
"People think artists' fees just happened but, no, in fact CARFAC fought for them" - Karl Beveridge

Welcome to VANL Broadside!

By Craig Joseph, Chair of the Communications Committee

Welcome to the 1st edition of the brand new VANL Broadside! This monthly release will reach you in a more timely fashion than our old Newsletter, which was a bi-annual print publication, and it aims to keep you up to date and privy to the latest in Newfoundland and Labrador's visual arts news, events, opportunities and reviews. This new digital publication will be available to VANL members on the 1st of every month on our new website, www.vanl-carfac.com, and it will also be delivered to your inbox if you are a current member. The content you can expect to see here will be curated especially for you each month by the board and staff of VANL, but we hope that if you have something to share that would be of particular interest to your fellow visual artists, you will give us the opportunity of making the VANL Broadside a venue for it.

VANL's Naked Man

by Robin McGrath

VANL has recently reissued its popular "Anatomy of a Newfoundland and Labrador Artist" tee-shirts, and also added the new "Anatomy..." apron (hand-printed by board members Ingrid Mary Percy and Marlene MacCallum). Some buyers have been asking where the idea and the image came from, so we went back to the source.

The Naked Man was the brainchild of VANL members Robin McGrath and Mavis Penney, and it first appeared in the FakeLore issue of RiddleFence under the title 'If Grey's Anatomy had been Written in Labrador.' Robin explained that she had an idea for a series of cartoons based upon the premise of how different some books might have been had they originated in The Big Land. "I thought of Cinderella losing her skin boot in the snow, or two trappers making War and Peace in the wilderness, and sketched out the covers. It was Mavis who thought of lifting the actual engraving for Grey's Anatomy and she did all the technical work as well as helped collect the labels for the body parts."

The idea for a local Grey's Anatomy goes back several decades to a list of dialect medical terms Robin came across in a library. "I thought it was Dr. Ian Rusted who wrote it, but I've never been able to find it again, so I'm not sure," she said. "It made me aware of the way Newfoundlanders describe medical conditions, and I thought of how difficult that must be for doctors coming from elsewhere." Examples of this would be the way Newfoundlanders "find" their backs when they have pain, or can't "glutch" when their throats are sore.

"Mavis and I started to label all the body parts with things we could remember, such as "kincorn" for Adam's apple or "fissog" for face. We asked all the old people we knew to help us out, including Mavis's father Nathan who was well into his nineties at that time. I remember we got "knucks" for knees from Otto Tucker. I also went through the Dictionary of Newfoundland English. In many cases we found multiple words for a single part, so we just chose the one we liked best."

"Anatomy" tee-shirts and aprons are available from the VANL office or online at <http://vanl-carfac.com/shop/>



Our aprons and t-shirts, designed by Mavis Penney and Robin McGrath

Don't forget to nominate yourself or your favourite local artist for an EVA Award! Deadline for nominations is April 1st, 2015 - Visit our website for details! www.vanl-carfac.com