Argyle Winery home for Gonzo sculpture

SCULPTOR  David Gonzo and helper install his sculptural lighting fixture at Argyle Winery's Tasting House in Dundee, Ore.

GONZO’S sculpture, an abstract interpretation of a bottle for sparkling wine or champagne, is suspended over the bar.

BY PAUL HAIST

Metal sculptor David “Gonzo” Gonzalez recently installed a large, three-section sculptural lighting fixture high inside the spacious new tasting house at the Argyle Winery in Dundee, Ore.

“It was my first really big commission,” said the artist, a Pacific Northwest Sculptors board member.

The sculpture is a seven-foot-long abstract representation of a wine bottle—sparkling wine, complete with abstract cork and muselet. A muselet is the wire cage that fits over the cork in a bottle of champagne or sparkling wine.

The opening of the bottle is 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, the base of the bottle about 4 feet. The cork is 3 feet long by 2 feet 8 inches round with the muselet the same dimensions as the cork. The three sections of the sculpture, which are suspended over the new tasting house’s beautiful bar, are spaced apart from each other by approximately two and a half feet.

Gonzo executed the sculpture in one-inch round tubing of mild steel, employing a twisted-pipe technique that he used previously in his sculpture titled “Rise Again.” He said he learned the technique from his friend and fellow PNWS sculptor and board member Rick Gregg.

The project began in July when Walker Tempelton, an architect for whom Gonzo had done some work in the past, referred him to the project.

Argyle, a renowned Oregon winery, was nearing completion of its new tasting house. They were building it on the site of an existing large structure that previously served as the winery and barrel room and which, in the more distant past, had been a hazelnut drying plant.

In keeping with the company’s comp-

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Bend sculptor travels widely for art

Bend, Ore., sculptor and PNWS member Kelly Thiel is one of two Oregon artists whose 3-D work was featured Sept. 12 at “Figuratively Speaking,” the 30th annual Sculpture Celebration presented by the Caldwell County Arts Council in Lenoir, N.C.

Thiel, a native southerner who recently moved to Bend, where she operates The Wilds, an artists’ workspace, works mostly in clay. The other Oregon artist taking part in Figuratively Speaking was Portland sculptor Ivan Carmona (www.ivancarmonastudio.com).

Also in September, Thiel traveled to Highland, N.C., in the Blue Ridge Mountains to teach an enjoyable and lively sculpture class—Selfies in Clay with Underglaze Bonus—to the members of The Bascom, an art center in Highland. It was the second year she

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Upcoming holiday season opportunity for gallery sales

Halloween decor is in the stores and you can feel the Thanksgiving displays wanting to get in there with announcements of day-after sales. All this is just the swelling that occurs before the Christmas shopping season erupts.

Much noise is made about that particular Friday in November, but it is nowhere near the busiest shopping day. That day is the Saturday before Christmas. It is the day of redemption for store owners, the day when money falls from the sky.

That is also the day of the December opening at the Sculptors Gallery. There are no guarantees. The gallery is on the third floor, after all, but I expect all four galleries up there will have heavily-attended openings. That is the key date. If you are already in the gallery or thinking of it, now is the time to start planning what you would like to show. The theme for that opening is “On the Wild Side”.

Consider joining PNWS board

I would like welcome Paul Haist, our newsletter editor, as the newest member of the board. His wife Isabelle Johnston-Haist is our secretary. They drive from Astoria to attend board meetings and other functions. Having Paul on the board keeps him in touch with all the goings on. That should be helpful as he writes articles for the newsletter.

Speaking of the board, board elections will be in February. Paul will be on the ballot, as appointees must be elected by the members at the next annual meeting. Board members who are up for election this year will also be on the ballot if they so choose. We currently have provisions for 12 board members. There are eight at this time. So, there are four vacant spots to fill and perhaps more.

I encourage everyone to attend a board meeting. You may well find that participation at the board level is something of value to your career and a chance to do something good. Having attended board meetings for 14 years or so, I can testify that it is a good and worthwhile experience.

Two retiring from board

Sam Hingston will step down as treasurer, having served as such for a number of years. I will step down as president (again). That presents a couple vacancies that will need filling, which will be easier with a 12-member board. I have tried to make it such that the board runs the place. That was a condition of my latest term as president. At this point, a meteor could strike me and everything would be fine. Well, PNWS would go on without a problem.

