

# Arty

# FACTS

THE BEACON GALLERY  
@ MAGNOLIA COURT, BOWSER

## MIDSUMMER AT THE BEACON GALLERY

BY NANCY WHELAN

The BEACON Gallery will exhibit a varied selection of art works in July. From July 2 – 13, Bowser photographer Peter Spodzieja who presented his work here last October, will return, this time accompanied by his daughter Silke from Surrey with her acrylic paintings.



Silke Spodzieja

Photo: Nancy Whelan

Peter, a passionate outdoor photographer from Germany who came with his family to live in Canada and is still a committed nature photographer, now works completely with the digital camera. "My latest work has changed from what I exhibited in 2006," says Peter. "My photographs are more about telling a story and I decide what part of them belongs, stays, or goes. I question my work, do more research, and am more critical and selective with my photographs."

Peter's daughter, Silke, one of twins, was born in Germany, and is married with two daughters of her own. An outgoing lover of nature, Silke started drawing and painting at age five or six and was encouraged in her work by her family throughout adolescence. Visiting great galleries and museums was one of the highlights of her youth. She came to Canada in 1982 and received her diploma in 1989 at Red Deer College in their Art & Design programme and completed her

Graphic Design diploma in 1992. Silke then worked as a Junior Graphic Designer at an ad agency in Edmonton and eventually became the Art Director for a software company in Vancouver until she retired in 1998 to start a family.

Now with two lovely daughters, Silke has returned with a vengeance to her passion for painting. Working with acrylics in her home studio, she draws her ideas from nature then lets colour and shapes have their way until a blank canvas blazes with her abstract inspirations. Using the vivid Mediterranean colours she loves, Silke transforms her interests in nature into paintings both for sale and for donation to silent charity auctions. Now the works of Silke and Peter will complement one another in a joint exhibition this month. ~