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*Dancing Myself*  
by Rabi'a

## Message from the President of the Board of Directors



The past year saw the board review, update and implement a new strategic plan. One of the themes of the new plan places an emphasis upon extending our efforts to strengthen Touchstones Nelson's relationships with its community partners and stakeholders. We are endeavouring to reach out to those entities.

One of the plans currently being implemented is to create sub-collections that will contain items pertaining specifically to each of Areas E, F and H. Another is to increase communication with our partners to keep them better informed of our needs and accomplishments.

The issue of relocation of the collection stored at 402 Anderson remains unresolved. Funding

remains a challenge but some opportunities may be emerging that the board is eager to pursue. 2016 marks Touchstones Nelson's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary for which we intend to mount a campaign to pursue this goal. Similarly 2017 is Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are hopeful that the federal government will use that opportunity to further the cause of our history as a nation and will provide capital to assist museums in furthering their goals.

The efforts of Touchstones Nelson, and in particular our Executive Director, with respect to our programming and social impact foresight have been recognized by other Canadian museum societies. Leah has been invited to speak at meetings of the Ontario and Alberta Museum Associations on the topic of socially responsible museums which are a result of her addresses on various occasions to the BC Museum Association on that topic. The questions she has fielded on those occasions have indicated keen interest from the participants with respect to Touchstones Nelson's forward thinking and activities.

I and the entire board are very proud of her and our staff for the terrific work they do for Touchstones Nelson and look forward to working with them in the coming year. We are aware of a further accolade that will be awarded to Touchstones Nelson in the near future about which you will learn in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted.

Ken Watson



# Message from the Executive Director



I find it very gratifying to know that every year at Touchstones Nelson brings with it new challenges, new successes and new approaches to delivering cultural services. This past year was no exception!

In 2014, the board and staff consolidated much of its energy into a control of holdings project that, over the next three years, will see the entirety of our current knowledge about the art and artifact collections entered into a new and very powerful database system - PastPerfect. Purchased through the support of several grants and generous donors, PastPerfect enables researchers, including staff and the public, to access the collections online. Not only will the collection be viewable at any time by any one, the information associated with

the collection will become, in a manner of speaking, open source. We hope that the public will engage with us in improving our knowledge of collection items - who used these objects, when were they used, even why they were used. Because PastPerfect allows for a two-way exchange of information, the Society is now situated at the exciting intersection of culture, data and technology.

Supporting the control of holdings project is the Society's new Strategic Plan for 2015-2017. Developed by the board in the summer of 2014 and focused on four primary outcomes, the new plan is compact, direct and decisive. For staff, the plan supports the continuation of the control of holdings project (Outcomes 1 and 2), and provides the basis for budget/grant focus on a lobby renovation to expand the usable space for community gatherings and a flex-shop approach (Outcome 3), plus a review of current communications efforts (Outcome 4).

Other Touchstones Nelson milestones in 2014 included the first staff turnover in three years with the departure of Alex Dudley, the Visitor Services Manager, and hiring of Cindy Fillion - who has proven to be a fantastic new member of the team. In 2014, individual donations exceeded our private fundraising efforts for the first time. Hopefully this is an early indication that our efforts to focus on relationship building are succeeding and that we continue to earn and keep your trust. Our sincere thanks goes out to all our donors, sponsors, operating funders and Society members for your support. Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Leah Best, Executive Director

# Gallery A

## 2014 Exhibitions Summary



Shyra De Souza, Mark Mizgala,  
Nate and Cedric Bomford,  
Brent Bukowski  
*Found: The Art of Re-Use*

February 8 to May 11  
Gallery A  
Curator: Rod Taylor

A group exhibition that featured work that involved found or re-purposed material.



Courtney Villads Andersen  
*This is Relatively Urgent*

May 17 to August 10  
Gallery A  
Curator: Rod Taylor

An exhibition that featured work by well known long-time Nelson area resident and KSA instructor Courtney Andersen.



*Zeljko Kujundzic and the Early Years of the Kootenay School of the Arts*

August 16 to November 9  
Gallery A  
Curator: Jessica Demers

A retrospective exhibit that explored Kujundzic's diverse artistic practices, and traced the beginnings of the now iconic Kootenay School of the Arts.



Amy Bohigian  
*Wide Shot/Close Up*

November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015  
Gallery A  
Curator: Jessica Demers

An interactive video installation that explored the collective human experience.



