

**Nina
Haggerty
Centre for
the Arts**

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FRIENDS

Nina News

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- Lead Artists: Marta Beranek, Sherri Chaba, Brenda Kim Christianson, Paul Freeman, Cindy Fuhrer, David Janzen, Anna Rambow, Cynthia Sentara, Susan Seright
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- Exec. Director: Wendy Hollo whollo@telus.net

The Nina Dance Sessions

Mile Zero & Nina celebrate International Dance Day

The Nina Haggerty Centre was excited to host *The Nina Sessions* on April 29, celebrating International Dance Day with live performance and video in the Stollery Gallery.

The Nina Sessions mark the end of 7-month partnership project between Mile Zero Dance (MZD) and the Nina Haggerty Centre. The project was proposed by Nina Lead Artist/MZD Board member, Cynthia Sentara and was supported by a Lee Fund grant. Mile Zero Artistic Director, Gerry Morita, has led the project, assisted by Cynthia, videographer, Anna Rambow and musician friends who sometimes dropped in to provide live music for the dancers.

It has been inspiring to see the artists from the visual art studios engaged in an entirely new form of self-expression. Committed to innovative performance, research and teaching, Gerri has found the group to be largely uninhibited and open to the experience.

Look inside for rehearsal and performance photos.



(Above) Leo Wong rehearses in preparation for International Dance Day performance: *The Nina Sessions*

CAKE WALK GOES GA GA!

5th Annual Event adds Divo/Diva Theme, Josh Classen to Co-Host

Lynn Mandel and the fearless 'martini planners' have met to set the wheels in motion for this year's fifth annual (and best ever!) fundraiser: the World Stone Inc. CAKE WALK 2010.

Event sponsors, World Stone Inc. and Canadian Western Bank are back, along with host Sheri Somerville. New this year, however, will be the much anticipated addition of Josh Classen as co-host. Josh, CTV's Meteorologist, is filling in for News Anchor Carrie Doll who will be away this year on maternity leave.

The Cake Walk itself is also undergoing a few changes - watch for more participation from the celebrity judges (a la American Idol) and transformation of the runway show into a more professional stage show. Sheri also promises to deliver original 'commercials' for our team and event sponsors.

Staying the same, however, will be the fun and spontaneity, live musical performance and fabulous live and silent auction packages. Please mark Tuesday, November 2 on your social calendar (Sutton Place Hotel).

Preparing for the Nina Sessions



Every Tuesday morning the carpet was (literally) rolled out, turning the Stollery Gallery into a studio for contemporary dance. A bit tentative at first, a number of visual artists from the studio Collective began to anticipate their weekly sessions.

Artists worked with Mile Zero Dance Artistic Director, Gerry Morita. "It really lets me see what you can do with a limited vocabulary," says Morita, who found the group a real joy to work with. "So much about dance is your investment in it."

The group 'took it to the streets' (top left) last fall, when great weather allowed the dance project to move outdoors.



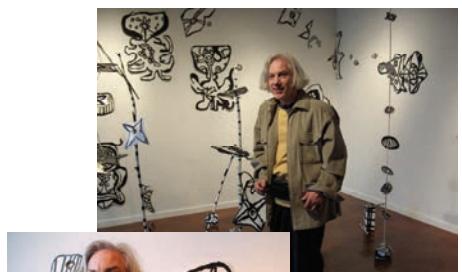
Nina artists, under the direction of Gerry Morita (top right in green jacket and top left in centre), worked with shadow and inflatable objects to explore dimensions of movement.

Repetition Exhibit Gives Gallery a New Look with Sculpture and Installation

Scott Berry, Christine Jarock, Kenneth Hayward and Kevin Ashton from the Nina Haggerty Centre Artists' Collective worked with community artist, Sherri Chaba and volunteer, Raj Bagwe, to create three dimensional sculpture and installation pieces for *Repetition* - unique works of art united through the process of repetition. The Opening Reception with the artists was well attended and featured live music by multi-instrumentalist singer & songwriter, Karen Donaldson Shepherd.



