Talisman Gallery Transforms into a Sculptural Wonderland

From April 26 to May 27, the Talisman Gallery at 1476 NE Alberta featured the sculpture of 23 PNWS members in a sculpture and painting exhibit called “chisel + brush.” Both floor and wall pieces were displayed throughout the gallery. Many of the sculptors behind the work attended a very packed artists’ reception held on Last Thursday, April 26.

Here is a sampling of some of the varied and impressive work featured in the show.
President’s Message
By Carole Murphy

Hello everyone,
What is your Board of Directors up to?
Well, let’s see…Rick is off and running! He is putting together one hell of a show for us at the Bush Barn Gallery! Don’t forget to submit your entries to be in that show as it is juried! The deadline for entry is almost here: May 24. Please send your images to Dave “Gonzo” Gonzalez at Dave.gonzo@gonzotronicsanity.com.

Our new Publicity Chair is Rip Caswell, and because of Rip and his kind assistant Linda Kiley, we now have a Press Release page on our website (under News). Be sure to check it out!

Our new temporary secretary, Susan Levine, is still holding her own in her new position! Thank you, Susan.

Wendy Dunder has been right on top of things as the new head of the Show Committee and is looking into many show possibilities for us. Sooo many exciting directions we can go. We’ll keep you posted! Yea, Wendy!

Ben Dye is the head chair of our Grants Committee. He is looking into many opportunities and will let us know when the committee has come up with just the right one.

Marlena Nielsen has been doing an incredible job of chairing the Membership Committee. You probably received your PNWS directory recently, and Marlena is the one to thank for that. She also is our Vice President and is the head chair of the Call to Artists Committee. She is amazing!

Laurie Vail is our Treasurer and has been for a few years now. She is doing a great job of staying on top of everything. She also is the head of the Equipment Committee and is the one that makes sure that pedestal is there and in good shape when you need one. Laurie was also responsible for organizing the May show at the Talisman Gallery on Alberta Street with the work of 23 members on display. Thanks, Laurie!

There are some really interesting meetings planned! Jim Tait has been setting them up for Rick Gregg lately, and he’s done a grand job of it. Check them out at www.pnwsculptors.org/calendar.htm. Thanks, Jim! Jim also updates our blog and keeps us posted. PNWS Blog: http://pnwsculptors.org/wordpress/

Thanks also to our volunteers working on on-going projects: Tamae Frame, Carole Turner, Michael Bamberger, John Primeau, Robert McWilliams, and Jim Ayala. We couldn’t do it without you! You are most appreciated!!!

This is a grand year! More shows, more people involved, more energy behind what we do! What a great start to summer. Look at what we do together!

See you at the meetings,
Carole

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are POTLUCK. If you can’t bring food or beverage, come anyway. Portfolios and works-in-progress are always welcome!

Mark Your Calendar for Special June Meeting

The June PNWS monthly meeting is shaping up to be one of the year’s biggest and best. Host Leland Waltuck, owner of The Steel Yard, will be providing dinner including pork ribs, fried chicken, and soft drinks. He promises that no one will be disappointed and no one will go home hungry. Leland also encourages members who plan to come to bring a portfolio of their sculpture to display.

June Meeting – hosted BBQ! – BYOB
Wednesday, June 20, 7pm
Hosted by Leland Waltuck at The Steel Yard. Food will be generously provided by Leland.
6880 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97218
(503) 282-9273

July Meeting – Potluck – BYOB
Saturday July 28, 12:30pm
Hosted by Jan and Jewel Shield, Dancing Trees Sanctuary For The Arts, (503) 537-0749
19755 Kings Grade, Newberg, OR 97132
www.dancingtreessanctuary.com
The Shields have graciously agreed to open their home on 27 acres called Dancing Trees Sanctuary For The Arts. This is a Saturday afternoon picnic and potluck gathering. Bring your family or significant others and enjoy the Shield’s wonderful forest home/art studio setting! Wander through the luscious setting and enjoy the music studio, art studio, outdoor art installations, fern grottos, wondrous views, resident goats, llamas, and organic garden. Bring food or wine if you can, but come regardless! Driving map and directions will be provided prior to the meeting.