### *Good Medicine: Nelson's Healthcare History*

February 22 to May 18

Gallery B

Curator: Jessica Demers

An exploration of the individual stories, images and artifacts that make up Nelson's dynamic healthcare history.



### *Sons of Freedom Doukhobors: Photographs from the Stevens Studio Collection*

May 24 to September 7

Gallery B

Curator: Jessica Demers

Selected from the larger Stevens Studio collection in the Touchstones Nelson Archives, the photos in this exhibit documented a compelling chapter in the history of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, as well as our community.



### *Bringing the War Home: 3D Images from the Battlefields of WWI*

September 20 to November 23

Gallery B

Curator: Rod Taylor

A selection of 3-D images projected in the gallery that were brought back to Nelson by William Sturgeon when he returned from the war.



### *Touchstones Nelson Members' Show and Sale*

December 6, 2014 to January 25, 2015

Gallery B

Curator: Rod Taylor

Back by popular demand, an exhibition showcasing the wide-ranging talent of the Gallery's members.

# Gallery B

## 2014 Exhibitions Summary



# Public Programs



- Artist Talks (4): Shyra De Souza, Brent Bukowski, Courtney Villads Andersen, Amy Bohigian
- BC Day Display
- Canada Day Celebrations at Lakeside Park
- Columbia Basin Culture Tour
- Demonstrations, Workshops & Presentations (3):
  - *Ancient Skills Workshop with Ric Bivar on National Aboriginal Day*
  - *The Wealth/Health Connection: A community Conversation about the Social Determinants of Health*
  - *Antiques Appraisal Clinic*
- Docent Tours
- School workshops for the exhibition: *Bringing the War Home*
- Family Fairs: Fall and Winter Family Fair
- International Museum Day
- Memory Kit Outreach Visits (13)
- National Aboriginal Day Display
- School Programs and Tours: 498 students
- Summer Kids' Camp in partnership with the Nelson and District Community Complex (3), Nelson Public Library (1), Kootenay Kids (1), Bigby Place (2)

## Images

1. *Social Determinants of Health panel discussion*
2. *A happy Winter Family Fair participant*
3. *Ancient Skills Workshop with Ric Bivar*
4. *Shadow puppetry at the Fall Family Fair*
5. *School tour in the Permanent Museum Exhibit*



# Events



1.



2.



3.



4.

Images

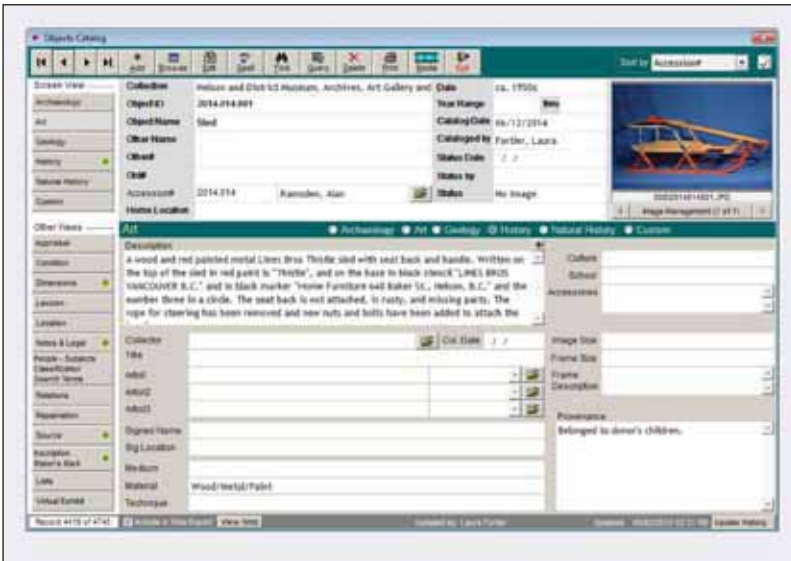
1. *Final Cut Murder Mystery Fundraiser*
2. *Santo Mignosa at the KSA Alumni reception*
3. *Elephant Mountain Choir performance*
4. *Book launch for Surveying Southern British Columbia*

