



CANADIAN MENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Canadian Mental Health Association in BC's Art Competition: Winners Hail from Vancouver, Burnaby, White Rock and Langley**

Four BC artists received a \$500 prize and recognition at the Art for Awards presentation at BC Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) Annual General Meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Vancouver. CMHA BC's new Art for Awards program honours the tremendous talent and creative accomplishments of BC artists who also live with a mental illness.

"The response to this new program has been overwhelmingly positive," says Else Strand, CMHA BC board member and Chair of the program. "Our panel of judges had a very difficult time selecting winners from such diverse and deeply personal entries. We are sincerely grateful for the many talented artists who were willing to share their art with us."

The winning paintings were selected from over eighty submissions collected by CMHA branches across BC. The winners are:

- Marcia Barry - "Who's the Mother?" (Langley)
- Julian Hahn - "Bearable Lightness of Being" (Burnaby)
- Cheryl Stein - "Waterfall" (Vancouver)
- David Wayne Wilson - "Quid Quid Latine Dictum Sit, Altum Videtur" (*"Anything Said in Latin Sounds Profound"*) (White Rock)

The program builds on the unique interplay between art and mental illness. For many, artistic endeavours can provide an outlet for expression that helps them to successfully cope with their mental illness. Artistic creation can also be a hobby, a social activity, and/or a way to generate a livelihood.

"There is no shortage of talented artists in BC living with mental illness," says Bev Gutray, Executive Director of CMHA BC. "Through this program we hope to raise the profile of BC artists while acknowledging the immense potential of people with mental illness, as artists, as citizens, and as contributors to the community. The unique perspectives and experiences of people with mental illness can produce artwork that is particularly engaging."

Also announced were six honorable mentions:

- Christian Boily - "Water in the Valley" (Richmond)
- Ho Mei Cha - "Birch Trees" (Richmond)
- Mike Davis - "Cabin by the Lake" (Prince George)
- Carmen Gaylard - "Into the Light" (Richmond)
- Nori Lee - "Golden Moment" (Vancouver)
- Justina Vanovcan - "The Bus" (Vancouver)

The winning works of art will be presented throughout the year in appreciation of individuals who best exemplify the spirit of CMHA.

“Presenting the winning art as awards provides both a tangible and symbolic connection between those who are willing to create positive changes their communities and the people who they are helping,” says Strand. “The Art for Awards program is a meaningful way to recognize and express gratitude to the outstanding individuals and organizations who are bringing BC closer to CMHA’s vision: mentally healthy people in healthy society.”

The winning works of art are currently on display on the CMHA BC website at [www.cmha.bc.ca](http://www.cmha.bc.ca).

### **About CMHA BC**

CMHA is a charitable association which promotes the mental health of British Columbians through community-based programs, education and information, and research services, and also encourages public involvement to strengthen mental health services, policy development and legislation. CMHA BC has more than 50 years of service to British Columbians and is part of a network of 20 CMHA branches across BC and part of a national voluntary association that is Canada’s oldest mental health charity. To donate to CMHA in BC, please visit [www.givehope.ca](http://www.givehope.ca) or call 1-800-555-8222.

### **Provincial Media Contact**

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High-resolution JPEGs of this image and similar photos of the other contest winners are available to download at [www.cmha.bc.ca](http://www.cmha.bc.ca).

[caption] Julian Hahn from Burnaby displays his winning art work, “Bearable Lightness of Being.”