

Fundraising gala set for Mar. 27

PERRY KONG
for Northern News

KIRKLAND LAKE - The 8th Annual Contemporary Juried Art Exhibition is taking shape with the arrival of ceramic sculptor Yun-Shan Lee of Taiwan, this year's international guest artist for the popular spring event. Presented by the Kirkland Lake Contemporary Art Committee and the Museum of Northern History, the show takes place April 4th to April 30th. A Fundraising Gala will be held on Friday, March 27th from 7pm to 10pm at Hockey Heritage North.

The gala will be a semi-formal event and will include hors d'oeuvres by Chef Anthony Dal Pai, and performances by James Taylor, the Pulse Dance Studio, and Michael Rawley (Save the Lasalle). There will also be a Silent Auction. Tickets are \$50 (cash only) and are available at the Museum, Joe Mavrinac Community Complex or from Committee Members. All proceeds go to the Contemporary Art Committee to help continue their annual tradition to showcase area artisans alongside contemporary artists from around the world.

"We need to raise money from the gala so we can bring the next guest artist," says committee president Cesar Forero. "Last year, Cecilia (Stelini) came with her own funds. We didn't give her anything. We didn't have any money. So we got help from the town this year. We got a grant from Kirkland & District Community Development Corporation and they gave us some money. We made some money from the artist talks."

"But we need help," adds Forero, "and the help that we are asking is that people come out and have fun, and enjoy. The gala's going to be cool."

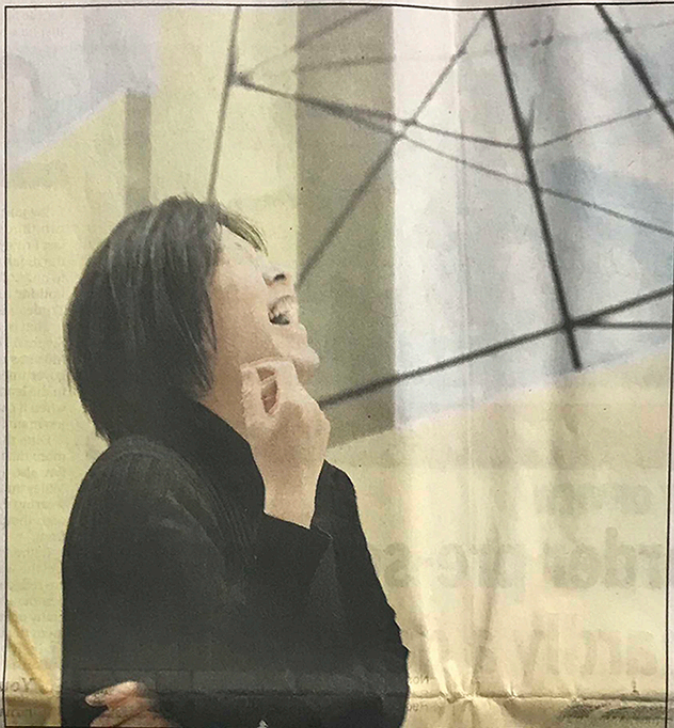
"We got a lot of help from people. Now all we need is for people to buy the tickets and come to the gala."

Some of that help is from artists who have reaped rewards of sacrifice and support. James Taylor crowd funded his first professional album while community raised spirits and funds for Michael Rawley and the Save the Lasalle project. More recently, Pulse Dance Studio's rising stars and culinary sensation Anthony Dal Pai ("F") have been getting a taste of their own success.

"Everything is for the Contemporary Art Exhibition," praises Forero. "What we've done in order to raise money to give awards for the call for submissions - that we did with all the workshops this year. And all the workshops, the money goes to the people."

The committee sends out special thanks to the Town of Kirkland Lake and local sponsors for helping pay their vision forward.

"We are very excited for several reasons," says Forero. "One is that we have already made it kind of official that we are bringing international guest artists. Last year Cecilia from Brazil. This year we were able to bring Yun-Shan from Taiwan. And I already spoke with the artist that is going to come next year - his name is Ram



PERRY KONG FOR NORTHERN NEWS

Ode to Joy is the theme for the 8th Annual Contemporary Juried Art Exhibition, and international ceramic artist Yun-Shan Lee who will be this year's featured guest and juror. Lee's Zen-like and playful works are commissioned back home in Taiwan. The exhibition will be held at the Museum of Northern History from April 4th to April 30th with the artist talk and opening reception on April 11th. A fundraising gala will be held Friday, March 27th at Hockey Heritage North.

Samocha. He's originally from Israel but now he lives in England. And he's already committed and everything, so the only thing we are asking is to get the money to pay the ticket so we can have him here. But he doesn't charge us anything for being here."

"We're pretty excited about this," continues Forero. "We have a stronger group. Everybody that is in the Kirkland Lake Arts Club is helping us and working with the contemporary exhibition."

