

ArtWalk opens to great fanfare

by Nicole Fitzgerald

Art enthusiasts followed the trail of red balloons weaving people in and out of galleries at the grand opening of ArtWalk Friday, June 29. ArtWalk continues through July and August in Whistler Village.

Hotels, restaurants, retail outlets and coffee shops offer up their walls for the next two months to display the incredible talent of the Sea to Sky corridor. More than 50 artists are showcased in the 30 galleries scattered throughout the village.

Friends toasted sake to artist Michelle Yamamoto at Sachi Sushi, crowds were shoulder to shoulder at the newly opened Mark Richards Gallery, Cary and Paulo Lopes body painted a woman into a mermaid, and a former Whistler Secondary School student, Sally Reid, showed her art for the very first time after returning from art studies at the University of Victoria.

Self-guided walking tour maps are available at the Whistler Information Centre, activity centres, Millennium Place and participating businesses, including event sponsor Whistler Real Estate. ■



ABOVE: Tuning, toasting local art scene The Kostaman Trio entertained crowds at ArtWalk opening receptions while painter Michelle Yamamoto and martini mistress Marjorie of Martinis at Midnight fame toasted art at Sachi Sushi.