August Meeting – Potluck – BYOB
Wednesday, August 15, 6pm (Note early start time)
Bush Barn Art Center, 600 Mission Street
Southeast, Salem, OR 97302
(503) 581-2228 (X302)

This will be a fun meeting surrounded by member art and a nice opportunity for any member that has not already visited the gallery to see the installation! The meeting will be our normal potluck and BYOB affair. Bush Barn will have tables available for food. We (PNWS) will need to provide paper plates and utensils. Because this meeting will be in a gallery filled with member art, do NOT bring your art. Rather, come see, celebrate, and socialize!
Letters to the Editor

Call to Artists Very Worthwhile
I was accepted at two different galleries based on application following notification from PNW Sculptors Call to Artists. In addition, I have applied for at least six or more other shows based on information provided. Everyone knows that acceptance in any show is always based on quirky criteria, which no one can figure out in advance, and so the only solution is to apply and see what happens.

—Robert McWilliams

Another Nod to PNWS Call to Artists
With this email, I take the opportunity thank the newsletter team for their great work.

To land commissions for public art, we have to apply to a whole lot of calls before we become a finalist. I make it a point to read and try to find calls for artists while I eat breakfast. At that time in the morning my studio is still pretty cold in the winter and shady in the summer, the perfect time with a cup of coffee to browse through all the relevant websites. Anything in my “budget range” gets bookmarked. Everyday I focus on one or two Public Art info websites and so slowly cover my bases. Unfortunately, there isn’t one cover-it-all place to check. The info from our own newsletter is definitely one of my favorites, and I hope it will help others as it helped me. As of the end of 2011, I got my first larger project for the PCC 50 anniversary celebration, for which I am very excited and busy at this time.

—Nicky Falkenhayn

Ways for PNWS Members to Get the Word Out
By Lynn Lustberg
PNW members now have multiple ways to keep fellow members and visitors to our website updated about achievements, honors, events and shows, and news items of interest. The PNWS Blog (http://pnwsculptors.wordpress/) and the PNWS Press Release page (http://pnwsculptors.org/pressreleases.htm) are great places to post information that you’d like to publicize in between issues of the newsletter. Of course, these items can also be submitted to the newsletter. Check out these other options, and take advantage of the opportunity to make use of them.

Correction
The name of the author of the article “Waiting…the Completion of the 108th Chair!” in the April/May issue was misspelled. The author was Jo Grishman. The editor sincerely regrets this error.

Bronze Bird Swiped in Redmond

100-pound heron statue was part of public art program

By Erik Hidie / The Bulletin
Published: March 15, 2012 4:00AM PST
REDMOND — An art thief targeted a bronze heron statue displayed in downtown Redmond this week, lopping off the $8,400 bird at its spindly legs and removing it from the city’s outdoor public art gallery.

Redmond police believe the theft occurred late Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

The statue weighs about 100 pounds and, when welded to its concrete pedestal along Northwest 6th Street, sat about 4 feet high. It changed color in the light, thanks to a patina containing trace amounts of silver.

It appears the bird’s legs made it an easy target for a thief with a cutting implement. All that remains of the statue are a few long copper barbs protruding from the heron’s perch.

Artist Kim Chavez, who crafted the statue named “Grace,” said it’s brutal for her to look at what is left behind.

“It’s like having one of your children in the wrong hands,” Chavez said. “It’s really hard to look at it right now.”

Chavez and her husband, Phil, are metal artists. He says the theft is personal because “we do this for a living.”

But Chavez isn’t letting the theft dampen her desire to participate in the city’s outdoor gallery.

“Redmond is just starting to collect its art,” she said. “I feel bad for Redmond right now.”

The statue was featured as part of the Art Around the Clock gallery introduced by the city last summer. Through the program, pieces of art are rented on a two-year basis and displayed downtown. People who like pieces may buy them.

The city replaces the art at the end of each two-year cycle with new pieces.

So far, the program has added four statues, a fountain and a wall hanging to locations across downtown Redmond.

Heather Richards, Redmond’s community development director, said the city has taken out insurance on the art in the gallery and will be working with Chavez to add a new piece in the place of the stolen statue.

“The community responded really well to this program,” Richards said. “It’s heart-breaking that this happened, but we aren’t going to let it spoil the program.”

The Redmond Police Department is investigating the theft and asks anyone with information to call 541-504-3400.

Reprinted with permission of The Bulletin, Bend, OR.

