

ABOUT
THE
ARTIST
Dean Lauzé



Dean Lauzé created and executed the cover art, “Westminster Abbey” for this issue of *Amphora* in December, 2004. A classically trained artist, he benefited from the private mentorship of the acclaimed lithographer Mircho Jakabow and such luminaries as the graphic designer Paul Kuzma and sculptor John Weaver. D.Arts, the collaborative enterprise of Dean and his wife, Christina, is the business name of the company in which they share in every aspect of the work they undertake.

To learn his trade Lauzé spent five years studying at the University College of the Fraser Valley and has extensive experience in most drawing and painting mediums, print-making, sculpture and graphic design. Lauzé has earned renown as one of the Lower Mainland’s top commercial artists, and has built his reputation on the twin principles of integrity and excellence. Through the company D.Arts, he regularly completes work for corporations, municipalities, school districts and for the film industry. Perhaps best known for exceptional large and small mural work, D.Arts also offers illustration, sculpting, fine art and creative graphic design and does so by integrating classical skills with modern innovations. Dean Lauzé presently works from a large printmaking studio where he specializes in hand drawn lithographs. A studio tour, planned for the fall of 2005, is one that should not be missed by printmaking enthusiasts.

The work depicted on this cover is an outcome of Lauzé’s interest in the local landscape of his community of Mission, and its history. In the course of his work he has researched the past to create

large murals showing particular historic events such as the Soap Box Derby. On his visit to the Benedictine monastery called Westminster Abbey to create the image commissioned by *Amphora*, he talked with one of the monks about the tower and abbey, and then took digital photographs of it from various perspectives. Once back in his studio he viewed the pictures and drew on his extensive experience on the artistry and knowledge of the printmaking processes. He showed me the digital photographs that most interested him, then explained how he came to select the structural elements that were the strongest for the print. Lauzé emphasized the colour contrasts — the black and white as well as the grey tones in the print. As he talked, amongst other things, he pointed out the whites in the birch tree and the highlighting in the arcs, and in the picturesque open concrete tracery at the top of the Pfitzer Tower. Later, he handpainted the leaves in a gold colour selected for its intense contrasts, and more especially, for its symbolic elements in religion and culture. *Amphora* is delighted to bring you cover art by one of our outstanding artists, Dean Lauzé. Lauzé’s extensive portfolio, and further information on the company D.Arts, can be viewed by visiting www.lauze.com.

The owners of D.Arts, Dean, and his wife Christina Lauzé and their three children live in Mission, B.C

In this issue of *Amphora*, we also feature artwork by Gary Sim, Andrea Taylor, and Arnold Shives, all Vancouver artists whose work has been seen in *Amphora* in past issues.