



2012 "Shadows Fall", original paper cut by Hannah Viano



PRESS RELEASE

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Sammamish Arts Commission to Present:

Come Sit A While

Papercuts by Hannah Viano

March 9 – June 29, 2012



The Near Shore, Papercut, 12"x15", 2011

Sammamish, WA – The Sammamish Arts Commission is pleased to welcome Seattle artist Hannah Viano to the Sammamish City Hall Commons Gallery. Viano's papercuts exhibit, titled *Come Sit A While*, will be on view beginning March 9 through June 29, 2012. *Come Sit A While* is an invitation to slow down, to appreciate a place and moment of time. Hannah Viano's modern portrayals of local flora, offset with large locally inspired landscapes beckon the viewer to have a closer, slower look and sit a while.

"I have tried hard to learn the lessons of how to catch a memory, and save it for another day and another friend to see. To distill these impressions down I use an exacto knife and pieces of black paper. The act of carving out the pictures is a delicious and delicate process that gives itself perfectly to the flowing shapes of wood and water, the way faring a hull feels right in the hands, or a sweetly blossoming bowl on the potter's wheel," states Viano.

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Viano has been working with the papercut medium for the past 2 years. She has studied different printmaking styles through Sev Shoon and Pratt. Recent exhibits of her work have been at Center for Wooden Boats, spring 2011 and Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend and Columbia City Gallery in the fall of 2012. Her work can be found on her website: www.devilspursedairy.com.

Included with the exhibit will be a hands-on opportunity for children who will be able to create their own black and white art on a large white felt board from black felt abstract shapes and silhouettes making their own version of the black and white art.

Come Sit A While Public Program

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Gallery Tour: 6:00 pm City Hall Commons Gallery

Program: 7:00 pm Sammamish Library

The art in this exhibit is meant to inspire the viewer's curiosity to explore further and a reminder to set the rest aside and go find a shady spot to . . . sit a while. Using the exhibit as its basis, a public program is planned for **Tuesday, April 17, 2012** that will not only include a gallery tour, discussion of the artist's inspiration and process but also a presentation by Dr. Joshua Tewksbury, biology professor at UW to speak about the role of the layman in the study of natural history and how that offers a better appreciation and enjoyment of the environment. The program is in partnership with the Sammamish Parks Commission and the Sammamish Walks program sponsored by the Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department.

"I would like to tie pictures to words and word to actions. Maybe my inspirations from nature can be reflected back, nudging others out to find their own," states Viano.

The Sammamish Arts Commission offers a year-round series of exhibitions in the City Hall Commons Gallery with a primary focus on regional artists.

Sammamish City Hall is located high atop the Sammamish Plateau, at the intersection of 228th Ave. SE and SE 8th Street. Exhibition is on view during regular City Hall hours Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm. Directions can be found on the City web site: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

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2012

CALENDAR

Paper reveals its shape



The art exhibit "Come Sit a While," featuring the work of Hannah Viano, opens March 9 at City Hall.

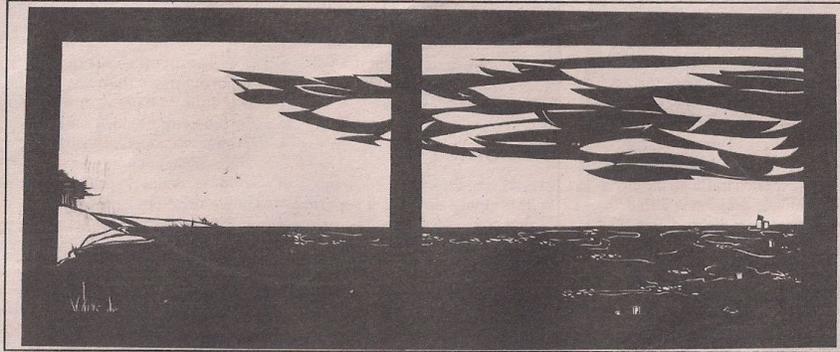
'Come Sit a While' and take in the art of Hanna Viano

By Lillian Tucker

"Come sit a while" is something a grandmother would say, patting the seat next to her. It's also the title being used by the Sammamish Arts Commission for its art exhibit of Seattle artist Hanna Viano's paper cuts that will run from March 9 through June 29 in the Sammamish City Hall.

The title of the show is meant to be a standing invitation to the Sammamish community to "slow down and appreciate a place and moment in time." The exhibit will feature the artist's black and white images made from paper that has been cut and pasted to portray the nature that surrounds the area.

"Here is this lace that is just a stone's throw away from the hubbub of Seattle but at the same time is in the foothills and a gateway to wild places," said Viano, who did a great deal of biking, hiking, swimming and walking around Sammamish and its surrounding hills to get inspiration



"Mackerel Skies" papercut 2012 24"x56"

for her work. "I was keeping my eyes open for these beautiful little details and grander landscapes, too."

During her mini-excursions, Viano found one of her favorite spots along the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The vista is at the northern end of the lake where lily pads mingle with cat tails. She said on one of her visits it was really gray out and the

remains of an old structure that had been overtaken by nature was visible.

"It was a beautiful but ghostly zone where you could see wisps of the past where wildlife has taken over," she said.

What started out as Viano noticing things like an interesting maple or trying to capture the way light bends around a hill, turned into a series of

native plant studies. For those that aren't particularly fond of botany, Viano has also created some abstract pieces as well as larger, dramatic landscapes, the biggest of which span five feet across. The exhibit will also feature a large felt board that will be hung at a child's level. Viano has cut various shapes out of black felt so that younger gallery goers can arrange them to make their

image.