Art in My Life
by Robert H. Foster

I have been in the arts business all of my life. Not much of a revaluation, but that is what has kept my juices flowing all of these years. Whatever I do, there is art in it. I paint, sculpt, sew, make furniture, photograph, craft jewelry, and I’ve even restored an antique car. My professional career has been focused on designing golf courses, shopping centers, housing developments, parks, playgrounds, and city centers. Yes, I am a landscape architect, but everything I do is just art in a different medium.

Many artists get trapped in one medium, in one style, or in a series of styles in one medium. I have a sculpture show going on in Beaverton City Hall, and I just finished the “Artist Quick Draw” evening and auction at the Allison Hotel in Newberg. I have several proposals out on various projects. I am not bragging; I am simply saying that to succeed in this day and age, you have to pull out all of the stops. Get your fingers in more than one venue. You might be surprised how energizing it is.

I have visited many artists’ studios and find they have fragments of art projects they have created over the years. They seem to always say, “Oh, that’s nothing” or “I did that just for fun.” I know it is hard to put yourself out there, but what the heck. No one will find you if you are not seen. Go to the back of your studio, dust off one of those old fragments, and submit it to a gallery or a show or even donate it to an auction with the Chamber of Commerce.

By Robert H. Foster

“Grace,” by Kim Chavez, was unveiled and installed in Redmond last fall. The 100-pound, $8,400 bronze statue of a heron was lopped off at the legs and stolen this week.
Member News

New Book Features Frame Sculpture
Tamae Frame’s sculptures are featured in a new book, Contemporary Sculptures by Danijela Kracun and Charles McFadden, published by Schiffer Publishing. The book will be out in June.

This book features 84 international artists with 477 inspiring pieces of artwork. It showcases all kinds of sculptures, from the traditional to the avant garde, and features a variety of media, such as bronze, clay, glass, stone, wood, as well as mixed media. To learn more about the book and order a copy, go to http://www.schiffer-books.com/newschiffer/book_template.php?isbn=9780764341038

Tamae Frame Sculptures Selected for Lake Oswego Show
Tamae Frame’s ceramic sculptures have been selected for the “Artist’s Vision Juried Show” at the 2012 Lake Oswego Festival of Arts. The selected sculptures are Trepidation 2 and Spirit of Lotus. The exhibition will be held at the Lakewood Center during the 49th annual event, scheduled for June 22–24.

Shows Galore for Jason Johnston
Summer time is here and the art festivals have begun. Jason Johnston will show his work in some of the most prominent art shows in the West throughout August and September. You may visit his wandering gallery and enjoy the wonderful music, artists, and wine at these art festivals: the 43rd Park City Kimball Arts Festival, Park City, UT, on August 3-August 5; the Loveland Sculpture Invitational, Loveland, CO, on August 10-August 12; the Telluride Festival of the Arts, Telluride, CO, on August 17-19; Art in the High Desert, Bend, OR, on August 24-26; Kings Mountain Art Fair, Woodside, CA, on September 1-3; Mountain View Art and Wine Festival, Mountain View, CA, on September 8-9; and the 56th Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival, Mill Valley, CA on September 15-16. If you have any questions, please email Jason at j319@aol.com, see his work at www.johnstonsculpture.com, or better still, swing by the booth and say hello.

2012 Astoria Open Studio Tour
Isabelle Johnston-Haist will show her sculptures and paintings during the 2012 Astoria Open Studio Tour, Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29, from 10am to 4pm.

Tour maps will be available mid-July at Astoria Public Library, Cargo, Dots’N Doodle, Lightbox Gallery, Old Town Framing, Riversea Gallery, KALA@HIPFISH monthly and on the Astoria Open Studio Tour’s website: http://astoriastudios2012.yolasite.com/.

Isabelle’s studio is at 194 Bond Street, at the corner of Bond and 2nd Streets.

New Sculpture by Corio and Frei
Flying Umbrellas, the newest sculpture by Jennifer Corio and Dave Frei, was unveiled April 6 in downtown Vancouver, WA. Vancouver’s Downtown Association, which put out a call for artists late last year, commissioned the sculpture. At 14-feet high, the piece lightens up a busy intersection with its bright colors and whimsy. Jennifer designed three large umbrellas that appear to be escaping from the confines of their umbrella stand, banding together and flying away. The umbrellas are fabricated with aluminum and finished with bold shades of translucent powder coat. The steel stand boasts a rich brown patina (many thanks to Rick Gregg for sharing his formula!). People wonder how the water drains from the top umbrella, Dave, an engineer by heart and training, devised a system to drain the water caught by the upside down umbrella. By enabling it to flow down the stainless steel shafts of the lower two umbrellas, into the stand, then through a pipe embedded in the concrete, the water is finally distributed through the planting bed by a perforated pipe.

