

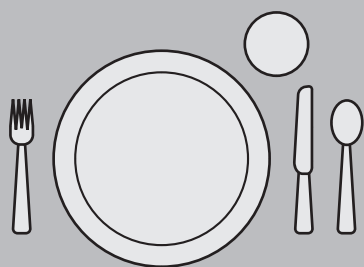
# Sketch

working arts for street-involved and homeless youth

- VOLUME 4 ISSUE 2  
December 2003
- 580 King St. W., 2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1M3
- 416-516-5428  
www.sketch.ca

## COME JOIN US AT OUR community feast

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 to 7:30



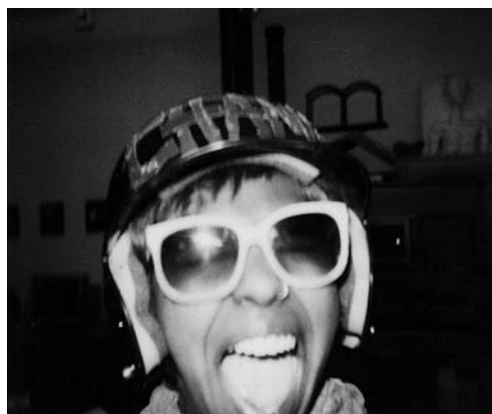
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

## VIDEO ADDICT

By Sarah Sharkey-Pearce  
New Media Coordinator

Video Addict was a ten-week summer workshop for women interested in exploring addiction through video making. Seven women came together to create individual videos in documentary, narrative or experimental style. The project was designed to teach first time video makers how to conceptualize, write, shoot and edit video. The project culminated in a public screening here at SKETCH during the first week of September. As part of the everyday running of this project every member of the Video Addict team would take a Polaroid photo at the end of the day. These photos became a record of all work, exhaustion and thrill of making art together. Zanette Singh learned how to edit on the day she took her picture below! We are now setting up more frequent video workshops as the youth at SKETCH are excited about this form of expression.

I would like to thank all of the people who support SKETCH and made this project possible. As well as a short list of facilitators that filled the project with energy and purpose, including; Sarah Zammit, Maria Gentle, Chandra Bulucon and Weibke Von Carolsfeld. Thank you most of all to the women who created beautiful and intelligent new videos both real and fantastical.



## THE OPEN STUDIO

By Rose Bianchini, Contract Artist

Our Multi-Media Open Studio continues to grow in its number of participants and energy. The studio is a space where not only are street-involved youth given the opportunity to be themselves, but they are also encouraged to develop lasting skills and confidence. Art functions not only as a method of creative expression but also as a tool to explore ones voice and creativity. Some enter into the studio with caution while others enter in a whirlwind. There is room for all personalities and working styles.

In the last few months songs have been recorded, canvasses stretched, large paintings developed, pants repaired, patches silk-screened, wooden boxes built, sculptures realized, drawings sketched and many other labours of love created.

We have also introduced a Thursday workshop series where youth have the opportunity to learn how to shoot and edit short videos,

how to make professional multi-track sound recordings, paint and develop and take photographs.

The doors of the woodshop have been officially opened and people eagerly sign up to learn how to use the drill press, the band saw and many other large and impressive pieces of machinery. We are in the midst of developing a multi-media section where participants will have the opportunity to develop and sharpen design and computer know-how.

Our Open Studio team possesses abilities in a number of mediums and work constantly to create a welcoming and inspiring art studio. We support participants in their creative visions regardless of how daunting they may seem at first. Most importantly the street-involved community that work in the space have the opportunity to learn that many valuable and viable skills are well within their grasp.



## ON THE GRANGE PURGE

By Ada DeCastris, Community Artist

Living in Toronto, the general sentiment on homelessness seems to be 'ignore the disease, attack the symptom.' With the constant increases in the homeless population, the problem has become increasingly difficult for Torontonians to ignore. It seems however, that many urban Torontonians have turned to vilification of the impoverished in an effort to free themselves from any responsibility or compassion they may feel towards the city's homeless.

Over the last year I have noticed an increasingly open spirit of bigotry towards the homeless community. In my own neighborhood this summer were "Community Action Meeting" posters encouraging 'residents' (who sleep indoors) to attend 'community' meetings. These meetings discussed local crimes, including homelessness, occurring in the area of Grange Park. Having been homeless until recently and now living in subsidized housing I did not feel

welcome to attend. The meeting's purpose was made clear by the posters' inclusion of the term "Creeps" when referring to the homeless. (A term made popular by a recent newspaper article.) Local residents got their wish. Grange Park was purged.

Many were beaten and arrested and other kids with nowhere else to go were made to go somewhere else. Seemingly overnight the park went from being an ersatz home and meeting place to a well-lit vacant lot with armed guards. The 'area residents' hadn't wanted to actually use the park, they just didn't want anyone else to either.

The approach to these situations is the kind of illogical; hate mongering that is used to justify genocide. Look at it like this: society is diseased, homelessness is a symptom. You can't solve anything by attacking victims.

*You can't solve anything by attacking victims*

## GIFTS Magic

By Cam, Artist-in-Residence

From Sept. 14th to Oct. 10th, I was in filmmaking heaven... Or was it boot camp? (Is there a difference?) It's called the Gulf Islands Film & Television School (GIFTS) and the program was the Independent Media Producers Program. On that idyllic BC island, with the help of the other 21

students, I made one solo project: a one-minute super-8 comedic horror about a woman against her meal & a five-minute collaborative video piece. They were extremely well received at the Island community screening & I'm looking forward to submitting them to many upcoming festivals.