Publicity chair needed

Additionally, we are in need of a publicity chair. Some aspects of that position are covered now, but we don’t have anyone who coordinates them all. One aspect is press releases, others are printed materials and social media. Someone or a committee to coordinate those efforts would be a great help.

Anybody have storage space?

Finally, we are in need of storage. Carole Murphy’s studio has served as our storeroom in the past, but she will soon be moving. We need only about 100 square feet. Stored items would include the pedestals (broken down), a few display walls and the booths. If you can help or know of someone who can donate such a space please let me or any board member know.

Best to everyone,
George Heath
gheath6006@msn.com
Twenty-five sculptors and their partners or friends gathered Aug. 20 at the Steel Yard on NW Columbia Boulevard in Portland for the annual Pacific Northwest Sculptors barbecue.

The annual event is hosted by Steel Yard proprietor Leland Waltuck. Waltuck and his crew prepared barbecued chicken and beef ribs with all the usual side dishes.

Waltuck’s Steel Yard has long been the go-to source for raw materials for the area’s metal sculptors. It turns out it’s a pretty good rib joint too.

It was an occasion for good food, relaxation and schmoozing. There was also some discussion of PNWS business by group leaders.

PNWS President George Heath reminded everyone that it was that time of the year for membership renewal. He added also that there is a growing need to recruit new board members and he encouraged the members to attend one or more board meetings to see for themselves how the group works.

Heath, who maintains the PNWS website, also reminded those present that “every member should have work in the website gallery.” He invited those who do not have work on the site to contact him for help in making that happen.

Sculptors Gallery Director Carole Murphy urged members who do not have work in the PNWS gallery at Pioneer Place Mall to take advantage of the opportunity. “We need more people in the gallery,” she said.

Waltuck, a longtime patron of Portland’s sculpture community, reflected on PNWS history since its founding in 2000.

He credited Heath, Murphy and board member Rick Gregg for key roles in making the organization what it has become.

“Now we are getting more people,” he said. He urged the membership to more participation. “It’s a good organization for everyone. You get out of it what you put into it.”
Neiwert has new studio for upcoming tour

Portland-area sculptor and PNWS member Angela Neiwert will open her studio the weekend of Oct. 17 and 18 as part of the 2015 Washington County Artists Open Studio Tour. Neiwert works primarily in clay. “I love the process of transforming the clay into hand-coiled and slab-built sculpture and pottery,” she said. “I am deeply influenced by nature and have been recording materials of nature through pressing natural objects into porcelain and layering imagery of nature as a fine thread that runs throughout my art.”

Neiwert just finished building a new studio in her backyard. During the studio tour, she will demonstrate throwing on the wheel and welcome visitors to share the experience, she said.

Studio tour artists will keep their doors open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Check the tour website for locations: http://washcoart.org. Learn more about Neiwert at http://angelaneiwert.com.

THIEL: Peripatetic sculptor sought-after speaker, teacher

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has taught a sculpture workshop at The Bascom.

She said, “If you have never been to the East Coast’s Blue Ridge Mountains, fall is the time to go. The leaves are starting to change and it is a lovely time to revisit those creative urges with a fun and relaxing sculpture class.”

Kelly’s work centers on the narrative. She uses her sculpture to tell the stories of her life through portraits, animals and hybrids. At The Bascom, she shared her techniques of construction and glazing at the four-day workshop beginning on Sept. 28.

She called The Bascom “something to be explored.”

“As a center for the visual arts, it offers classes and workshops of all types—watercolor, sculpture and pottery, for example,” she said. “There are themed classes, such as making witches and saints for Halloween. They also host thought-inspiring exhibitions and shows that stir up the creative juices, including the Outdoor Sculpture Invitational that is currently on display until Jan. 9, 2016.

Later this fall, Thiel will travel to Columbus, Mo., for an invitational exhibition at Missouri’s coeducational Mississippi University for Women where, in addition to showing her ceramic sculptures, she will serve on a panel discussing the intersections of gender and place.

In Bend, Thiel is a cofounder of The Wilds, Bend’s first hybrid co-working and art studio space. Catering to artists of all types, The Wilds provides well-lit, comfortable workspaces conducive to collaboration and inspiration with free coffee, wifi and a Friday happy hour.

Learn more about Kelly Thiel online at www.kellythielstudio.com. For information on The Bascom, visit their website at www.thebascom.org. Learn more about The Wilds at www.thewilds.com.
GONZO: ‘Less straightness and more cowbell’

DAVID GONZO reaches out from atop a scissor lift high inside Argyle Winery’s tasting house as he positions part of the sculptural lighting fixture he created for the winery.