- Annual General Meeting
- Archives Launch of Online Exhibits (2):
  - Website Launch: *Six Mile History*
  - Virtual Exhibition Launch: *Discovered: Images of the Kootenay Outlet at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*
- ArtWalk
- Blue Night
- Book Launches, Signings & Talks (5):
  - Tom Lymbery: *Tom's Gray Creek - A Kootenay Lake Memoir*
  - Sylvia Crooks: *Names on a Cenotaph: Kootenay Lake Men in World War I*
  - Jan Drabek: *Vladimir Krajina: World War II Hero and Ecology Pioneer*
  - Jay Sherwood: *Surveying Southern British Columbia: A Photojournal of Frank Swannell, 1901-1907*
  - Larry Jacobsen: *Walhachin: Birth of a Legend*
- Fundraising Events (3):
  - *Final Cut: A Murder Mystery Fundraiser*
  - *Quick Draw Fundraiser and Silent Auction*
  - Raffle Tickets for the painting *Roaming Baker* by Lainey Benson
- Hosted Events (5)
  - KSA - Then and Now
  - UBC Forestry Alumni
  - Nelson and District Credit Union
  - BC Arts Council
  - International Selkirk Loop
- Live Performances (3):
  - Corazón Youth Choir
  - Elephant Mountain Choir (EMC<sup>2</sup>)
  - Group of Friends Choir
- Members' Sales at The Shop: (12)
- Opening Receptions (6):
  - *Found: The Art of Re-use*
  - Courtney Villads Andersen: *This is Relatively Urgent*
  - *Zeljko Kujundzic and the Early Years of the Kootenay School of the Arts*
  - *Amy Bohigian: Wide Shot/Close Up*
  - Touchstones Nelson Members' Show & Sale
  - *Roll On Columbia*, Opening in Spokane, Washington
- Volunteer Appreciation Events (4)



# Touchstones Nelson Collection

The collection took in artifacts from twenty-two donors. Highlights included items from the Nelson Chinese Masonic Lodge, a wooden lacrosse stick, and two Doukhobor flax combs. The Chinese Masonic Lodge or *Chee Kong Tong Society*, originally located at 521 Lake Street in what was Nelson's Chinatown, items were stored above King's Restaurant and donated to the Society before its closure. The lacrosse stick was originally from the Nelson Lacrosse Team. Their equipment was given to Trafalgar School after they disbanded. The Doukhobor flax combs were discovered in the attic of a log cabin in Passmore. They are believed to be from the early 1900s. The Society also purchased PastPerfect museum software and completed the first phase of its Control of Holdings Project. The new database marks a significant step forward in stewarding the collections. Staff will have virtual access to the art, artifact and archival collections for research, cataloguing and exhibition purposes reducing the need to remove material from storage.



Images:  
(Left) Screenshot,  
PastPerfect database  
software

(Right) Doukhobor  
flax comb, ca. 1900s

# Shawn Lamb Archives

In 2014, the Shawn Lamb Archives completed a digitization project involving over 150 glass-plate negatives from the Society's collection. The Archives also received archival material from twenty seven donors and transfers of materials from two different institutions, Red Deer and District Archives and Kootenay Lake Historical Society. Staff and volunteers replied to over 120 research requests - 14% of which were genealogy related. We created six in-house displays and one off-site display at the Nelson Public Library, as well as loaning items for display to the Nelson Public Library and the Kokanee Glacier Park Visitor Centre. We also added twelve items to our ever growing research library.

# Special Projects

## Columbia River Treaty Exhibition and Launch

**R**oll On Columbia explores the legacy of the current Columbia River Treaty in order to inform present day understanding of the trans-boundary Columbia River watershed ecosystem. With funding provided by the Columbia Basin Trust, Touchstones Nelson worked with two guest curators (Eileen Delehanty Pearkes and Deborah Thompson), six artists and one musical group to develop both a visual arts exhibition (paintings, sculpture, textiles, installation, performance) and a travelling history exhibit on the legacy of the current treaty.

*Roll On Columbia* was presented in Spokane, WA, at the *Columbia River Basin 2014 Conference: Learning From Our Past to Shape Our Future*. Attended by 320 delegates from both sides of the Canada/USA border, the conference offered a timely platform to discuss the future of the Columbia River within the context of a new treaty to be negotiated between Canada and the USA over the next ten years.

*Roll On Columbia* was nominated for a Canadian Museums Association Award of Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions (winner announced April 2015). *Roll On Columbia* will be presented at Touchstones Nelson in late 2015.