The sculpture was unveiled to a crowd of 200 art appreciators during Vancouver’s First Friday Art Walk. You can see more of Jennifer & Dave’s art at www.CorioFrei.com.
PDX 8-Sculptor Art Exhibit

By Annie Linstrom

A new sculpture exhibit opened at Portland International Airport on April 1 to help passengers carve out a little extra enjoyment when traveling through PDX.

Until October 15, passengers can take pleasure in the works of eight regional sculptors from Oregon and Washington focusing on five basic elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, and water. The elements symbolize beliefs in traditional Chinese medicine that illustrate the relationship between the chemistry of the human body and natural environment.

Featured artists include Richard Cawley, Steve Eichenberger, Rick Gregg, Jacqueline Hurlbert, Mitch Lang, Alisa Looney, Pam Mummy, and Joe Powers. The sculptors produce work in steel, clay, aluminum, and wood to explore energy as it moves through life, portraying the complex relationship between energy and nature, and how they coexist.

“This new exhibit, ‘In Our Element’ features a variety of work with a common theme of human experience,” said Greta Blalock, Port of Portland’s PDX arts and entertainment coordinator. “Emotions of joy, love, turmoil and peace find their expressions in clay, wood, and steel.”

The PDX art program serves as a portal for Northwest expression. It showcases the dynamic cultural life in the Pacific Northwest through ongoing relationships with regional artists, arts organizations, museums, and educational institutions. More information about PDX is available at www.pdx.com.

Top: Choosing Wisely by Alisa Looney, mild steel, sterling silver, seashell, glass bead
Above: Centering by Alisa Looney, stainless steel, glass and sterling silver

Johnston Sculpture Commission

Jason Johnston was commissioned by a private party to sculpt, build, and install The Conversion of St. Paul at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Waxahachie, Texas. This almost 10-foot tall piece was ordered by a collector who “fell in love with the movement and energy captured” in Jason’s work and asked Jason to create an equally dynamic sculpture to be placed in the courtyard of his local church to honor his father.

Throughout history, St. Paul has been depicted with his symbols: the sword and the scroll, or book, which is a visual representation of his words, “The sword of my soul is the Word of God.” Often, due to the material restriction of the past, St. Paul has been sculpted with a simple shift of weight to one leg, holding his sword and scroll in his arms. With a request for a dynamic piece, however, Jason turned to the Baroque.

Jason explains, “I have always loved Caravaggio’s painting of the Conversion and his dramatic use of light, or chiaroscuro, to capture the spiritual, emotional, and physical intensity of a moment. I wanted to evoke that same feeling in this piece. I decided I would sculpt the moment of conversion, the fall on the road to Damascus.”

In the completed piece, St. Paul falls not just literally, but from his former life as Saul, a persecutor of Christians. As he falls, he clings to his past identity, or his sword, by the blade in this painful moment of growth, confrontation, and conversion. The sword has become a cross in the hand of St. Paul. Blinded by the brilliance of Christ, he reaches out a hand to brace his fall, yet unraveling and rising up to catch, embrace, and enlighten him is the scroll, or Word of God.

“When depicting such a prominent historical and religious figure whose image has been painted and sculpted thousands of times, there is a relationship, a dialogue between artists, that spans centuries. It was a great honor to sculpt St. Paul, and my hope is that I’ve created a sculpture worthy of this conversation.”

St. Paul is available in both large 10’ and table versions. Contact Jason Johnston at j319@aol.com with questions. Visit www.johnstonsculpture.com.

