



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper*

Jim Kalnin

Drawer's Selection

February 4, - March 11, 2006



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# Jim Kalnin

## Drawer's Selection

The *Spirits* of the wilderness are welcomed into the cultural echelon of Western Art and maintain a secure foothold on the ladder of eminence through the work of Jim Kalnin. In this recent series, Kalnin has built environments of intersecting straight lines using perspective to create cityscapes where the *Spirits* of the wilderness explore. As civilized man further encroaches on the wild and aggressively asserts his dominion over beast, fish and fowl, Kalnin recoups. He acts as ambassador and channels the spirits of the wilderness into urban regions. Animus power shines supreme through the foothold of his work.

Kalnin's natural images are not realistically rendered but abstracted to become more the symbol of the creature than a depiction. It is the *Spirit* that inhabits the picture - in many incarnations. Similar to native naming, *Bear* wanders through the picture planes in his various guises - *Yellow Bear*, *Great Bear* or *Bear from Mountain*. They are archetypes. They are *Spirits* because they are occupying surreal spaces. *Fish* float above the monoliths like a crescent moon and this is because it is *Glowing Moon Fish* - the *Spirit*. Jim Kalnin's deep and personal knowledge of the symbolic fields of nature comes honestly. Having lived for many years in the remote Canadian wilderness, beyond the buzz of electrical lines, before cell phones, on the site of the grave of a Franciscan monk, he has communed with the native spirits. His name was *Feather*. He continues to grow in his communication with nature making frequent expeditions into the wilderness as a fisherman. His perception of those who inhabit the woods and streams is clear-sighted and potent. His art practice is secure as he reworks his close connection with nature in his country studio, an old wooden church. The result, the artwork is informed.

Jim Kalnin's work has always been infused with messages from the earth. Whether he is sculpting with woven twigs shaped into geometric enclosures like dream catchers or building graphic cities with oil-stick on paper for his *Spirit* acquaintances to explore, he helps us to connect with our own spirit.



*Bear Migrations #1*  
mixed media on vellum  
21 x 29 in  
2005



*Bear Migrations #2*  
mixed media on vellum  
21 x 29 in  
2005



*Bear Migrations #3*  
mixed media on vellum  
21 x 29 in  
2005



*Dog Pond Dancing #27*  
*mixed media on paper*  
*22 x 30 in*  
*2000*





*Colleagues*  
mixed media on paper  
15.5 x 18.5 in  
2003



*Hand Held Trout*  
mixed media on vellum  
29 x 21 in  
2005



*Fish & Buildings #1*  
mixed media on vellum  
29 x 21 in  
2005



*Fish & Buildings #2*  
mixed media on vellum  
29 x 21 in  
2005



*Fish & Buildings #3*  
mixed media on vellum  
29 x 21 in  
2005



*Emerging Form #1*  
mixed media on vellum  
29 x 21 in  
2005

## Jim Kalnin

### Artist's Statement

My art has almost always been rooted in the natural world. From this has evolved work that expresses both the joy of life, and an awareness of its fragility. My drawings, paintings and installations have ranged from being critical of environmental insensitivity in the logging and mining industries to spiritual expressions of the dynamics of life to questioning various aspects of the human condition. I feel especially gratified by those rare works that manages to be a critical statement and a spiritual one at the same time.

Everything is interconnected, part of the same whole. Every culture, all civilizations, and all our technology are part of the natural universe. We have sprung from nature and not really very far. We still depend completely on the natural order of things for our existence. The longer I live and make art, the more this becomes evident, and the more this awareness becomes an integral part of my work.

In these recent drawings on vellum I found myself attracted to illogical and absurd juxtapositions of imagery. Like fish arcing over what looks like buildings. They become valuable metaphors for my understanding of the interrelationship of all things. Absurdity in art for its own sake is also attractive to me, and it surfaces periodically in various ways. Perhaps these flying fish and lurking bears are reminding me that life is a passion play that is better not taken too seriously.

