



THE THISTLER

ISSUE SEVENTEEN ★ OCTOBER 2011 ★ FREE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Call: 604.255.2838
Write: info@purplethistle.ca
Visit: #260-975 Vernon Dr.
Vancouver, BC
V6A 3P2
Coast Salish Territories

Please visit our website for up-to-date information on our schedule

www.purplethistle.ca

★MONDAYS★

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Collective Meeting: 7:00-8:30pm

★TUESDAYS★

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Radical Gardeners - Garden Work & Meeting: 2:00-6:00pm
Darkroom support 4:00-7:00pm

★WEDNESDAYS★

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Alternative Processes - 6:00-9:00pm*
*check under this schedule for details.

★THURSDAYS★

open for drop-in

4 - 10pm

Life Drawing - 7:30-9:30pm* **
*every last thursday of the month
**closed to drop-in

★FRIDAYS★

open for drop-in

3 - 6pm

Youngunz - 6:30-8:30pm*
*closed to drop-in

★SATURDAY★

1 - 4pm

RAIN - zine making, etc- 1:00-4:00pm

★SUNDAY★

closed to drop in

Purple Thistle Institute
Discussion Group - 3:00-5:00pm * **
*About every second Sunday.
**Check column on the opposite side of the page for details.

Screen Printing

To ask about screen printing and to find out about upcoming monthly screen printing workshops, email:

screenprint@purplethistle.ca
or check the website.

Alternative Film Processes

To experiment with and learn about making images on 16mm and 8mm film by exposing the film with and without cameras, by painting and scratching on film, and by having fun with various chemicals in the dark, come to our class on Wednesday at 6:00, starting the 19th of October.
To sign up email maya at: mayamotoi@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Design/Layout: Joi, Carla, Maya
What's up at the Thistle: Carla
RAIN: Mike Jo and Carla
Radical Gardeners: Marla
Art: Adam, Sarah

The Thistle is a youth-run community centre for arts and activism

We are a free place (both free-of-charge, and we are interested in freedom) where youth can engage with each other and their community.
The Centre is a physical space to root ourselves, a place to work together, and a site to learn new ways for radical organizing for social change.
We have plenty of resources, so do come on down!
All Welcome!



Image by: Adam Huggins

WHAT'S UP AT THE THISTLE: THEN AND NOW!

Well, to begin it's the 11th year of the Thistle and we're pretty stoked about that! The thistle was founded in 2001 by a handful of youth and Matt Hern. And it really has kept most of its core principles and organizing structures in place, especially that the day-to-day operations of the centre is run by a collective of youth. Over the years, the project has grown in all kinds of different ways, been more activisty than arty at times, and vice versa, but through it all the collective has worked to have the thistle be a permeable and rocking project for all youth.

We are always looking for new ways to do cool shit, new folks to work with, hang out with and share with. So come down, because, at the Thistle pretty much anything is possible! If you have an idea to do something awesome with your friends and you need some resources to get it off the ground (like a space, or mentors, or stuff) then just bring it to the collective meeting, it's really that easy. In fact, it's pretty straightforward to do awesome things at the thistle! One of our highly held values is radical generosity where we strive to have a real hospitality that has us happily sharing what resources we have with everyone, even if that just means a cup of tea and a place to sit-down on a rainy night.

Have a look at the website and read the rest of the Thistler to see what is happening currently at the thistle and maybe you will want to join in one of the awesome classes or projects that are happening now.

Here's a run down of some of the highlights of the past year -- many of these are on-going!

- During the afternoon/evenings we offered free-for-all supplies, equipment, mentors and tools. With an array of classes and workshops, including animation, film production, photography, music recording, bike repair, silkscreening, life drawing and much more.
- We have a major magazine/art project called RAIN— Radical Art in Nature, who put out a new zine called, Slug!
- We have two programs for younger kids that ran on Sundays: Youngunz (11-15 years old) and Squirtgunz (6-11 years old) — this year, Fridays and Saturdays!
- Our Youth Urban Agriculture project (aka radical gardeners!) worked furiously on the two major sites — each in the immediate area of the centre — turning industrial boulevard land into productive gardens and food for everyone.
- We also saw the birth of our food forest, headed up by Adam — read about it here: <http://projects.vancouverfoundationawards.ca/18-24/urban-food-forest-and-remediation>
- We started a summer alternative to university initiative called the Purple Thistle Institute — with up to 40 youth and a full roster of university-level instructors. Read about it here: thistleinstitute.ca
- Ran a daytime Skills Link employment program for young women called, Dream Seeds.
- A group of Thistlers with a mentor have been working all year to develop an ambitious community kitchen project called Eat The Rich. They have been organizing intensively and holding events at the Toast Collective.
- In the summer of 2010 we ran our 5th youth exchange with Fort Good Hope, NWT, which was hugely successful.
- The centre is home to many events, meetings, workshops and shows — many of which we put on, but an equal number are outside groups using our space and/or collaborating with us on projects.
- We also continue to host a wide range of community groups who use our space for work parties, meetings, banner-making, silkscreening etc.

Big thanks to everyone who has dropped in, continues to come by, shares skills, helped out in the garden, hung out with the bees, marches in the streets, or came by for a great conversation with us. You all help to make the project THRIVE! See you soon.

to send submissions to the Thistler email:
broadsheet@purplethistle.ca



art by Sarah Lum

THIS AND THAT

The Purple Thistle Documentary: heads up, there might be a camera on at the thistle!

