

Centre for Creativity Report for 2012-2013

Two new London community members brought their special vision and expertise to the Board of the Centre for Creativity in 2012: Mr. James Reaney, well-known writer and arts critic, and Ms. Ruth Douthwright, independent dance artist. The Board has benefited hugely from their ideas and enthusiasm.

Of the items on last year's Centre for Creativity 'wish-list' that turned into reality this year, the most significant was the hiring of an assistant who could provide administrative support. Ms. Dawna Perry joined us in this capacity, and has been an asset both in the management of events and in setting up the Centre's social networking.

In November 2012, thanks to the efforts of Board member Ms. Catherine Elliot Shaw, King's students, staff and faculty were invited to a special tour of the artist Adrian Norvid's exhibition *Showstoppers, Whoppers, Downers and Out Of Towners*, at the McIntosh Gallery. Curators James Patten and Catherine Elliot Shaw walked us around the exhibition, supplying commentary on each piece.

In January 2013, the Centre organized a two-day film event. The first event, which attracted a sizeable community crowd, was titled "Italian-Canadian Immigration and the Arts: Writing, Poetry and Film." Poet Gianna Patriarca, and film-makers Adriana Monti and Mario Circelli gave their audience fascinating glimpses of the Italian-Canadian experiences of finding a home in Canada, and reflected on how these experiences were interpreted in art.

On the second day, we had a screening of *Indigenous Women in Action: Voices from Vancouver*, a documentary by Gloria Alvernaz Mulcahy. Filmed by Shannon Kaplun, this documentary focused on a community rally organized by women from the DTES (Downtown Eastside of Vancouver), in front of the courthouse in New Westminster, B.C., during the opening of the Robert Pickton murder trial in 2006. Dr. Mulcahy, whose stunning photographs from the Vision Quest project were also on display at the event, introduced the film and placed it in the context of the Wally Opal report. The screening was followed by a lively discussion.

In March 2013, the Centre organized a panel discussion, with short performances, titled *Double Lives: Making Space for Art*. The panel consisted of six participants from various creative areas (music, literature, visual art) who performed/displayed their art and discussed how they made the mental 'space' to be creative despite the everyday pressures of life and work. The event was very well-received, and generated a good deal of discussion.

In April 2013, the Centre for Creativity made a contribution to the Write Place's literary soirée, at which students and ex-students of King's who were part of the active writers' group read from

their work. At Catherine Elliot-Shaw's suggestion, the Centre also discussed the preservation and display of Professor David Meredith's art panels on the history of Mathematics: we were able to give the King's College Art Committee a pricing quote for their framing and mounting from Strand Fine Art, and we hope the panels will be on display soon.

I would like to acknowledge the insight and organizational expertise provided to the Centre for Creativity over the last few years by Dr. Linda Weber, whose busy life made it impossible for her to continue as co-Chair of the Board this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Vidya Natarajan