

Dinner With Neighbours, 2012

Jasna Sokolovic & Noel O'Connell, Vancity members

Through all of our projects, we maintain the objective of altering commonplace objects and spaces by enhancing them with thoughtfulness in order to enrich the everyday experience. We often involve the public in our projects as participants and collaborators. Vancity invited us to collaborate on an art wall that would embody this approach and represent the bank's advocacy of the community.

Each community no matter its size, race or creed has a tradition of food. This was the unifying subject we chose for the diverse community of South Burnaby. Superimposed onto a dishware canvas, we created the image of a long banquet table in mid-meal. The center of the table is an assortment of foods representing the specialty dishes of the many ethnic groups that make up South Burnaby.

The dishes, acquired from the now defunct Hycroft China Ltd., have been lying dormant since the factory closed in the late 1980s. It has been a rewarding experience digging them out of piles, dusting them off, and breathing new life into them. Hycroft in its heyday was a prominent Canadian manufacturer of industrial ceramic wares. Now it is a part of Medalta and the Historic Clay District in Medicine Hat, Alberta where it has been restored and preserved as an historic landmark.