## VOLUNTEERS

We want to say a huge thanks to Chad Mohr and Marlena Zuber. These two individuals have given so much of their time and care during this year at SKETCH. We are grateful to you and look forward to working with you in the new year!!



# PeRSPECTIVES

By Richard Grondin

Richard has been involved with SKETCH for many years now and has reached the end of our mandate. We celebrate his journeying with us, thanks to him for all that he has contributed and we would like to wish him the best.

I found it by accident. I just happened to be in the area of the old space on Dovercourt and Queen. I was curious and I saw someone that I knew from out west and she was working there. I saw the Open Studio program where I recognized street youth. I thought I might be able to fit into the program and gain some insight.

I began working on some paintings and then got into metal projects. That led to engineering and studying the mechanical and technical skills to design a motorized scooter. Scooters were too much to buy so I thought I would make my own. I was working part time with construction jobs and worked on my own projects at SKETCH outside of work. I was able to meet other artists and engineers who got me one step closer to what I wanted to accomplish.

I was invited to work on the Outreach Team. We taught different ways of making art like duct tape wallets, painting, jewelry and sculptures. I was bettering myself by doing these things.

I participated in the CED program that allowed me to build my own credibility as a designer and learn how to sell the product. This program opened doors to critiquing, loans, grants and building a portfolio. I was in a group show at ASpace Gallery and that was pretty exciting. The scooters were a big hit!

The move to the new space on King Street was crazy... I was part of the construction crew and carrying the drywall up the stairs was brutal!!! The space is larger and it allows more people to work in different kinds of mediums. I am noisy in the work that I do... people need space and room to work.

I have moved on. I got a job at a bicycle shop and feel like I am capable of carrying more responsibilities. I got what I needed from here, and what I received from SKETCH I now use towards building my own future. SKETCH has been like therapy because I could release my anger through the art. It was safe to release tension with the tools... and to have space! I can move on and help other people, offer my services, freelance.

I have a stronger sense of direction, but I have a few obstacles. I know I want to work in the area of mechanical engineering. I need to do more training and would like to pursue going to school.

If people come to SKETCH they will find the support and the comfort of being in this open space. There is a chance to do workshops and build on skills. Either you read or do art, follow your hobbies, fix things or just get something to eat.

# CONNECTIONS

By Leesa Hamilton  
Future Options Coordinator

SKETCH has recently completed the second year of the SKETCH Connections Community Economic Development Project and there is so much to report and so many thanks to impart.

Through the 'Silkscreening & Self-Employment' program, seven participants developed skills in silkscreening techniques while exploring self-employment in the arts. The group approached the project with such enthusiasm making a multitude of t-shirts, patches, tablecloths and curtains. It was a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group. The success of this project is also attributed to the hard work of guest facilitators; Celeste Toogood & Lise Beaudry. Thanks also to guest speakers Erika James, Ange Joose and Melissa Shiff.

In August, SKETCH wrapped up CED2, an 8-month program through which participants worked with staff and mentors to realize their art & income generation goals. So much happened in this program; it is hard to capture even a fraction of the individual accomplishments. In the Spring CED2 members participated in 'Project Just Being' where participants had the opportunity to exhibit their work at the Cameron House. The pieces were then adapted by local writers, directors and performers and staged at the Poor Alex Theatre. Participants also exhibited their work at Gallery 44, the OM Festival and Alley Jaunt. Collectively, the group created new work including; dolls, paintings, photographs, written pages and films; they won awards, went to film school, completed business plans, sold their work, got jobs and were accepted to art school, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. A sincere thank-you to the participants of the CED2 for all that you did, made and accomplished; you are inspiring... keep going. Also, we offer a special thank you to the mentors who volunteered their time, skills and knowledge; Andrew Kaufman, Lisa Silverman, Luis Jacob & Yasmine Louis.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and contribution of Jen Bulthuis, Artist Facilitator to both 'Silkscreening & Self-Employment' and CED2. Jen is currently studying puppetry in Prague and spreading good cheer to the people of Europe. Good luck Jen.

# THE WOODSHOP

By Kerry Boileau, Woodshop Coordinator



The woodshop has opened and is proving to be an exciting new space at SKETCH. Most of the people coming into the shop have never worked with wood before but they keep coming back.

Trick boxes for bicycles and skate boards, electric guitars, lathe turnings, furniture and a groovy wooden man purse are just a few of the projects being completed, dreamed of and planned for. The projects being tackled and to be tackled are as beautiful and unique as the individuals walking through the woodshop doors.

Some youth are coming into the woodshop wondering if their ideas are possible and they are learning that it is always possible! Others becoming comfortable using machinery and tools to meet their own specific goals. It's invigorating to think of the ways the woodshop will evolve as confidence and skills grow.

Most of the wood we use is salvaged and reclaimed and we are always looking for resources to realize grand ideas. We are also on the lookout for a big bold bandsaw in need of a new home. Ours is in heavy use and is super finicky.

Keep your eye out for the cool stuff emerging.

## Help SKETCH Keep Going

You help us open the doors. We need you. We need your financial support to keep going. To help youth see that anything is possible for their lives. We want SKETCH to be supported by a community of caring individuals and to be accountable to a community of people who care about the people here.

Please make cheques payable to SKETCH and mail to:  
SKETCH  
580 King Street West, 2nd Floor  
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- I would like to make a donation in the amount of ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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