Corin and Carla are creating a documentary exploring counter-institutions and using the Thistle and the Institute as case studies. We're calling it an "intellectual road-trip movie" and it will focus on Carla's critical exploration of the ideas around counter-institutions, social change and deschooling. Because we are looking at these ideas through the lens of the Thistle, we are hoping there are some Thistlers that are interested in participating.

So, Please be in the film! This is the easiest - just keep doing what you do!
We'll get permission from you every time we film, but we'd love to document some of the amazing work that happens in and around the thistle. To be fair, this will mean having a camera stuck in your face in all sorts of situations, but not all the time.

if you are someone who drops in now and again to use the centre, you'll probably not even notice. promise! but if you have concerns, or comments please get in touch with Corin, ckokobrowne@gmail.com or Carla, carla@purplethistle.ca to get involved, ask questions, or donate a huge, fancy-ass camera (kidding!).

thanks! carla and corin

Purple Thistle Institute Discussion Group!

last year we held bi-monthly discussion groups (formally called the eastvan leisure club) as a lead up to the institute.
A lot of the participants from the institute wanted to continue to meet so they merged with the eastvan crew and now they all meet together at the thistle on a few Sundays a month from 3-5 pm.

if you want to join in contact Dani to be added to email list. aiello.daniela@gmail.com

October line-up for our freshly-minted discussion group:

Oct 16 - 3:00-(5:30)pm -- Film: "Punishment Park" (1970) - Director: Peter Watkins - 1 hr 30 mins

Am Johal is putting forward a film viewing for this week's discussion. You can read about Peter Watkins and Punishment Park (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Watkins and (<http://p Watkins.mnsi.net/punishment.htm>) Film will begin at 3:05 sharp, extra time has been scheduled for discussion.

Oct 30 - 3:00-5:00 PM Beth Seaton -- "Why Consumers Don't Care Much About Anything (Except Getting More)"

Beth will present on the history and present of consumer ideology, with an emphasis on notions of desire/need as well as an examination of how such ideologies work to limit our consideration of the environment. Bio and background information on Beth is forthcoming.

RAIDING ALL GARDENERS OF THE PURPLE THISTLE

PURPLE THISTLE GUERRILLA GARDENERS FALL HARVEST & WORKPARTY SHAKEDOWN

The Purple Thistle Gardeners are proud of ourselves, and we want to celebrate all that has been planted, grown, sheet mulched, designed, and of course harvested over the past year...and we want to do that with you!

Of course no celebration of ours would be complete without putting our guests, and all their creativity and passion for a better world to work! We plan to use this day to celebrate, show off the new food forest site, AND complete the "Food in Our Faces" project with the painting of planter boxes with pertinent messages before they are distributed around the city. For your happiness factor, we will provide games, music, and copious amounts of food (gluten free and vegan of course!). ALL FREE!

EVENT DETAILS:

When: Saturday October 8th, 2011 (rain or shine)

Time: 1pm - 6pm

Where: At the new Charles St food forest project site. This is essentially at the corner of Vernon Dr and Charles St (where Charles hits the railroad tracks).

What to bring: Clothes that will keep you warm and dry AND you don't mind if they get paint on them, music instruments, a seat, your dancing shoes, ideas, friends.

this is a public celebration so please pass the invite on!

Any questions please send 'em on to marlarenn@gmail.com

Some of the garden highlights over the past year include:

- * Our expansion from the original Parker street plots to two new sites
- * At the Vernon street site, we built gardening boxes that housed our buckwheat crop making friends with the garlic crop that was planted there last fall
- * At the Charles street there have been so many hands that have contributed to the epic sheet mulching of this city block boulevard strip so that it is ready for all the trees to be planted in the coming year.
- * Purple beans, so so yummy raspberries, giant pumpkins and sunflower trees!
- * Laughter, friends, conversation and learning was made, deepened, carved out, explored. And those of us that making up the gardening crew are all better people because of it.
- * Dead rats...ok maybe we're not so proud of this...but the industrial wildlife do present a few challenges!



Share what you have. Get what you need.
Come meet up with friends and neighbours at the

Rhizome Free Store!

Sunday, October 23, 5-8pm
317 East Broadway

This month's theme is...

Arts & Crafts Supplies



- ★ Our monthly Free Store events allow us to share resources with each other. Bring something you don't need; and/or take away something you do!
- ★ This isn't a swap; it's free stuff for all!
- ★ Co-sponsored by Rhizome and the Purple Thistle

Have dinner while you free-shop!

Our kitchen will be open & we're fully licensed. www.rhizomecafe.ca

Radical Art In Nature: Guerrilla Art Group and ZINE

Radical Art In Nature

RAIN IS BACK!

image by Adam Huggins

we meet Saturdays at the Purple Thistle
1:00-4:00 pm

RAIN is a community-based project that has seeds in deschooling, micropublishing, skill-building/sharing, guerrilla art, and grassroots activism. our goal is to create a horizontal culture in which communities and individuals are empowered. To this end we, the RAIN collective, host events such as local music showcases, outdoor films, and workshops (which could range from digital design/layout to herbalism). We also produce the journal-like zine called RAIN and one called, SLUG!

come, hang out, have tea, and make stuff!!

love,
RAINERS

contact mike jo or carla
rainzine@gmail.com

We are going to make issue number 5 of RAIN ZINE.

The themes of this issue: creating counter-institutions, radical social change, decolonization and deschooling!

be part of this issue! here's how:

1. send us something: an essay, poem, interview, art, etc., that is about the themes above
2. make it with us! join us with the layout, editing and design (do let me know soon if you do want to do this)
3. Please send us your stuff by October 30th

more info: <http://rainzine.wordpress.com>



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