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## Artist in Residence delivers a 100-mile artistic diet

JILL SUMMERHAYES, Piece of Mind

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What a fascinating evening the lecture by current artist in residence Christopher Van Donkelaar turned out to be.

With many first-time visitors to the Cambridge Centre for the Arts, his explanation of the 100-mile art project was filled with visual aids. Christopher is an iconographer. The icon he has painted, titled Naming of the Animals, is painted with pigments he has made from local rocks and plants. The variety of pigment, made from crushed stone and rock found within 100 miles was astonishing - mostly subdued Earth tone colours. This project ties in so well with the current discussions regarding the 100-mile diet.

In keeping with this theme, the Cornucopia Catering Company, which serves lunches at the David Durward Centre and caters all the gallery openings at the Centre for the Arts, produced wonderfully colourful plates of assorted vegetables and fruits, along with tasty treats, all from local sources.

A talented local musician had written a song about local rocks mentioning Conestogo, Paris and Cambridge, so the entire evening was all localized. It was a very professional introduction to the booklet that Christopher has produced as part of his Artist in Residence program. On sale for \$15, it is a photo journal of his exploits about the current project.

If you wish to know more, you can call the Centre for the Arts at 622-9676, and ask to speak to Tamara Louks, the arts co-ordinator. Christopher has another free lecture coming up on Oct. 17 and a workshop about how to make your own pigments, set for Oct. 18.

Not everyone will be interested in this, as many feel the arts are a frivolous and unnecessary expenditure. The arts are an important part of our economic well-being, to say nothing of the pleasure many get from seeing or hearing beautiful things.

It gladdens the soul and makes us all feel more hopeful when we see the creative side of people working together.

Let's hope the city and the Cambridge Arts Guild continue to fund these programs for years to come.