# Special Projects



## Discovered: the Kootenay Outlet Collection

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Touchstones Nelson launched its newest online exhibit *Discovered: the Kootenay Outlet Collection*. This exhibit features over 150 glass plate negatives of the Kootenay Lake Outlet area, including Nelson, Ainsworth and Kaslo; the Prairies; and even Europe. The photos document Kootenay Outlet area homes, businesses, farming and logging industries, school and community events, landscapes, social groups and families. These photographic records capture an area developing into a residential and agricultural centre at the time of growth in the fruit industry in the West Kootenay region. As a collection they fill an important gap in documenting the history of Nelson and area. The creation of the site was funded in part by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of British Columbia, British Columbia History Digitization Program. The exhibit is available at <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/discovered/>.

## Kujundzic Catalogue

In recent years, Touchstones Nelson has made the switch from printed exhibition catalogues to the development of e-catalogues. Although the digital version is less expensive to produce, printed catalogues are easier to distribute and are a more tangible legacy of exhibitions that have wide audience appeal. Such was the case with the Zeljko Kujundzic exhibition developed by curator Jessica Demers in the summer of 2014. Both Selkirk College and Touchstones Nelson will distribute the catalogues in the community.



## Artifact Loan Kits

In 2014, funding provided by the Osprey Community Foundation supported the development of an artifact loan kit for elementary schools. The Kit contains artifacts and archival materials selected from the now closed Central School Resource Centre along with lesson plans and links to the permanent museum exhibit at Touchstones Nelson. The Kit is now its final testing stage and will be available to schools beginning in September 2015.

## The Shop – by Cindy Fillion

2014 saw a change in staff, with Alex Dudley leaving the position of Visitor Services Manager after serving in the position for eight years. Cindy Fillion, who covered Alex's maternity leave in 2010-11, filled the position and is thrilled to be back.

The Shop hosted several events in 2014, including ArtWalk, showcasing Lainey Benson's brilliantly coloured local scenes. Lainey has stayed on at the Shop and is joined by several other painters as well as over 100 local authors and artists. We once again participated in the Baker St. market promoting Touchstones Nelson and selling wares. The Shop hosted several book launches including Larry Jacobsen's *Walhachin: Birth of a Legend*.

The Shop and Archives partnered up with Cartolina to reproduce a collection of maps from the Shawn Lamb Archives. They are

available at both stores and have been a popular item with locals and tourists - history buffs and design lovers. Included are the first topography map of the region from 1896, Keen's mining map of 1892, and the Insurance Plan map of Nelson from 1899.

At Christmas time, the Shop hosted a pop-up shop for a weekend. The lobby was packed to the rafters with even more local, handmade goods - you couldn't fit a toothpick in here! We also offered a discount to members for a donation to the St. Saviours' Food Pantry. The Christmas market had another successful year - the Shop proudly continues to support local artists and authors to make a living. The member monthly specials continued with members receiving discounts on popular items throughout the year.

