

Warrior Women Artist Collective Proudly Brings You

June 13-26

Xchanges Gallery
420 William Street

"Bang! the Drum" Exhibition

Hours: Fridays & Saturdays 11-4
or by appointment at
388-5260 or inquire@shylene.com
See you there!!

Opening night June 13th 7pm
8:30 Come for the
Open-Beat Community Drum-In
& bring your drum!!
Live performances throughout
the evening



“Bang! The Drum”

Exhibition Statement

By the

Warrior Women Artist Collective

The “Bang! The Drum” exhibition is a multimedia group show based on the members conceptualizations of the purposes and the actual object of the drum. The drum is a symbol of unity and a communication tool used for both human and spirits. The drum can be seen as an universal symbol of unity as the use of the drum is woven through all culture’s ancestry. The use of the drums is varied. It represents such divergent uses such as a ceremonial tool, a celebration beat or song, and a call to arms. The power of the drum is also felt in it’s ability to re-create the human heart beat and it’s ability to create a meditative state which increases focus for the individual/group experiencing it’s beat. Drumbeats are the backbone of primal and modern dance music. The drum comes to life through it’s own frame, skin, and breath. This exhibition seeks to create a dynamic visual medley of the conceptualized drum and it’s purposes welcoming the viewer to reflect upon their own personal journey and their history.

Artist Displaying include:

Janet Rogers, Romy Pritchard, Avril Nolin, Nancy Powell, Nina Oppermann,
Shylene Calla, Gwen Luptak, Lois Shannon, Linda Macfarlane.



Setting up the show and playing with the Nancy's Drum machine was as fun as making the drums!!



A few Warrior Women are showing their open spirit and wild energy.





Shylene created this faux drum, made from mosaiced tile, dear Hyde and shells



The collective exhibited many interpretations of the drum, from paintings and collages to mixed media pieces.



Together all the Warrior Women art created a show that showed diversity, vitality and power. Not to mention how to have fun 😊



Many of the artists made actual drums while others created drum like art from recycled materials



Romy painted this it was the largest piece in the exhibit



Throughout the exhibit the collective showed their range of talents and mediums



The second piece Shylene made was this mixed-media mosaic, “Drum Circle” Made with recycled mirror, dish, beach glass and deer Hyde.



No Quiet Women Here -- Monday Magazine Issue 24 Vol 28, June 13 - 19, 2002

The Warrior Women beat drums real and surreal

Women have a strong presence in local visual arts. Double-X chromosomes head the likes of Fran Willis Gallery and Gallery 1248, and Lisa Baldissera executes her role as The Art Gallery's curator of contemporary art with impressive skill. On an exhibition level, the major galleries typically exhibit male and female artists equally (by my count, for example, Open Space showed 22 female and 23 male visual artists in 2001). In larger centres, this balance is not so standard: since January 2000, the National Gallery has devoted only four of 26 solo shows to female artists.

I don't think artists obsess about these kinds of disparities, but they do take practical steps to outwit the inequalities. In 1995, eight local artists formed the Warrior Women Artists Collective to refine ideas, to encourage each others' work and, especially, to share the administrative hell of archiving current work, finding venues and proposing exhibits. With a membership that fluctuates (usually around 15), the Warrior Women average five shows a year—a number most individual artists would find exhausting to even contemplate.

I met with 10 current Warrior Women to hear about their newest show, *Bang! The Drum*. I wondered if the name indicates that the group is specifically political in their artistic approach. “Not everybody works from that viewpoint,” says longtime member Avril Nolin, “but just the fact that there's women together doing their own thing, that itself does make a statement. And there are a lot of people who put social issues into their work.” Another member, Romy Pritchard, adds: “Having venues to show is very empowering. That's the really wonderful part, that Warrior Women provides a voice, a means to show our work.”

Each show grows around a collectively chosen theme. *Bang!* developed gradually. Founding member Janet Rogers is a drum maker and the idea of a drum-themed show has been tossed around for a while. “I love the idea of a drum show because drums are so universal,” Rogers points out. The artists speak animatedly about pieces they’ve made, which include paintings, mosaics, a mobile, a drum surrounded by a circle of painted feathers, and of course functional three-dimensional hide drums. Some personal stories surface as the artists talk. Pritchard mentions that the project pushed her into conceptualizing the drum and thinking visually about rhythm. Gwen Luptak is awed that she connected to a past life. Shylene Calla explains that working towards the shows helps deepen her portfolio. Then the talk turns towards all the drums that will be present at the opening night. Glowing drumsticks, a talking drum, and percussion on people’s bodies will add to the festivity.

If you can’t get enough of the joy of those hide voices that night, you can always wait until August 2003, when the show will be revised in Parksville. These women are always on the move.

—Meg Walker

Bang! The Drum Opens Thursday, June 13. Runs to June 26 Xchanges Gallery. 385-0863

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This show took many hours of work for me as I not only made two pieces just for this show, I also created all the media materials, invitations fliers and the media release. I also arranged for the opening night's drum in to be recorded and kept for all time. It was an amazing growth spurt for me both in my creative inspiration and in my artistic business sense.

Thanks to all the Warrior Women who participated to make this a great Exhibit.