Using oil stick and dark pencils on the translucent and very fragile surface of synthetic vellum is one of the ways I am currently investigating the tenuousness and fragility of life, and reminding myself that under all the darkness there is always light

Jim Kalnin, Oyama, BC, 2005

## Jim Kalnin

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 "Oasis" Group Exhibit, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 2005 "Inspired by the Land" Group Exhibit, Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon BC
- 2004 "Landscape & Memory Group, Exhibit Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton BC
- 2004 "Drawings" Group Exhibit, Art Ark Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 2003 "Landscape & Memory" Group Exhibit, Triangle Gallery, Calgary AB
- 2003 "Landscape & Memory" Group Exhibit, Art Ark Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 2003 "Old Guard, New Guard" Group Exhibit, Art Ark Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 2003 "Defining Abstraction" Group Exhibit, Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon BC
- 2002 "Allegories of Transformation & Wonderment"  
Collaboration with Doug Biden, Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton, BC
- 2002 "Dog Pond Dancing" Solo Exhibit, Grand Forks Art Gallery, Grand Forks BC
- 2001 "Dog Pond Dancing" Solo Exhibit, School House Gallery, Qualicum BC
- 2001 "Stream" Solo Exhibit, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 2001 "Artropolis 2001" Group Exhibit, Vancouver BC
- 2000 "Return of the Metaforest" Group Exhibit, Headbones Gallery, Vernon BC
- 1999 "The Lake" Invitational Exhibit, Headbones Gallery, Vernon BC
- 1998 "Huey-Heck & Kalnin" 2-person Exhibit, Headbones Gallery, Vernon BC
- 1997 Solo Exhibit, Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton BC
- 1996 "Land Payssages" Group Exhibit, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 1996 "Collaborations" Group Exhibit, SKOL Gallery, Montreal PQ
- 1995 "Okanagan Series" Solo Exhibit, Headbones Gallery, Vernon BC
- 1995 "Re-Creation" Collaborative Installation with Lois Huey-Heck & Byron Johnston, grunt gallery, Vancouver BC
- 1994 "The Id, The Ego & The OAA" Group Exhibit, Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, BC
- 1993 "Artropolis 93" Group Exhibit, Vancouver BC
- 1993 "Earthlines, Deadlines, Lifelines" Group Touring Exhibit, Neutral Ground Gallery, Regina SK
- 1993 "Sanctuary" Solo Exhibit, Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon BC
- 1992 "Earthlines, Deadlines, Lifelines" Group Touring Exhibit, Redding California
- 1991 "Okanagan Open" Juried Exhibition Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 1991 "Earthlines, Deadlines, Lifelines" Group Touring Exhibit Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria BC
- 1991 "Pathin Tuit" 2-person Exhibit, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 1991 "Drawers of Water" Juried Exhibit, Alternator Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 1991 "Out of the Closet & Into the Woods" Group Exhibit, OAA Gallery, Kelowna BC



- 1990 "Objects & Images" BC Festival of the Arts Exhibit, Saanich BC
- 1989 "Condominium" Group Exhibit, United Way Building, Kelowna BC
- 1987 "National Drawing Competition" Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- 1987 "Objects & Images" BC Festival of the Arts, Duncan BC
- 1981 Solo Exhibition Hatch Gallery, Nanaimo BC
- 1976 Solo Exhibition Five Fingers Gallery, Nanaimo BC

## COLLECTIONS

- Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon BC
- Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna BC
- AVCO Finance, Nanaimo BC
- Numerous Private Collections in Canada, USA, Europe and Asia

## EDUCATION

- 1964 - 1969 Vancouver School of Art
- 1968 Summer Student, National Film Board of Canada, Montreal PQ

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2005 Present: Associate Professor, Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Kelowna BC
- 1987-05: Associate Professor, Fine Arts Faculty, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC
- 1984-87: Taught Drawing & Painting for Kelowna Art Gallery, Skills Gallery & Artworks, Kelowna BC
- 1974-&5: Taught Film Animation, Sikusilarmiut Film Workshop (NFB Sponsored), Cape Dorset, Baffin Island NWT
- 1972-74: Taught film Animation, Vancouver School of Art, Vancouver BC

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2005 "The Spirituality of Art" Co-written by Jim Kalnin & Lois Huey-Heck, Published by Wood Lake Books Northstone, Kelowna BC
- 1993 Article "Artrapolis Entries Pose an Internal Question" by Maev Brennan, Kelowna Capital News, October 24
- 1993 Article "Art Makes Public Display of Itself" by Mike Roberts, Vancouver Province, October 22
- 1993 Article "Art Fervor in Oyama" by Ann-Charlotte Berglund, Okanagan Life Magazine, Summer Issue
- 1990 Article "Alternative Art Tough to Define" by Maev Brennan, Kelowna Capitol News, October 24

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