

A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE

STUDIO ARTIST TO CURATORIAL ASSISTANT

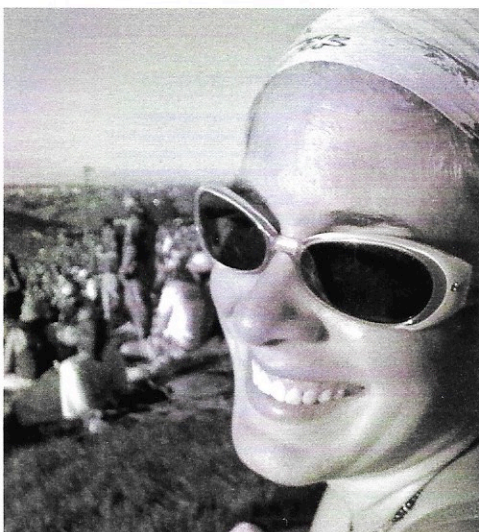
by Danielle Hogan, Research Assistant & Publicist

In April I completed my Masters in Fine Arts (Visual Arts) at the University of Victoria. The bulk of my artistic experience to that point had been studio related, but I heard that the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery was looking for some curatorial help and I stuck my neck out and applied! Luckily they hired me, from my first day in June until my last day in September, each day was a new discovery.

Over the summer I worked as gallery publicist while also researching an exhibition of 18th and 19th century British watercolours scheduled to open March 2005. I had hung many exhibitions of contemporary art in artist-run centres over the years but the experience of preparing this exhibition for the Maltwood was very different! The task required that I meet with and interview Dr. S. W. Jackman (donor and Uvic faculty alumnus), research that period of British painting, assess the physical condition of the works in our collection and design the overall look of the exhibition. As part of this process, I even had some correspondence with the Nation-

al Portrait Gallery of Scotland, it was all so much fun!

The Maltwood has thousands of artworks downstairs in the study gallery at University Centre and I got to spend the majority of my time working down there amongst all of them. Heaven for an artist, there are just so many masterful works to study; there are display cases of organic looking Art Nouveau dishware, wooden African carvings, West Coast Native baskets, porcelain Asian sculptures, beautiful British furniture, and so much more!



The biggest change in thinking for me this summer was to shift from the mindset of a person who 'makes' art, to that of the person who helps 'preserve' art. It was wonderful to experience first hand the lengths that museums, through their curators, preparators and historians, go in order to preserve the World's rich artistic history.

All said, the summer was a real joy. Thanks Maltwood!