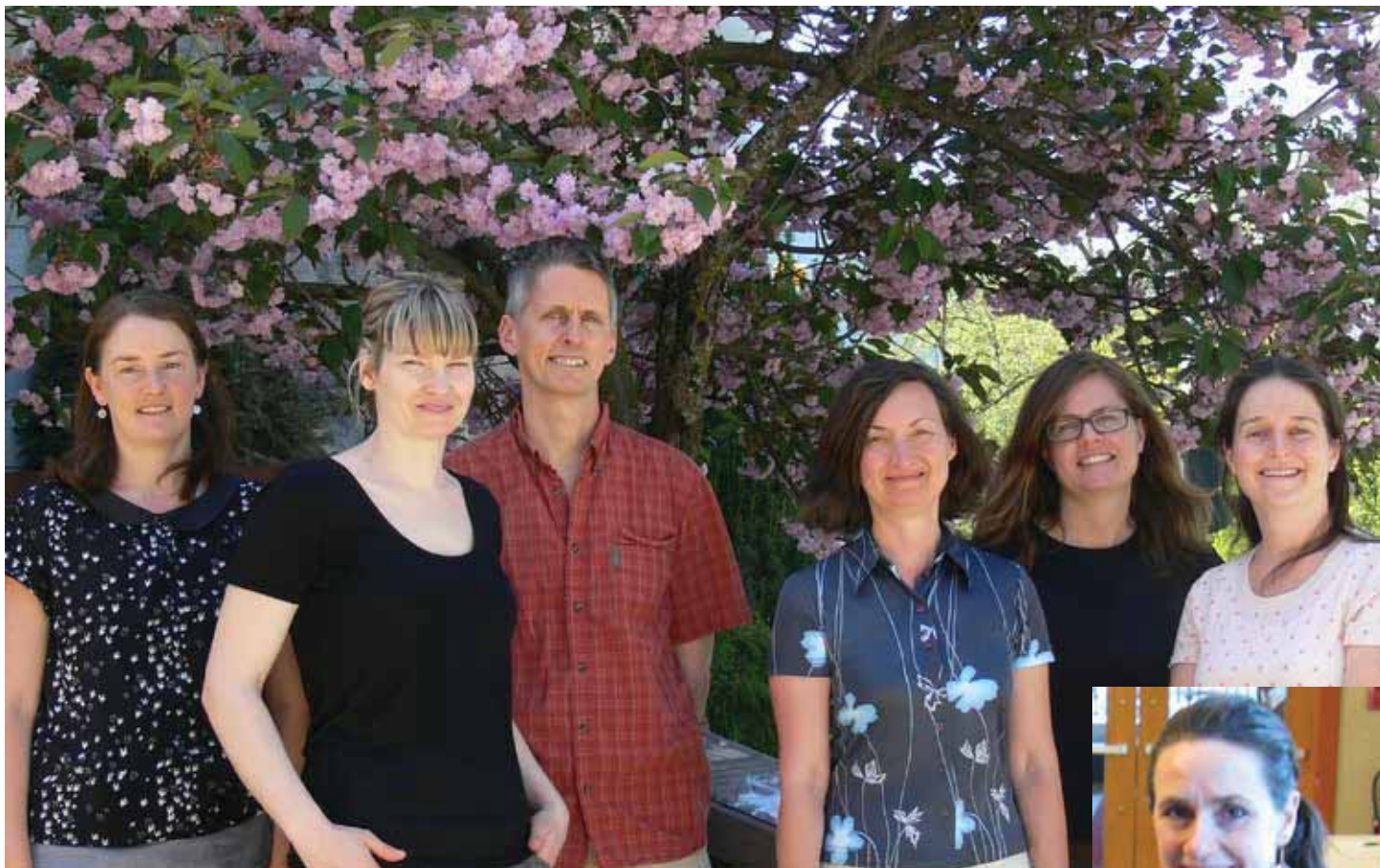


*The Shop at Touchstones Nelson*



# Staff 2014

. . . including summer students



Above, from left to right:

- Jessie Demers  
Curator / Programs Coordinator
- Laura Fortier  
Archivist/Collections Manager
- Rod Taylor  
Curator
- Linda Sawchyn  
Executive Assistant, Volunteer/  
Membership Coordinator
- Leah Best  
Executive Director
- Alexandra Dudley  
Visitor Services Manager (to Sept)

Inset:

- Cindy Fillion  
Visitor Services  
Manager  
(from Oct)

Above, from left to right:

- Claire Halleran  
Summer Student Visitor Services  
Assistant
- Lisa Griko  
Summer Student Programs Assistant

# Volunteers

Touchstones Nelson is grateful for the dedication of a strong team of volunteers in 2014. Thank you!!

Kathy Alexander  
Gretchen Backus  
Sasha Baines  
Karen Bennett  
Marilyn Best  
John Best  
Meghan Booth  
Kim Chanasyk  
Linda Chapman  
Roger Collinson  
Barbara Couch  
Eileen D. Pearkes  
Eileen Davis  
Bruce Davis  
David Dobie  
Lana Donaldson  
Laura Duncan  
Della Fenkner  
Alistair Fraser  
Scott Fraser  
Betty Golata  
Ines Hartman

Eric Hartman  
Linda Hoffman  
Suzie Holmes  
Brian Holmes  
Chris Ingles  
Alan Inkster  
Lorna Inkster  
Joan Jordan  
Audrey Kempin  
Steve Kobs  
Shawn Lamb  
Joan Lang  
Jessica Laramée  
Kathy Letham  
Cath Little  
Ron Little  
Heather MacAskill  
Isa MacDonald  
Ed Mannings  
Mary Marinangeli  
Lisa McGeady  
Della McLeod