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mitment to evolution and reinvention, they repurposed the wood, steel and concrete of the old structure in the new structure.

When Lauren Holmes, special project manager at the Portland-based contracting company Lease Crutcher Lewis, contacted Gonzo, she said that they wanted to see some of his finished work. They scheduled a meeting that also included Argyle Director of Sales and Marketing Chris Cullina and SERA Architects associate Steven Ehlbeck. The meeting took place at the Sculptors Gallery operated by PNWS at Pioneer Place Mall in downtown Portland.

“I met them at the gallery and showed them the ‘The Mother Series,’” said Gonzo. The series includes “The Fractured Mother” and “Rise Again.” The latter includes twisted pipe resembling a flower stem holding the earth, which has a flower growing out of it. “Rise Again” emerges from sculpted concrete, as if it were growing out of it.

Chris said he “fell in love with the twisted pipe,” according to Gonzo. However, they had an appointment with another sculptor and “would get in touch.”

In the end, the project team and winery opted to go with Gonzo. They showed him some preliminary draw-

ings that included a depiction of a muselet, which Gonzo mentioned, “looked nothing like it should.” He asked the project team and Cullina if they were open to new ideas. They all said, “Definitely,” and Gonzo said, “Great, I’ll come up with a maquette and email it to you.”

He was about to leave town for a solstice gathering (Thirst for Light) for vending and sculpture demonstration at Red Hawk Avalon in the Willapa Hills of Washington.

He set up his booth at Red Hawk Avalon where Ron Schwinke, a friend from California, joined him.

“We thought about it and did some drawings and came up with a large abstract (design),” said Gonzo. “They wanted something kind of abstract that people would ask about and the bartender could tell them a story about.”

What they came up with was an abstract bottle, cork and muselet that wasn’t solid all the way through; it just disappears into the void.

Gonzo completed a maquette at Red Hawk Avalon, hung it from the overhead canopy, photographed it using the white tarp of the canopy for the backdrop.

“I was a bit worried about how the photo looked,” he said, owing to his being in the middle of the forest. But it was the best he could give them at the time, so he emailed it to his client. “Let me know what you think,” he wrote to them.

Cullina replied, “I really, really like it. I like it a lot, but it needs less straightness and more cowbell.”

Gonzo got a laugh out of the “Saturday Night Live” reference and saw what Cullina meant. He made some changes per Cullina’s request.

A few more design adjustments were made before Gonzo started creating the sculpture at the beginning of July. It was finished in early August and installed in time for the formal grand opening of the tasting house on August 17.

Learn more about David “Gonzo” Gonzalez online at http://www.davegonzosculpture.com. Learn more about Argyle Winery and see more photos of Gonzo’s work online at http://www.argylewinery.com.

Upcoming Meetings

October Member’s Meeting
POTLUCK
Hosted by Rick Gregg
Friday, Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.
3354 SE 14th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202
541 905-6046
www.rickgreggstudio.com

October Board Meeting
Hosted by Dave Gonzalez
Fri, Oct. 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
10008 SE Ramona St.
Portland, OR 97266-4422

Special Thanks to Rob Arps

Pacific Northwest Sculptors, its board of directors and its Sculptors Gallery staff and exhibitors extend their gratitude to Portland sculptor and 3D expert Rob Arps for his generous support of the Sculptors Gallery.

Each month, Arps donates $150 for refreshments for each Sculptors Gallery Opening.

Arps is the founder of FORM 3D FOUNDRY, a Portland company providing digital scanning and sculpting services.

Phil Seder’s latest sound sculpture (at right) was inaugurated Sept. 19 at the second anniversary celebration of the Saffron Fields Vineyard tasting room.

The 7-foot high sculpture with 3-foot diameter stainless steel disk uses steel, brass and old-growth Douglas fir in a composition reflecting the winery building’s architecture and the surrounding Japanese gardens.

Seder, a PNWS member, used primarily hand-forged elements for support of the suspended disk, along with structural nuts and bolts.

Saffron Fields, near Yamhill, Ore., houses a world-class collection of sculpture and other visual arts, not to mention having pretty darned good wine. Saffron Fields Vineyard has been a previous sponsor of the PNWS Sculptors Gallery at Pioneer Place Mall in downtown Portland.

Learn more about Seder’s work online at http://www.philsederstudios.com/