

BOULEVARD

LIFE AT ITS FINEST

MAY 2011

Spring fling?

Make romance click online

Dining Out

A most modern chef brings age-old wisdom to the plate

Hot Properties

A trio of new houses enhances an old neighbourhood



1925 5484

PHOTOS BY

Our readers snap beauties

refresh renew rejuvenate

Medical professionals Dr. Heather Cairns and Dr. Don McAdam will help you develop a skin treatment plan for a rejuvenated you.

- Botox & Fillers
- Complete IPL Services
- Profractional Laser
- Microdermabrasion

Please call for a free consultation! Saturday appointments available.
250.896.9099


Southisland
MEDICAL AESTHETICS

Suite 225
3066 Shelbourne Street
southislandmedical.com



PHOTO BY GARY MCKINSTRY

State of The Arts

BY ALISA GORDANEER

Michael Williams' legacy of artwork is nourishing needy souls at a new downtown clinic

ART CAN HEAL I've said it before and I'll say it again, especially after seeing how a collection of 24 well-placed artworks has transformed the walls — and the care-giving atmosphere — of the Victoria Cool Aid Society's new downtown health clinic, the Access Health Centre.

There, a black-and-white print by Victoria sculptor Elza Mayhew welcomes clients into the clinic, while etchings, prints and photographs hang in the treatment, counselling and meeting rooms. Even the staff lunchroom and individual offices sport pieces of original art, brightening up a space that had seemed somewhat sterile and institutional.

The art comes from the University of Victoria's Michael Williams Collection, a group of more than 600 mostly British Columbia works left to the university in 2000 by Williams, the late Victoria entrepreneur. Many are on display at the university's Legacy Gallery downtown, but this selection of pieces by Dorothy Haegert, Roy Tomlinson and Art Thompson, among others, was chosen for the Cool Aid clinic by UVic art history students working on a course in curating in the community.

Under the guidance of Professor Carolyn Butler-Palmer, UVic's Williams Legacy Chair, students worked on choosing just the right pieces to complement the clinic's goals and connect with its 4,000 clients, many of whom live on the streets. The connection was relevant because much of Williams' philanthropy focused on helping the homeless.



WATERLILY
Shoes, Bags and Accessories

2537 Beacon Avenue (in the Cannery Building)
Sidney 250.656.5606 info@waterlilyshoes.com

"It's where he would want his artwork to be," says Irene Haigh-Gidora, the manager of Community Health Services for Cool Aid. When Butler-Palmer approached her with the idea of having her students choose artwork for the clinic, she says she was thrilled. Photographer Courtney Milne's pieces, in particular, have a resonance for the clinic's clients. In 1975, shortly after being diagnosed as diabetic, Milne had a personal crisis that led him to nearly end his life in a frozen river. But then, as Milne writes on his website, "I heard an unfamiliar male voice, clear and quiet, inside my head: 'If you want to survive, then you must resign your job today, move into the cabin on the edge of town, and photograph bison and northern lights.' End of transmission." Milne promptly quit his career as a media executive, began his photography career, and rapidly recovered from his health problems.

His story, says Haigh-Gidora, inspires clients who have their own physical, mental and addiction struggles. If Milne could turn his life around, why can't they?

Milne's 1989 photograph, *Fujisan, Mountain of Everlasting Light*, hangs on the wall of an examining room, offering a rainbow-encircled vision of Japan's iconic Mount Fuji. The mountain's slopes form a near-perfect triangle, perhaps symbolizing a goal to strive for. It's certainly a point of interest, and one that can open up conversations about topics that wouldn't ordinarily be addressed in a doctor's office, but that allow patients and health-care providers a chance to reach deeper levels of conversation than they might have otherwise.

"We often sit here and talk about crisis," says Dr. Morgan Price. "This takes the conversation in a different direction."

For Price, there's an additional connection: sculptor Mayhew was his grandmother. He's delighted to see her familiar image on the wall at work, and likes the message that the artwork sends to clients, that the community is thinking about them — that they matter.

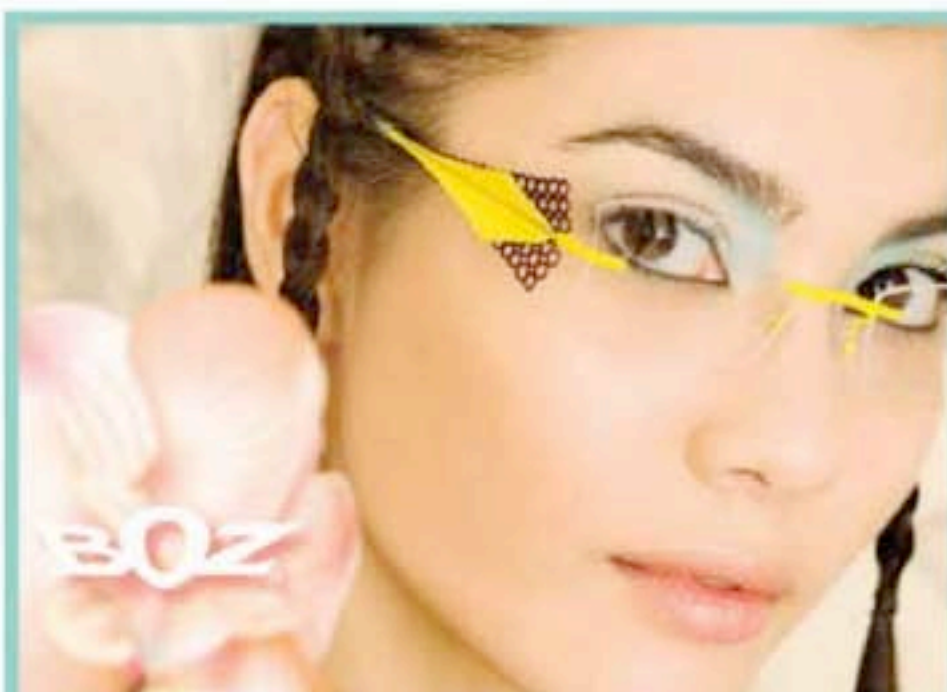
As Haigh-Gidora puts it, "our clients, just like anybody else, deserve to have surroundings that are pleasing to them."

Dr. Danica Gleave immediately noticed how the art has helped clients address a whole other part of themselves. A print by George Allen, black lines on a white background, caught the attention of one of her patients. "The patient was intrigued and talked to me about songs he likes to write. I saw him last week, in a different exam room, and he immediately commented that 'the picture was gone.' I reassured him that it was in the (similar-looking) room next door and he was glad to hear that... (It) just showed me that people notice, that they appreciate having interesting things to consider."

Now clients are being encouraged to bring in their own work to be hung in a group meeting room alongside some of Canada's finest. Making art is a healing process of its own.

This community connection feels like a great way to let art restore balance and create an even more healing environment.

That's something I'm sure Williams would have liked. ♥



etiquette is always in fashion
 **eye etiquette**
 OPTICAL BOUTIQUE

FULL
 SERVICE
 EYE CARE
 NOW
 BOOKING
 EYE EXAMS

189 - 2401 Millstream Road
 Millstream Village **250-474-1941**
eyeetiquetteoptical.ca

Feel Every Note
 VICTORIA SYMPHONY 11/12



Beethoven
 Miller
 Tann
 Mozart
 Vivaldi
 Margisara

SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW!
 250.385.6515 victoriasymphony.ca