karen,
Louanne



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clouds

Week 11
studio challenge

Featuring:
Beth, Linda, Devorah,
Jae, Karen, Jane,
Catherine, Louanne



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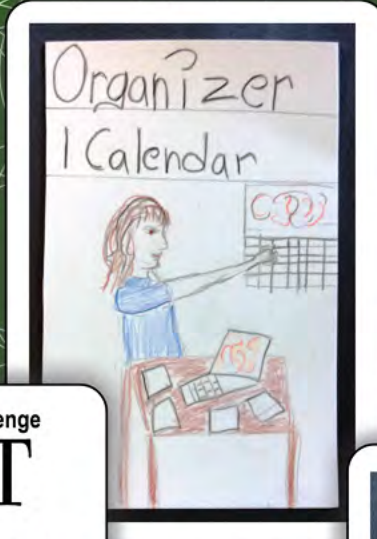
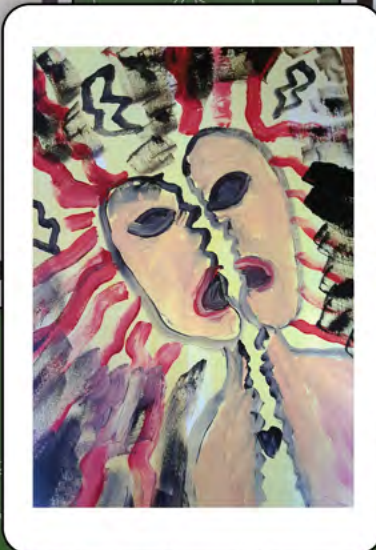
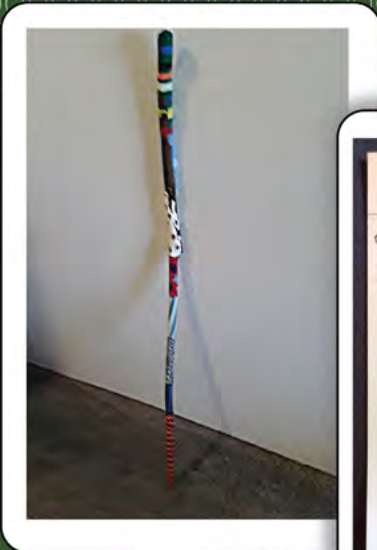
THAT WHICH CREATES ITSELF
CANNOT BE DESTROYED



<https://pandoraarts.ca>

Featuring:

Linda, Devorah,
Jae, Karen,
& RANDOM!



Week 14 studio challenge

Tarot

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Stay at Home
STUDIO
PACS' art-ful response to covid



Week 13 studio challenge
INSPIRED

By Beth's Community Mural

Pandora



Arts Collective

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING
THROUGH CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY

Stay at Home
STUDIO

PACS' art-ful response to covid



Featuring: Linda, Devorah, Jae, Karen, RANDOM! & Catherine



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Join us?

we Zoom
Tuesdays
at 1pm

Details?



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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)



Mailing Address:
1923 Fernwood Road
Victoria, B.C.
V8T 2Y6

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Thanks for the support



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