

Words of inspiration

"This piece was inspired by many canoe trips down the Columbia from Athelmer to Golden with my husband. On one trip I took a photo of these trees which led me to recreate the scene in clay preserving it forever!"

ALICE HALE OF INVERMERE ON HER WORK POPLARS ON THE COLUMBIA

"The inspiration for this piece was a trip down the river on a sunny day in August. I wanted to emphasize the view of the river from this perspective – looking back with the surrounding mountains reflected in the beautiful blue green color of the Columbia River at Golden."

ARTIST VICTORIA ROGERS ON HER WORK COLUMBIA'S JOURNEY

Columbia Wetlands - Natural Inspiration



The Flow of the River by Nellie Tobler.

The Golden Community Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners support the project.

"We couldn't have done this without our funding partners and the Art Gallery of Golden," Zimmerman said.

Many of the artists exhibiting are from the Kootenays, but Zimmerman has also managed to acquire a limited edition print by renowned artist Robert Bateman, which will be sold at a silent auction.

"It's wonderful to have Robert Bateman. He has a long history of generous contributions to conservation. Years ago he came through this area and made a few statements about the wetlands that I have been getting mileage out of for a long time. He donated a beautiful signed print."

The work in the gallery exhibit is for sale. A limited edition, full-colour, 32 page print catalogue will be available for sale through the gallery. Columbia Wetlands — Natural Inspiration will also be published on the internet at www.kicking-horseculture.ca/agog pro-

viding access to the exhibit to visitors from around the world.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the individual artists. Zimmerman explains that the exhibit is more an awareness raiser than fund-raiser.

"There are new stresses on the wetlands because of increased development, recreation, invasive species. We are looking forward to a new federal regulation this year, so no motorized boating will be allowed in the wetland at all and on the main stream of the river not before July 15. There will also be a restriction on wakeboarding and towing.

"Wildsight believes that conservation gains are achieved through public education and raising awareness. Artists in all media have a unique vision. The environmental science is very important but art can engage our senses and stir our feelings.

"Natural Inspiration will touch people's hearts," Zimmerman added, "and inspire us all to help sustain the Columbia Wetlands. We hope that the project will move viewers to a greater understanding, apprecia-

ARTISTS

Susan Fahmi -
Edgewater
Victoria Rogers -
Vaseux
Lake, near Pentictorn
Enid Petherick Golden
Kathryn Manry-
Calgary/Kimberley
Stan Lukasiewicz -
Calgary
Nellie Tobler - Parson
Lynne Grillmair -
Briscoe
Alice Hale - Briscoe
Ann Jones - Kimberley
Jill Unger - Invermere
Troy Hunter - Victoria
Deborah Borsos -
Argenta
Jean Blackall -
Crowsnest
Pass
Paula Cravens - Canal
Flats
Marty Ryan - Golden
Darcy Monchak -
Golden
Dawna Lea Ringer -
Golden
Bill Pitcher - Golden
Deanna Gauthier -

"To look across the Wetlands of the Columbia Valley is enough to inspire awe. But to step into it... to glide along its mirrored surface, transforms you and reality into a quiet still peace, as one."

"Without a friend to touch my heart, it only beats for me". The Wetlands became part of me when my friend invited me on a paddle. From car to kayak I was guided with a gentle understanding; folded into our double kayak, propped up with pillows and a blanket to keep me cozy, and off we went with one strong stroke. Silently we slipped through the water. I felt like a duck, mesmerized by what the water offered me. In the kayak I was free from my disability, free to be curious and explore with my eyes and all my senses.

ARTIST J. UNGER