



Art in Unexpected Places

By Christina Crook



Hill Fire by Jack Shadbolt

Clockwise from left to right: Cathedral by Douglas Seriff, Chef Bagel by Klaus Joehle, Essential Elements by Peter Pierobon & Sibeal Foyle, The Byway Pond by Gordon Smith

It's happened. Britain's austerity has been eclipsed by street art sensations like Banksy. Painting the town red (quite literally at times) the secretive creative has left his identity to guessers while his work continues to scatter the globe. It's the kind of thing you'd expect on the streets of Brooklyn. On a recent trip to New York City I was reminded of the fair island's appeal when visiting the nouveau hipster neighbourhood of Williamsburg. Street art abounds. Brooklyn is the Big Apple at its finest, and on the brick, it shows.



Brooklyn: Unknown Artist

Back in supernatural British Columbia, we too have much to brag about. Gastown alone serves as a backdrop to some of the city's best and brightest. Annual studio tours, such as The Drift and the Eastside Cultural Crawl, open the door to the city's creative tour de force. The provinciewide BC Cultural Crawl, now in its eighth year, serves do the same (see page 144).



Sculpture at Vancouver General Hospital: by Martha Sturdy

Art can find unexpected homes such as through the halls of the Vancouver General Hospital. Their public collection is vast, covering several stories, and stunning. Against the often serious backdrop of a health facility, Jim O'Hara, VGH's chief fundraiser, has created an artistic haven in the city.

In BC, public art abounds. Consider the remote town of Chetwynd, in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, where you'll find over 50 chainsaw carvings or the interior hotspot of Kelowna which boasts over 40 traditional and contemporary public pieces, 16 in their popular cultural district alone.

Chemainus, an unique island town, serves as a giant outdoor gallery with over 30 large-scale murals scaling the town walls and the Terminal City caters to the outdoor enthusiast with its Vancouver Biennale, a free 22-month open air exhibition presenting 30 major sculpture and over 60 new media installations from now until 2011.

To discover more public art across British Columbia visit: www.art-bc.com

Vancouver International Airport



Return of the Spawning Salmon by Jody Broomfield