"This really is a public space - this is my favorite part," said the artist. She said that on the first day she visited City Hall a man came in with rolls of blueprints over flowing in his arms, followed by an older couple and several moms. "There is a great parade of diverse groups coming in for different reasons but getting to see art along the way."

For the gallery's mezzanine level Viano said she is hoping to create a little piece of an artist's studio so that visitors can get a peek at her creative process.

Viano works in black and white and said the result is interesting as it leaves space for the viewer's imagination. Often, she added, people put their own color to the image.

I think people will be drawn to the images first for the graphic nature and then as they look closer they will say 'wait a minute - those are the trilliums that I love in that spot behind my house,'

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Art

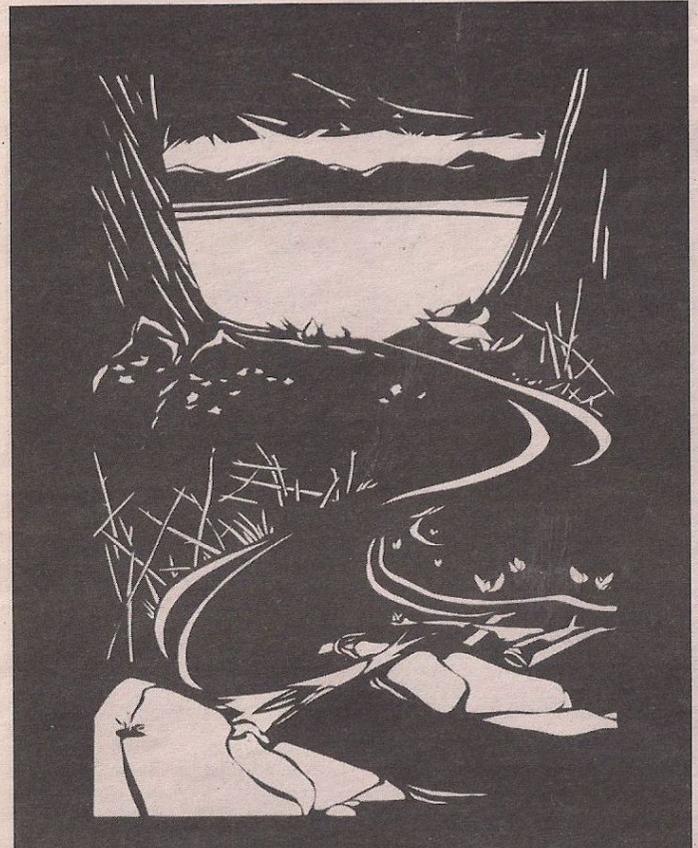
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said the artist. "I hope that second stage is a realization that these are familiar things from their own area."

The third stage that Viano said she hopes people reach is the motivation to get outside

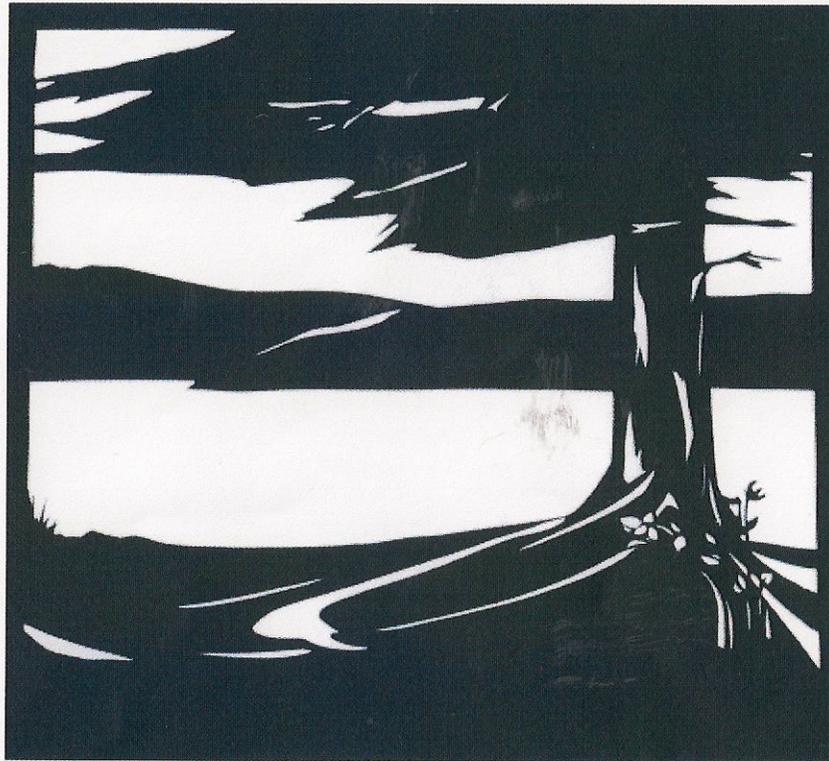
and check out all that the surrounding nature has to offer. To give citizens an extra boost of inspiration there will be a gallery tour on April 17 that will be followed by talks by the artist and others about the images and local nature. The exhibit opens March 9 and can be viewed Monday through Friday at Sammamish City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SAMMAMISH REVIEW



"Winding Wood" papercut 2012 35"x25"

Come Sit A While



Hannah Viano



Sammamish Arts Commission presents

Come Sit A While

Papercuts by
Hannah Viano

March 9 - June 29, 2012

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Sammamish City Hall
Commons Gallery
801 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA 98075

Front image:
The Near Shore
Papercut
12"x15"
2011

Weekdays 8:30am - 5:00pm
www.ci.sammamish.wa.us





Near the Shore

Located at City Hall in the secured area.

2012