

4th Annual Emancipation Festival Art Show:

Reflections from the Show Curator, Bonita Johnson-deMatteis

Throughout our 147 years of Emancipation in Canada, we have lost many stories and links to our history. Where are the stories that remain, and what will we bring forward to our grandchildren?



This year's theme, "Relatively Speaking", asked the artists to consider the question "How we will be remembered?" How do we tell about our stories and our influences, using paint, music and photography?

I was thrilled to see how this question was answered by the many varied, subtle, and commanding pieces of art entered into the show. As most artists work in isolation, it is always an event when the artwork from several artists is collected together.

It was with great pride that we exhibited the work of these Black Canadian Artists during the 4th Annual Emancipation Festival Art Show, July 13 – September 8, 2009. Visitors were encouraged to take their time while looking, to get acquainted with the stories and messages being expressed and perhaps, most importantly, to buy some art! With their enthusiasm and pride in purchasing new piece of art, visitors you complimented our efforts by completing the circle of all of our stories.

Artists Featured in the 4th Annual Emancipation Festival Art Show

*Dennis Smith
Anna-Maria Dickinson
Wayne Hanson
Tony Miller
Angelique Benois
Connie Turner
Janie Cooper-Wilson
Nicole Talbot
Susan Washington
Bonita Johnson-deMatteis*



Visitors at the 4th Annual Emancipation Festival Art Show opening