Pairs in Progress

Ten pairs of our members are preparing for the “Unmatched Pairs” show at the Multnomah Art Center from September 6th-30th. Each artist will exhibit one individual piece plus a collaborative piece created with the sculptor they have agreed to partner with. From the beginning, feedback from participants has focused on the experience of working with another artist on a common piece. Overall, this has been a positive experience. Several have suggested we should do it more often. Perhaps this show will motivate you to seek collaboration with another artist.

Here are a few insights and a peak at what’s in the works for the show.

**Andy Kennedy:** “I’ve been working with both Julian Voss Andreae and Dave Gonzo on collaborative art. Because Dave and I tend to be reinventing our piece regularly, I’ll focus a few images that have resulted from working with Julian. What you’ll see are a few images in a longer series that documents the dynamics of liquid and air compression. The conditions for making these slices of time have been simplified, but the results have endless variation a lot like snowflakes. The next step is to scan images like this into bitmap files and render the outlines in a different material such as steel.”

**Katie Salos:** “Piper Wood and I first began thinking about strangers sitting close together on a bench, like at a bus stop. Then we eliminated the bench to see how the forms could possibly relate without that support. Eventually we decided on the close confines of a small boat to contain our fragile figures. Piper will be making a more realistic figure and I will be doing a slightly abstracted figure very much ‘attached’ to the boat. We expect to meet more often as Piper’s work schedule allows.”

**Laurie Vail:** “Michele Collier and I have combined her ceramic skills with my metal work for our joint sculpture. The torso is fused steel and clay. It’s now in my studio where I have mounted it on legs and a base. Our warrior is nearly complete. We will be meeting again to discuss the final look.”

-Chas Martin
Thank you Katie Sallos for hosting the last member meeting. The weather was pleasant, the food was amazing and I only got lost a little bit on the way there. That’s pretty good for how Beaverton and I normally interact.

We sat in a circle for the meeting part and I found that a very good way to do it. It was more discussion and interaction than making announcements and answering questions.

The Making Space show is shaping up nicely. I’ve been working with Chas Martin, (who is doing the heavy lifting), Carl Lewis, president of NW Stone Sculptors Assn. Sheldon Hurst of the Artreach Gallery and Bob Dale who found us the opportunity. This exhibition will occur during the International Sculpture Conference across the Park Blocks from that event. We are collaborating with the NW Stone Sculptors Assn. Applications are open to members of both organizations. In addition there will be a retrospective of works by the late Ben Sams, a groundbreaking NW ceramic sculptor who passed away in 2001. I strongly encourage all to apply. There no jury fee. The application may be found here: Making Space.

Speaking of exhibitions you will find in this issue some previews of our show at the Multnomah Arts Center. Each pair of collaborators will display a piece of their own together with their collaborative work.

Thanks to All,
George Heath

Opportunities for Sculptors

Opportunities come in many forms. This one has no entry fee or rigid rules. It’s an opportunity to make PNWS better by volunteering your unique talents for our upcoming shows or other activities. There are plenty of options. The amount of time involved is really up to you. The important thing is that you be actively involved in something. The benefits may surprise you. In addition to strengthening the value of the whole group, you may discover additional opportunities, resources or connections as a result. A few hours of your time has a multiplier effect. Contact any board member to add your expertise to our list of volunteers.

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Joe Cartino: “It was fun to co-create with another artist (Rocky Jaeger). The interplay of ideas provided a fountain inspiration. We made dozens of wonderful dodads along the way and plan to continue working together because the process is so rich and rewarding.”

The final outcome of these collaborations will be interesting. For the artists, the process has been its own reward as we push ourselves and each other into new creative perspectives. There will be more updates to our progress in the next newsletter. Stay tuned for another installment in the August newsletter.

Plan to attend the opening on Friday, September 6, 7-9PM. The Multnomah Art Center is located at 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219

Applications Now Open for the Making Space Exhibition

Enter by August 17 for Making Space show at ArtReach Gallery

Entries are now being accepted for Making Space, a 4-day exhibit that coincides with the ISC conference at Portland Art Museum. ArtReach Gallery is across the street from the Museum and will be open each day during the conference. Show dates are October 12-15 with a reception Saturday, October 12 from 1-4pm. Entry is open to active members of PNWS and Northwest Stone Sculptors Association. The show will be open to the public. See the Call for Entry for details.

Membership Renewals

Dear Members,

Our finances as an organization are based primarily on membership dues. Prior to using the online membership renewal system, Wild Apricot our membership year began in August. As a result our funds get thin in July as the bulk of renewals have yet to be processed. Please take a few moments to renew your membership if you fall into this group. The next six months promise to be a critical period for us given the attention of the sculptural world will soon focus on Portland and the Northwest. Renewal is easy. Just follow this link:

Thank you for your continued support!
1. I recently installed a stainless steel piece at Percival Landing in Olympia. Inspiration No. 1, 68” high.

2. Tools of the trade. I needed a slip roller for a recent project. The ones you can buy for $300 to $400 will only bend 20 gauge steel at best. So I decided to build my own. This one will bend 16 gauge stainless. It is 12” wide. I probably have about $200 in materials in this. The rollers are 2.5” steel pipe.

A Surprise for Lane Tompkins

What a shock I had when I untarped my work bench that day. The spider stayed with me on the table, pretty much out of the way, for three days before I relocated him among the piles of stone in our studio yard. I sent him (or her) off with a fond farewell and luck in the hunt. The Wolf spider does not spin a web, but stalks meals like its namesake.

Lane Tompkins

Ed. Note:

Wolf spiders are hairy arachnids that can grow up to 35 mm in body length. I’d still be screaming.

Even unfinished, my carrara marble spider-web accepts a wolf spider as it’s first resident.