

NEIGHBOURHOOD GALLERY

July 31 - August 30, 2026

Fridays and *Sundays 1-4 ;not Aug 23



SOLID GROUND

Celebrating art of the street community
connected through

Solid Outreach programs

1611 Quadra, At St John the Divine
Entrance from carpark on Mason st
or follow garden path from Quadra

Exhibition Document

Curator's Note by Cornelia van Voorst

Solid Outreach provides harm reduction services through experiential peer-to-peer support reducing harms associated with living on the street, housing insecurity, poverty, and substance use.

Through Solid Outreach services people have a safe space to be able to participate in art making that allows them to express their imagination, humour, joy, softness, gentleness and wonder. What we witness on our streets isn't the whole story of the people we see there. Art enables us to look beyond the surface of fear and stigma.

This exhibition conveys a deeper story, one in which we recognise the human creative spirit. The art might feel familiar and remind us of the variety with which early modern artists of the first half of the twentieth century experimented. Then, as today we see art that moves us beyond the literal to the emotional and immediate. As a result, 'Solid Ground' presents as a modern, contemporary show.

Here is work that shows sophistication, as well as work that is innocent and raw. Art allows a resonance in which we might recognise our own inner sense of joy, sadness, confusion or wonder. The inner recognition of common feeling is the beginning of compassion. We not only see, but feel the inadequacy of stereotypes.

Each artwork conveys the individuality of a person who has survived and is surviving extraordinary stressors, both inner and outer. Yet here is work that conveys something beyond circumstances. Through art, the trope of a flower growing through the crack in the concrete becomes an icon of recovery. Yet the picture we have on our poster is a flower growing in a container of soil. This is the benefit of Solid's programs: not only do they provide harm reduction, they contain conditions that help nourish the beginnings of health promotion.

We have featured work from the North Park Solid Drop In, Dowler Place and the Harbour. There was so much work to choose from, we made the decision to mainly focus on the work of people who are regular participants who have built up small bodies of work.

It's been humbling to be entrusted with this work. It is a privilege to welcome artists connected with Solid at the Neighbourhood Gallery in our first official public exhibition.

A little more about Solid Outreach:

Solid is more than just a public health organization; we're a community deeply committed to empowering individuals and building healthier lives together. Solid's purpose is to empower people who have experiences with substance use to design and deliver services and supports needed within our community. We have operated in Victoria BC since 2007, providing overdose prevention services, street outreach, pathways to housing and health supports, daily support groups, Indigenous-led cultural programs, and overnight sheltering.

All our services are provided by and for people with lived experience, creating a form of vocational therapy and psycho-social healing for our staff and members. We are committed to responsive, effective services that directly meet the needs of our community.

Learn more at solid-outreach.org



Exhibition views. Purple flowers kindly saved and provided for us by Victoria Arts Council. They were included in the exhibition Naming a Crisis. The two shows are tied together by these blooms.





Names of artists and titles are included where able. Many works do not have that information available perhaps out of concern for privacy or having been lost. We hope that more information may be added in time.

Tyson Tiedermann might be considered an artist in residence at The Harbour where his artwork fills the space. Prolific and conscientious, Tyson makes work that expresses both artistic and personal idealism. The craftsmanship is sophisticated yet influenced by the boldness and immediacy of street and tattoo art. A self taught artist of the Cree Nation, Tyson's imagery combines traditional themes of the sacred in nature with contemporary tattoo references and mythological themes that are both personal and traditional.



Abyss



Jeff S.F.D.



