

**Nina Haggerty  
Centre for  
the Arts**

# Nina News

**December 2005**



**THE NINA NEWS IS PUBLISHED  
6 TIMES A YEAR  
BRINGING NEWS TO MEMBERS AND  
FRIENDS**

## In this edition:

**Agnieszka writes on  
Close Encounters  
with the 3rd  
Dimension**

**Holiday Greetings**

**Lieutenant Governor  
to help celebrate  
Centre's Third  
Anniversary**

**Next in the Gallery:  
MOTIVATIONS**

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## Agnieszka Matejko shares a Close Encounter with the 3rd Dimension

Agnieszka Matejko, artist and freelance writer for VUEWeekly, describes the Nina Haggerty Centre as a "civic treasure."

She recently came by the gallery to take in Offerings from the Third Dimension, an exhibition dedicated entirely to three dimensional art work. In the clay studio she interviewed two of the exhibiting artists. The following is an excerpt from her article in VUEWeekly.

Offerings is "a compelling example of the talents and dedication of artists. For

instance, if it weren't for this show, we would never see or hear about the work of committed ceramists like Candice Bagan. While Bagan always loved art in school, one of her most exciting moments came when her junior high teacher introduced clay to the class.

Sadly, Bagan's joy was short lived. "We couldn't do clay because students started throwing it," she recalls. After that she had to give up on the idea of ceramics, until one day when a coworker heard about her wish and recommended the Nina Haggerty Centre.

At first, her parents were opposed vehemently because they lived miles away, but her determination prevailed.

Despite the 2-hour bus ride, she began to attend the centre regularly.

Bagan is thrilled to show off her work. It is hers alone. "In school, we didn't do what we wanted to do. Here we can, and that's why it's so great," she says. And best of all, she can work all day long and nobody stops her. "When I came here, I was excited because I can do clay here and they can't take it away."

Fellow artist Paul Bellemare was "quite a bit surprised by how much I liked art." He has become a prolific artist, enjoying the extra income. However sometimes "I give it away to people who are down in the dumps and need cheering up," he explains.

When listening to the enthusiasm in the voices of these two dedicated artists, it's not hard to tell why the Centre has been drawing national attention. It's a magical place, one that takes the dreams and visions of people and makes them come alive."



## Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for 2006!

The Nina Haggerty Centre Staff and Advisory Board wish everyone a very happy holiday season. "We thank all of the artists in the collective, their families and friends, and all of you who have supported the Centre this past year. 2005 was a good year!"

There has been great support from the community, Foundations, PDD and the media. There were prominent visitors—John Ralston Saul and Mayor Stephen Mandel with his wife Lynn—and a number of successful exhibitions and special events.

Many artists enjoyed public and commercial success. James Doran and Dorothy Loh exhibited in Toronto Leo Wong had a solo show in Syncrude's NextFest, and Judy Billard, Paul Bellemare and Louis O'Coffey showed work at Profiles Gallery in St. Albert. Congratulations to all the artists, and best wishes for continued success in 2006.



Candice Bagan & Paul Bellemare



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## NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

*"Creativity lies within all people and  
is best expressed through the arts."*

We're on the web!  
[www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

## Christmas comes early with Lottery Fund Grant!

The Alberta Lottery Fund has approved a new grant for Nina Haggerty! The Centre will now be able to buy a print making press, drying rack and digital and film equipment that will significantly expand art making opportunities. Watch for exciting new exhibitions in 2006!

There are also funds to help with facility maintenance (always a challenge), and UV/Heat reducing screens for the gallery windows.



Artists were saddened recently to hear that fellow artist David Helgeson had passed away. He will be missed in the studio. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

## Lieutenant Governor to Host Luncheon in January Celebrating Nina Haggerty Centre's Third Anniversary

The Nina Haggerty Centre will be starting the New Year with a special celebration! Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong has accepted an invitation from the Nina Haggerty Centre to host a luncheon in the Stollery Gallery. He and his wife will be on hand to help celebrate the Centre's third anniversary.

The Centre's Advisory Board Members, Director and Lead Artist Paul Freeman will be on hand to welcome guests, along with Centre artists Leona Clawson and Paul Bellemare. Invited guests include some of the Centre's key supporters—the Stollery's, the Edmonton Community Foundation, Edmonton Community Board (Persons with Developmental Disabilities) - as well as representatives of some of Alberta's best corporate citizens. Master of Ceremonies for this event is Walter Pavlic of Parlee McLaws.

The studio will be open for business as usual during this event, so guests will have the opportunity to visit artists as they work, and will enjoy a preview of new work in the Gallery by artist Emmanuel Bara Layila. Emmanuel will be in attendance at the luncheon.

## Up Next In the Gallery: MOTIVATIONS Paintings by Emmanuel Bara Layila



Visit the Gallery week days between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings 6:30 to 8:30, and on Thursdays from 6:00 —8:00 p.m.

Call 474-7611 for more information, or check the website at [www.ninahaggertyart.ca](http://www.ninahaggertyart.ca)

The Centre is pleased to host an exhibition of paintings by Emmanuel Bara Layila. His show, titled MOTIVATIONS, draws on his life experiences in the Sudan and Cairo. His work seeks meaning from past experience and offers new hope for the future. The exhibition runs from January 9—February 10. Please join us for the Artist's Reception on Thursday, January 19th between 4 and 7 p.m. This event is open to the general public and there is no charge to attend—refreshments will be provided. You may also see Emmanuel's work at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Art Sales & Rentals.

## Need a 2006 Calendar? New Calendars Have Just Arrived!

Urban Graphic Design has created beautiful calendars that feature some of the work from the IOfferings Exhibition (3 dimensional work in clay). Urban Graphics had donated these calendars to the Centre, so every cent of the purchase price (\$5) goes directly to support the Nina Haggerty Centre and its activities. Buy one for yourself or give them to friends and family.

The first run sold out fast, so come in soon for your Art Calendar.

## Christmas Closures

The Nina Haggerty Centre will be **CLOSED** on **December 26 and 27, and on January 2 and January 6**. The Centre is open for business as usual on all other days during the holiday season.