Holly McRann  
Helene Miles  
Judy Mulloy  
Teyana Neufeld  
Marnie Newcom  
Kathleen Nichol  
Frances Nicolson  
Harry Quesnel  
Alan Ramsden  
Dennis Ray  
Cal Renwick  
Carol Reynolds  
Shawna Roeland  
Pat Rogers  
Greg Scott  
Phyllis Stanley  
Wendy Steed  
Meg Stewart  
Melodie Rae Storey  
Bill Sweet  
Lola Swetlikoe  
Kristen Taniguchi

Joyce Tremblay  
Nicole Tremblay  
Kiomi Tucker  
Kevin Underwood  
Linda Van Hombeeck  
Bobbi Vecchio  
Peter Ward  
Ken Watson  
Dianne Watts  
Norm Watts  
Frances Welwood  
Ron Welwood





## Program Partners

- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Corazón
- Kootenay Co-op Radio
- Nelson History Theatre
- Nelson Public Library
- Regional District Community Complex
- Royal Canadian Legion Nelson Branch
- St. Saviours Pro-Cathedral
- Ktunaxa Nation Council



*Donations collected on Remembrance Day were donated to the Nelson branch of the Royal Canadian Legion*

## Community Partnerships



### Premiere Funding Partners:

- City of Nelson
- BC Arts Council
- Community Gaming Grants - Gaming Policy and Enforcement
- Nelson and District Credit Union


### Corporate/Business/Gov't/Other:

- Archives Association of BC
- Arts Vest
- BC Historical Society
- BC Wine Guys
- BC Museums Association
- Cameron Foundation
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canadian Museums Association
- Cartolina
- CIBC - Wood Gundy
- City of Nelson Cultural Development Committee
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
- DHC Communications
- Ellison's Market
- Hall Printing
- Hamber Foundation
- Heritage BC
- Heritage Federation of South Eastern BC
- International Selkirk Loop
- Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
- Kootenay Country Store Co-op
- Kootenay School of The Arts at Selkirk College
- Museum Assistance Program
- Nelson and District Arts Council
- Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce
- Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
- Nelson Star
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Safeway
- Save On Foods
- Selkirk College
- Spilker, Watson and Company
- Ward Engineering
- UBC Forestry Alumni
- UBC School of Library and Archival Sciences
- Young Canada Works

# Zeljko Kujundzic and the Early Years of the Kootenay School of the Arts


Images: (left) Zeljko Kujundzic paints while students look on, c. 1955. Collection of Touchstones Nelson. (right) Zeljko Kujundzic, 'The Entertainers' (detail), acrylic on carved mahogany with gold leaf, c. 1970.




**Touchstones Nelson**  
Museum of Art and History  
502 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC  
250.352.9813 [www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca)

**Aug 16 - Nov 9**  
Opening Reception: Fri, Aug 15, 7-9pm

Presenting sponsor:



Notes: Touchstones Nelson, Museum of Art and History gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Nelson and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and funding sponsor.



## Members' Show & Sale 2014


Dec 6 - Jan 23  
Opening Reception: Fri, Dec 5, 7-9pm



**Touchstones Nelson**  
Museum of Art and History  
502 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC

Presenting sponsor: the Museum of Touchstones Nelson


Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Nelson and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and funding sponsor.




### Amy Bohigian: Wide Shot/Close Up

Nov 15, 2014 - Feb 15, 2015  
Opening reception: Fri, Nov 14, 7-9pm. Members' preview 6-8pm  
Artist talk: Thurs, Nov 20, 7pm

Presenting Sponsor





**Touchstones Nelson**  
Museum of Art and History  
502 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC  
[www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca)

## Bringing the War Home



3-D Images from the Battlefields of WWI  
Sept 20 - Nov 23



**Touchstones Nelson**  
Museum of Art and History  
502 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC  
250.352.9813 [www.touchstonesnelson.ca](http://www.touchstonesnelson.ca)

Special opening: Tuesday, Nov 11 (Remembrance Day), 11-3pm, entrance by donation, all proceeds going to the Nelson Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Nelson and District Museum, Archives, Art Gallery and Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Nelson and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and funding sponsor.

**Touchstones Nelson:**  
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