Lady Love Lucy



Golden Eagle Woman

Tyson Tiedermann

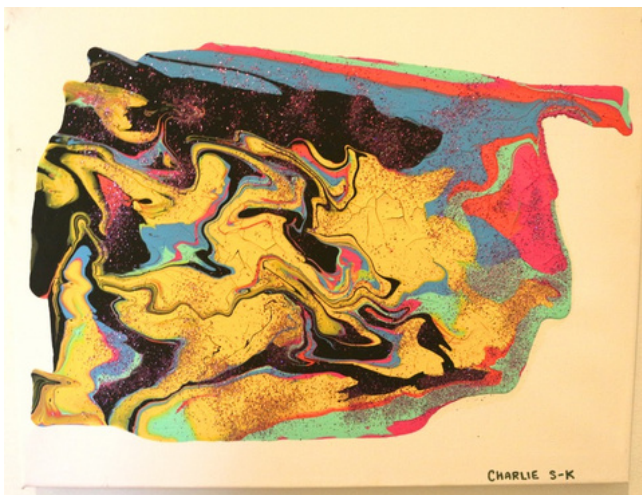


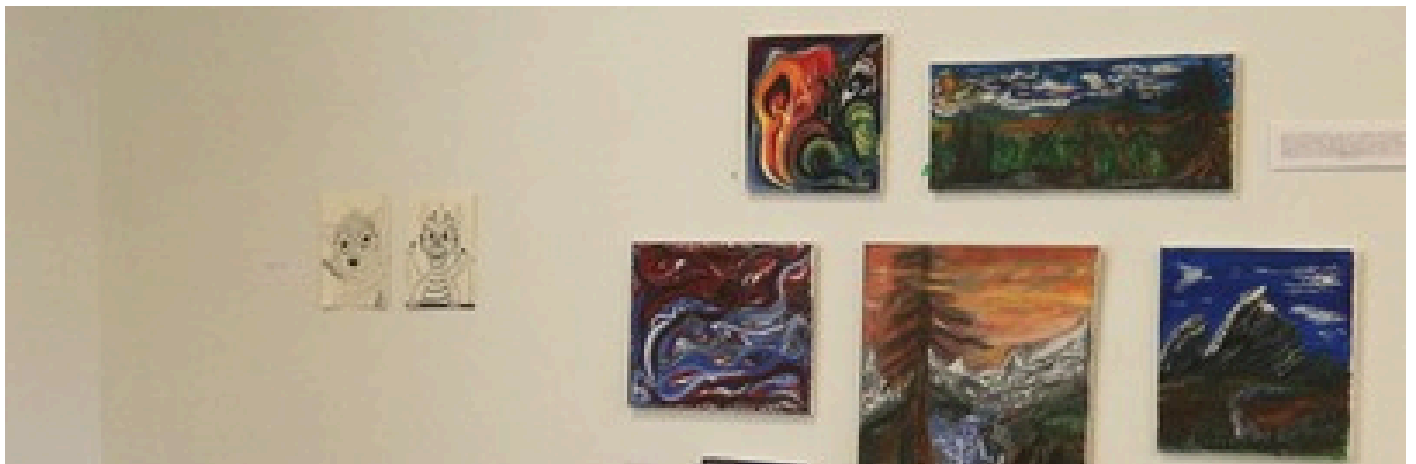
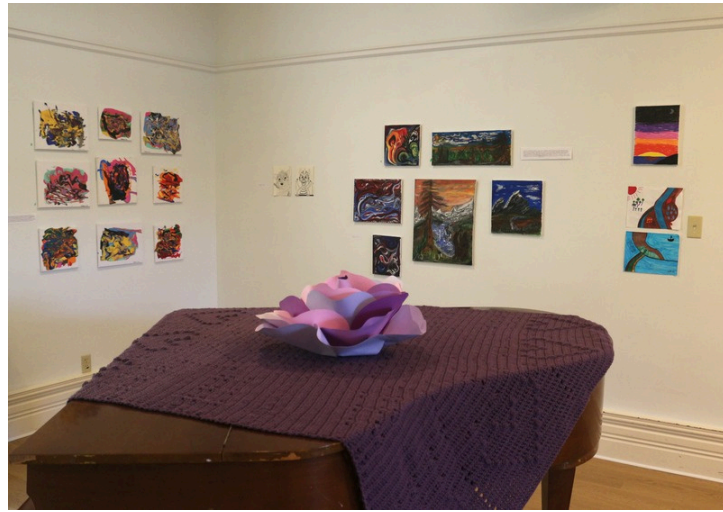
Soul Mates, True Love's First Kiss



Acrylic paintings by **Charlie S-K**.

Acrylic poured painting is deceptively simple. The results however are an invitation to enjoy colour for its own sake. Paint is poured slowly and allowed to flow into neighbouring colour or can be manipulated by tipping the canvas in different directions. This can be a meditative process and exciting at the same time as our imaginations read into the shapes and forms that are invoked. One thing to notice in these paintings is how they might be a metaphor of how someone can thrive in community without losing individuality.





Morgan Daii



Jeff S.F.D. has two bodies of work in this exhibition, the lyrical abstracts on the south wall of the gallery, and the grouping of landscapes on the north wall. In all of them a calligraphic style of painting gives an impression of these being well considered yet spontaneous. There is a sense of flow that is intimate and intricate even though what is being painted is majestic - fire forms, mountains, lakes, forests. Jeff faithfully practices his art at the North Park Drop In. Some of this work has developed over months.