(Top right) Scott Berry created an installation piece he called 'Dog Park in 2019' with black and white shapes made from foamcore, rocks, and branches. Christine Jarock (right) repainted buttons, stringing them together to hang in the shape of a kite ('Kite Flight'). (Left), Kevin Ashton created an amazing piece from coloured wire, aptly named 'Spider House'.



Scenes from The Nina Sessions



Simple power of movement

Nina Haggerty artists celebrate International Dance Day

SALENA KITTERINGHAM
Special to The Journal
EDMONTON

Your favorite tunes come on the car radio and you've got to bust a move," says Mile Zero Dance Artistic Director, Gerry Morita.

DANCE PREVIEW
The Nina Haggerty Sessions with Mile Zero Dance

Fund was used to get the project off the ground. "At the centre it is very interesting because they just don't really focus on the disabilities or limitations. A lot of the people we support move that way."



"When I see the Haggerty dancers, some of them have such a limited or compromised range of movement, but what they are able to express with that really surprises me and even impresses me," says Mile Zero Dance Artistic Director, Gerry Morita.

It was standing room only for the performance which pushed the boundaries of experience and limitation for the Nina artists to a new level, the result a joyful celebration.

The performance included music by Don Ross and performance by local professional dancer, Amber Borostik. A short film by Anna Rambow, shot at various points throughout the project, provided context for audience members.

Leading the group through structured improvisational exercises, Gerry Morita worked to help artists develop strength and balance. Artists were able to develop their own original moves and build on them to create small dances they love to remember and repeat. Performing these moves for a live audience was clearly a highlight for the enthusiastic dancers and a treat for their appreciative fans.

Butler and Poole Family Grants Turn Chaos Into Usable Work Spaces

The Butler Family Foundation got the ball rolling with a grant to install custom shelving in the Archive Room in the space behind the gallery. The area was piled high with archived artwork, still packed from the move in August. The space is now organized and accessible.

The Poole Family Charitable Trust helped the Centre expand this wonderful sense of order into the adjacent areas designated for art preparation. 500 feet of dedicated storage space was lost to the mechanical room at the final design stage, allowing the facility to come in on budget. As a result, unfixture work spaces became chaotic dumping grounds for everything that would normally be in storage.

The addition of custom storage units and work bench are transforming the space into workable art preparation areas where staff can cut matt board and glass and do simple framing.

A joyful dance troupe performed to a full house in celebration of International Dance Day and the culmination of a seven month partnership project with Mile Zero Dance Society. Performing individual and group exercises, dancers were backed by original music by Don Ross. The April 29 performance marks the end of this Lee Fund grant project, but the Centre hopes to maintain dance within its ongoing artistic program. The Nina Haggerty Centre and Mile Zero Dance thank the Edmonton Journal for its coverage of the *Nina Sessions* (top left).





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NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

"Creativity lies within all people and can be powerfully expressed through the arts."

We're on the web!
www.ninhaggertyart.ca

AABIS Exhibit Reception June 3

The annual Celebration of Abilities art show and sale by AABIS artists (Alberta Artists with Brain Injury Society) begins May 31, with a free reception set for Thursday, June 3 between 6 and 8 pm. The opening coincides with Brain Injury Awareness Week.



IN THE GALLERY

Selected Collages May 3 - 24, 2010

- Artist Hans Rasmussen partners with Nina artist, Leo Wong to present *Selected Collages*, featuring their most recent work in mixed media.



Please join us for a free reception with live music and refreshments:

**Thurs May 6:
5 - 7 PM**

Extended Gallery Hours:

Mon - Fri: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Thursdays: 4:30 am - 2800 pm

Saturdays: 1 - 3 pm

For more information:

Call 474-7611 or visit
www.ninhaggertyart.ca

"Collage is the noble conquest of the irrational, the coupling of two realities, irreconcilable in appearance, upon a plane which apparently does not suit them."

Max Ernst

Heart of the City - City Centre Schools Annual Show Poignant With Schools Slated for Closure

The 7th annual art show and sale (April 23/24) by students from City Centre schools was a rather poignant affair this year, with half of the schools participating in the City Centre Education Program slated for closure in just a few months.

The mood was boisterous, however, when exhibiting artists came to the Centre for a reception in their honor. Students also enjoyed field trips to the gallery following the weekend event. Organizers thank everyone for their support.

