



NANAIMO MUSEUM

100 Museum Way, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J8
TELEPHONE 250 753.1821
info@nanaimomuseum.ca www.nanaimomuseum.ca

Media Release - Retro-active: A Blend of Tools & Art - January 7, 2010
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It's hard to imagine a world without tools. In fact most anthropologists believe that the use of tools was an important step in the evolution of mankind. By inventing tools, we were able to accomplish tasks that our bodies could not.

"Here at Nanaimo Museum we can certainly appreciate the significance of tools when it came to shaping our own little corner of the world," says curator David Hill-Turner.

Over the years, the Nanaimo Museum has nurtured its relationship with tools. They account for many of its earliest artifacts, and they have obviously played a major role in the building and shaping of the actual museum.

"While we proudly display some of the most important tools used in our community, we are also fascinated by tools not so familiar to us and that's where the work of sculptor Lou Lynn comes in" adds Hill-Turner.

As a professional and celebrated artist from the Slocan Valley, Lynn's creations will be on display in the museum's Feature Gallery starting on January 13 until March 27. The exhibit is called Retro-active: A Blend of Tools & Art.

Inspired by everyday objects and implements such as the wheel, ulu (an Inuit all-purpose knife traditionally used by women) and hand tools from times past, Lynn has created a body of work that questions the relationships that exist between design, function and art.

A past guest curator of this exhibit commented that Lynn's sculptures are elegantly executed and explore shape, surface texture and scale as well as disrupt traditional definitions of fine art, applied art and craft.

Working primarily in glass, aluminum and bronze, Lynn acknowledges both the historical and contemporary signatures of her materials through a variety of processes including sand and lost-wax casting; and blown, cast, flame-worked and cold-worked glass.

Lynn's work germinates from a personal collection of old tools, bolts, knobs, nozzles, and propellers gleaned from abandoned work sites, flea markets and garage sales. But, "I'm not actually inspired by tools," admits Lynn. "The form is more important, how shape determines how tools came to be used."

Her studio is based in Winlaw, a village in the Slocan Valley region of British Columbia, north of Castlegar. Her exhibitions have taken her as far afield as China and Scotland, winning international acclaim and numerous awards.

"We're very excited to have an artist of Lou Lynn's calibre represented here at the Nanaimo Museum," says Debbie Trueman, General Manager. "I hope visitors enjoy seeing the some of the tools from our vast collection as art."



Photo Caption:
One of artist Lou Lynn`s sculptures that she calls a scorp. Photo Credit: Janet Dwyer