The painting above was exhibited according to the picture on the left. The artist painted it as the picture on the right. We did not have that information at the time of curation. Jeff S.F.D. was OK with how it was curated but we want to ensure that the artist's interpretation is represented.







These drawings above, by 'Andrew' seem to be looking at the earth from a bird's eye view and mapping places of human nourishment and activity. Combining them with the little canvas (artist unknown) of the setting sun tells a story about the sun's travel across the sky and observing the land below.



Tyson Tiedermann, Large Triptych, Study (in progress)
Sacred Mountain over the Trees



Tyson Tiedermann
Moonlight Lit Lake





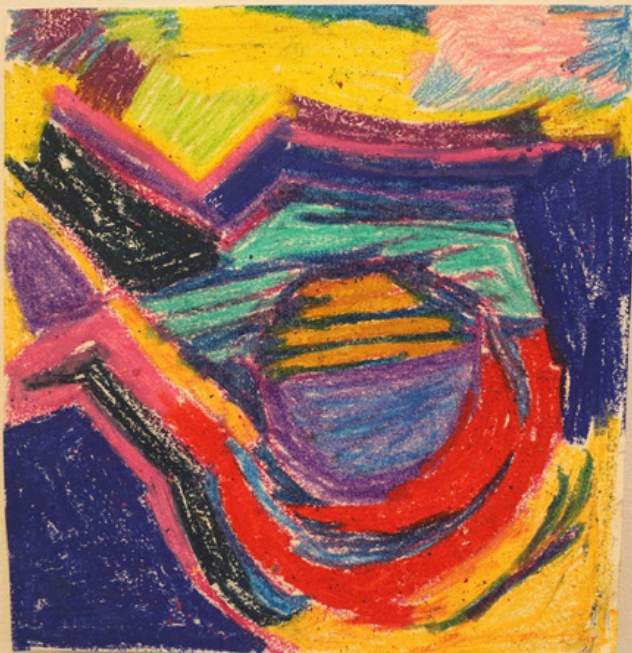
artist unknown



Michael Coombes



These colourful square drawings are made with oil pastels and arrange shapes and colour in exciting and unusual ways. These have been hung simply so the shadow the paper makes on the wall becomes part of how we view the art. The persons who made these are unknown. The art was found at the North Park Drop in and appears to have been there for a while. Whosoever's work this is, we are grateful to be able to show it.



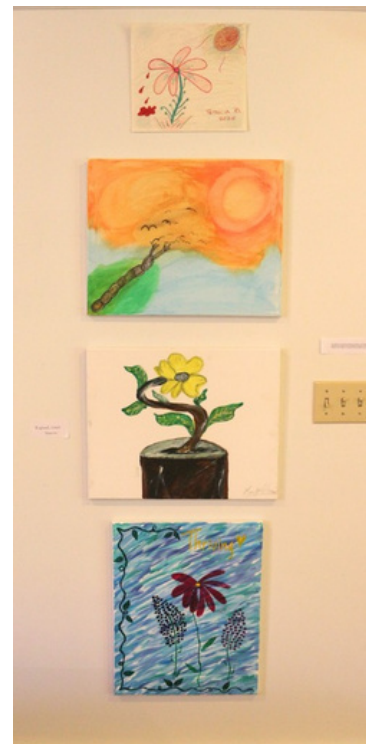


Lucille S.





This wall showcases art that has a sense of tenderness, softness and the childlike. It is not always obvious to the viewer what the work is about. These artworks depict birds, butterflies, nesting, the longing for home. Flowers planted that thrive and flourish beyond hardship are described in the work on this wall. Perhaps the simplicity, care and gentle beauty of these works allow us to listen more attentively and compassionately.



The delicate and bright butterfly painting that is one of a grouping by someone who has known deep grief. This painting captures the presence of a lost child.

Art enables us to talk about sad things by giving us a soft distance so that we are not overwhelmed. It is a bridge between sadness and the development of memory. With art we do not have to push away our memories or our sadness. Art helps our lived experience find a place to be known and held.