Opening ceremonies for the exhibition will be held Saturday, April 11th with an artist talk by Yun-Shan Lee from 10:30 am to noon. The opening reception and presentations will be held from 1pm to 4pm. Artists at all stages in their career are eligible and all disciplines are welcome. Around 60 entries were received by regional and international artists and almost half will be displayed in the museum for the duration of the exhibit.

"Call for submissions is going very well," praises Forero. "Every year we have seen improvement. More different, more variety. People are changing. There is challenge. I think everything has influenced people. The guest artists that come, the work that we're doing, the workshops - all these things inspire change. You see different works, you see people coming with new ideas, more interesting and difficult works, challenging

interesting - very cool."

"This year's entries really challenged the judges. So the exhibition is going to be very, very strong. Awesome."

A 42-year-old Zen practitioner and M.A. graduate of the Institute of Applied Arts at Tainan National University of the Arts, Yun-Shan Lee will do an interactive installation with the exhibition guests. Her indoor work is spiritual. It makes you think. It's quiet, like her personality. Lee is inspired by space and time during childhood with her grandparents. Her commissioned works are popular with schools, playgrounds and the children.

"My grandfather taught me to draw," reminisces Yun-Shan Lee. "He told me, 'If you are living, you must be happy.' So when I am drawing or making something, I always feel very happy. If I make art, and I feel sorrow, or sad, I will stop. So every time I can make art, I just feel very happy. And I like that peaceful feeling. So I try to transfer my daily life and feeling into my creations."

This year's theme is Ode to Joy, titled after one of Lee's playful pieces commissioned in Taiwan.

"Yun-Shan's work is mainly public commissions," says Forero. "So this is going to be a very interesting thing to see for other people. It is not only an introduction to sculptures but what is happening to sculptures when you put

them outside, to keep them out there. And she will tell us about how she did this, how she got the commissions."

Forero saw Lee's artist talks at the Whitewater Gallery (North Bay) and the Sculptors Society of Canada (Toronto) and says people were very impressed. "She's getting about three or four public commissions a year. And we're lucky to have her here in Kirkland Lake. It's wonderful."

"Do not expect what we've seen before in some of these exhibitions," adds Forero, "like when we brought the Villaville Mountain Project that we had the gallery full of things, or when Julie Oakes came. No - this is different type of work. She makes you meditate, she's from the east so it's a different philosophy, a different mentality. It's not that the others' works don't come from the soul, of course they do. But this one is more like a Zen mentality - something that invites you to stay in the gallery, think, meditate, take time to understand what it is, what the work's about."

Lee came with ideas and a few things from home that she wanted to incorporate in the work, but everything else she's been making here in Forero's studio.

"It's beautiful," praises Forero. "Very interesting. I'm excited." For more info visit museumkirk.com or call the Museum of Northern History at 705-568-8800.

KLG has gold prod

BY RICK OWEN
Northern News

KIRKLAND LAKE - Kirkland Lake Gold achieved record gold production in February.

The company reports that during February it produced 16,485 ounces of gold from 32,862 tons of ore, with a head grade of 0.52 ounces gold per ton.

"We are happy to see the positive momentum continuing, particularly considering February was only a 28 day month," said George Ogilvie, President and CEO. "While this is an exceptional month and one we cannot consistently replicate just yet, it does show the potential of the property in future years. As more stopes come online in the South Mine Complex on both the 5,500 level we should begin to see more consistent performance and above our last 12 month performance. Our recently revisited forecast upward to 153,000 to 157,000 ounces of annual production remains intact."

Ogilvie noted that they have made a lot of changes during the past 14 months and said the team has met the challenges.

"It has been a great team effort and I wish to thank all of our employees for their commitment and hard work. The operations team and all the employees of the company need to be commended for a job well done in turning around the company's fortune in a relatively short period of time."

The CEO stated: "It's my belief and that of the board of directors, that the Kirkland Lake Camp can be used as a core asset to build the next great Canadian gold mining company."

Kirkland Lake Gold's record production in February was achieved through a number of factors including a higher head

■ AUTISM

Autism awareness to fly in Kirkland

KIRKLAND LAKE - Kirkland Lake council has approved a request from Autism Ontario to raise its flag in Kirkland Lake April 2, in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day.

This is the third year that people in Canada will recognize World Autism Awareness Day. Autism Ontario is inviting all municipalities in Ontario to take part in this event.

The goal of the 2015 Raise the Flag campaign is to increase public awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and the day-to-day issues faced by people with autism and their families.

In mid February 2015 Autism Ontario will be launching a new

website
Ontario
inclusi
Autism
source
and on
tive vo
autism
Today
diagno
atic aw
strives
and acc
people
trum D
ing acc
provide
ment