

thearts

Found art

Kathryn Lissak might be cluttering up her home with found objects, but as her new exhibit proves, they make for good art.



ART FAN - Tartoooful owner Cathy Church stands in front of the latest artwork by Kathryn Lissak to be exhibited at her North Vancouver store.

Daniel Pi photo

Kathryn Lissak recounts her list of found objects the way some might recall finding a long-desired antique or a rare, out-of-print Bob Dylan b-side.

There was that “great piece of wood” in the middle of Cambie Street that she retrieved during rush hour traffic. And those curbside metal pieces she often stumbles across. Or there’s the mother of all finds: a torn-up foreign language novel she found the other day.

artistic impression

Alyssa Noel



anoel@northshoreoutlook.com

“What’s great about it is it’s a different language, so there’s some mystery to it,” she said.

She only ripped out a few pages to take home, but she probably would’ve liked to pocket the whole thing. Since she and her partner moved into a smaller home she’s had to exercise restraint with what she gleans.

Now, she has a box of paper scraps and a box of metal pieces. Both came in handy when she crafted *Kimono Diaries*, her first exhibit that’s currently on display at Tartoooful.

That series began with a box from Amazon. As anyone who’s ordered a book or CD from the online store knows, the order comes in a fold out box. Because she “imagines things quite easily,” in its unfolded form, the card-

board reminded Lissak of an open kimono.

She mounted the box on canvas and got to work. She transferred images and personal words onto it then painted bold colours followed by layers of toned glazes for texture. The result is striking, detailed unique pieces of art.

Lissak’s style quickly caught the attention of Tartoooful owner Cathy Church. When Church asked Lissak if she’d like to display her work in the store, she was a bit reluctant.

Showing her art in an exhibit was something she had filed under “someday.”

“I got tired of hearing myself say, ‘One day I’m going to.’ I had imagined what having a show was going to look like and I imagined that it didn’t look like somebody like me. I had to be more established and my work had to be more than what it was. But when I met Cathy she had such an easy and approachable way about her,” Lissak recalled.

She got all the reassurance she needed at the opening reception when eight of the 18 paintings went home with enthusiastic art lovers. “That was a pretty validating experience. I couldn’t believe it,” she said.

Church has had the opportunity to watch customers’ reactions to the pieces.



ARTIST OPENING - Kathryn Lissak poses in front of one of her pieces during the opening reception of *The Kimono Diaries, Vol 1*.

Barry Nelson photo

“They evoke really strong emotions in people,” she said. “They walk in and they really gravitate to one.”

While all the art can be enjoyed purely for its aesthetic value, some of the “diary entries” have reminded people of negative experiences. The piece called *Safe*, for example, reads, “I was always afraid because everything was always a secret.”

But another, like *Play*, offers a more universally uplifting excerpt. “I hope to live from a place of feeling complete so I enjoy every moment of now how it is.”

“I really related to the concept,” Church said. “I liked the idea they were so personal.”

With her first exhibit already a success, Lissak plans to hit the streets again to collect objects and ideas for another show soon.

The Kimono Diaries, Vol. 1 is on display at Tartoooful (102-118 E. 2 St.) until Nov. 14. For more information visit www.kathrynlissack.com.

stagewrite

Hear an orchestra.

The Vancouver Opera Orchestra, with Munich conductor, Andreas Pascal Heinzmann, perform the beautiful and often haunting music of the composer and Sufi master, Hidayat Inayat-Khan Oct. 26 at Centennial Theatre. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$35 for seniors and \$30 for students and children under 12. To order call 604-984-4484.

Work on writing.

Deep Cove Heritage Society invites you to an afternoon of Writing: His-story, Her-story and Your story. Join them to collect memories of lives-lived over the past 50 years for our sequel to *Echoes Across the Inlet* Oct. 28 from 1-3 p.m. at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre’s meeting room. For more information visit www.deepcoveheritage.com.