Lara Eastwood





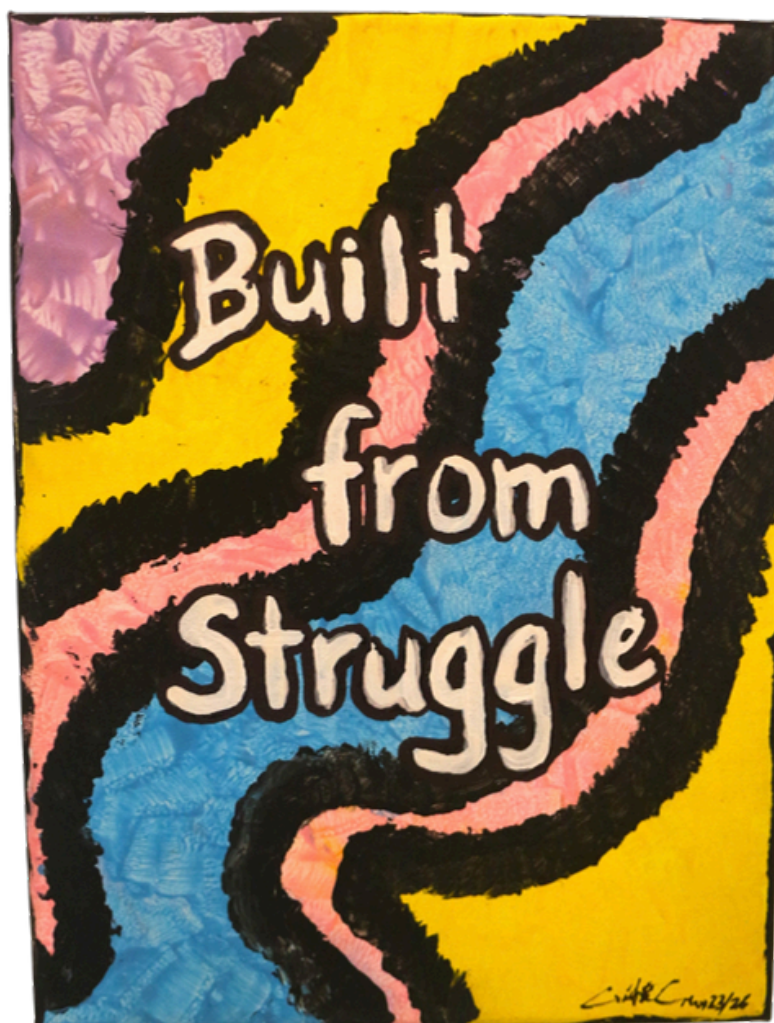


Patricia B.





Raphael Louis





Lucille. S.

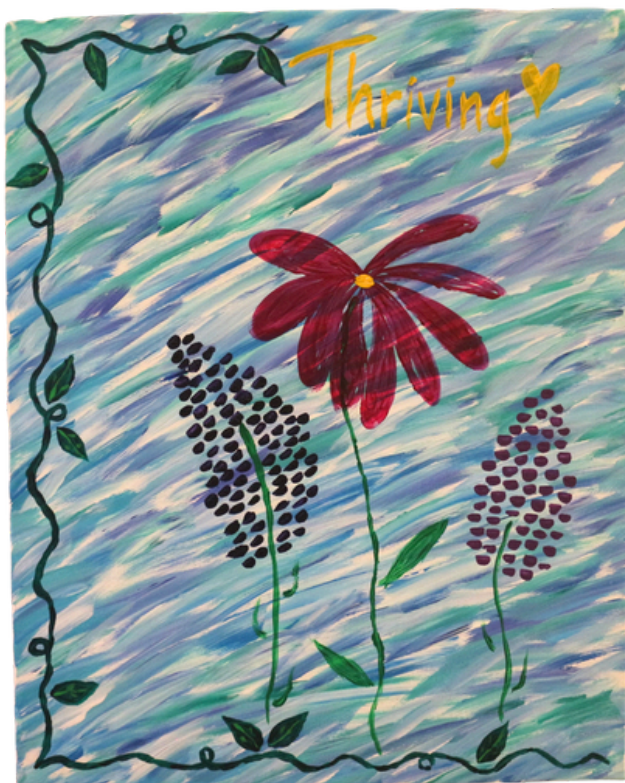


Alain Junior





Collaboration by North Park Art Group





Solid Ground was supported by St John the
Divine Anglican Church.

Curated by:

Cornelia van Voorst and Ruth MacIntosh.

learn more about Solid Outreach here:

www.solid-outreach.org/

learn more about the

Neighbourhood Gallery here:

www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/art/neighbourhood-gallery

learn more about St John the Divine here:

www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/