

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cowichan art exhibit highlights adoptee's struggle with legislation, shame and secrecy**

An exhibit of artworks titled "Your Daughter is in Good Hands" by Chemainus artist Shannon Peck is opening April 3rd at PORTALS, the CVAC Centre for Arts, Culture and Heritage in Duncan, BC.

Peck's textile art is inspired by her struggle to understand her past amidst the shame and secrecy surrounding her birth mother's pregnancy. Four years in the making and thirty years into her search, this exhibit highlights more than 45 pieces of Peck's textile works. This unusual collection provides a moving perspective to a life transformed by adoption and privacy legislation and brings the viewer face to face with the artist's struggles with rejection, shame and identity.

While the exhibit is based on Peck's adoption history, it parallels the common experiences of hundreds of thousands of other adoptees whose struggles with a sense of loss are as real today as they were in the mid-1900's.

The Adoption Council of Canada writes that "approximately 1 in 5 Canadians are touched by adoption. They are either adopted themselves, have an adopted sibling or family member, are adoptive parents, birth parents or birth relatives. Today, that means almost 7 million Canadians are affected by adoption, and yet adoption remains one of the most misunderstood and stigmatized social phenomenon's in our country."

In conjunction with the exhibit, the artist is planning a dialog session and textile workshop to engage other adoptees and birth parents in their experiences.

The art exhibit officially opens on Monday, April 3 and runs through Tuesday, April 25, 2017. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 6:00-9:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

For more information on the exhibit and workshops, visit [www.specksurfacedesign.com](http://www.specksurfacedesign.com).