Member Discounts

ADX
adxportland.com

Columbia Art
1515 NE Burnside, Portland 97214
503-232-2216

Georgie’s Ceramic and Clay
756 NE Lombard St., Portland 97211
503-283-1383

LASH Quality Molds and Sculpture Supplies
4702 NE 102nd Ave, Portland 97220
503-251-6959

Stan Brown Art and Crafts
13435 NE Whitaker Way, Portland
503-257-0059

Fiberlay Co., Inc.
3223 NW Guam, Portland 97210
503-228-1222

Quimby Welding Supply
Locations in NW Portland and Tualatin

International Sculpture Center
iscsculpture.org
www.sculpture.org

Southern Oregon Soapstone Co., LLC
541-479-4862
SouthernOregonSoapstone@gmail.com

Courtney Frisse, Photographer
courtneyfrisse@gmail.com

Swink Piece Selected for Poster

Sara Swink’s Domestic Production was selected for next year’s OPA Ceramic Showcase poster. The event takes place the last weekend of April 2013 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

Left: Domestic Production by Sara Swink, ceramic, 26” x 13” x 8” poster child for Ceramic Showcase 2013; Right: Big Cry Baby, ceramic, 22” x 10” x 11”

Big Cry Baby: Nothing to Be Sad About

Sara Swink’s piece Big Cry Baby will be in a group show, “Anonymous: The Contemporary Portrait”, in the main gallery in Strohl Art Center in Chautauqua, New York. The show runs from July 15 to August 21.
I read once that one cannot learn to sculpt by reading books or through the spoken word; the artist must experience it. The hand must be trained by practice; the mind must be trained by the constant acquisition of knowledge; and the heart must be trained by its undefeated faith and desire to overcome all obstacles.

Although I love painting, sculpture allows me to use all space, even negative space, as part of my artwork. And abstract form allows viewers to probe their imagination for what is there and what is not. It has been said that art is made of the stuff that dreams are made of and that dreamers are the favorites of the gods. “To him they whisper their secrets!”

As artists, we are hopefully always in a creative mode. As sculptors, we incise a lump of clay or a piece of metal, wood, stone, or some other medium to create something more, to make a vision come to life. It may take only a few hours, or it may take several months or even years to turn that dream into reality, to give it life.

The year 2008 was a very productive year for me. My visions were clear, and I began many pieces. Most were completed and set carefully on the rack to dry. And dry they did! Three weeks ago, I fired, worked on the finish, and completed one of the pieces that I began in 2008, adding a sword to it. It was brought to life just in time for the Ceramic Showcase. I felt that I had accomplished something!

My older son, George, began his creation less than a year ago and completed it, bringing it to life, on May 2, the same day I completed mine! My piece was 18” and weighed 10 pounds. His was 18” and weighed 5 pounds. I felt quite proud of myself for finally bringing to fruition the creation that I had begun four years ago, that is, until I saw my son’s creation and realized that mine paled in comparison!

Photos of both are included here so judge for yourself! It reminds me that there is one creator, and we are but his lowly apprentices.
Offered by PNWS Members

Art Making Abroad in the Czech Republic with Olinka Broadfoot
Learn the skills and techniques involved in creating art from pressed clay roofing tile. All skill levels are invited, and there are no language requirements.
Spend the weekdays in the studio creating works of art. Outside of the studio, explore the Czech Republic.
July 15–29, 2012 or until October 1, 2012 (arrival date is flexible; two-week minimum to allow for firing of sculptures)
$950/week, lodging included
Optional excursions are available for a small fee plus expenses.
Materials/Tools provided.
Transportation: One-time transportation to and from Prague airport provided. For more info, visit olinkabroadfootgallery.com; email obroadfoot@gmail.com or call 513.307.0325.

Garden Art 201, Concrete and Mosaic Sculpture
Create sculpture for the garden using specialty cement mixtures (including Milestone), steel mesh, and mosaic embellishments. Super easy, fun, and everything you need to know to continue creating at home.
All levels, everyone works at their own pace and skill level while creating an original sculpture.
Ongoing weekend workshops Sat. & Sun. 12–5pm: $160 + $35 materials; class size limited to 6
Private and small group classes available, too. Classes are held at the sculpture studio of Dean Hamner on Vashon Island, just a few minutes from Seattle and Tacoma.
Contact Dean at (206) 567-5778 dean@gardenart201.com www.gardenart201.com

Clay Sculpture with Richard Armstrong
Sculpt in clay using the four formative forces (water, volcano, wind, and earthquake). This fun class is guaranteed to open new doors of creativity. Methods inspired by Waldorf methodology, approaching the clay and working without preconceived ideas. Schedule will be determined by interest; possibly evenings or weekend days; for four two-hour classes, pay $20 per class. Limited to four students.
Richard Armstrong, (503) 477-8808 or email armstrongstudio@msn.com.

Maria Simon: Studio Workshops
Carving Bas-Relief Sculpture
This is a carving workshop, open to students at all levels of experience. This is the technique I use in my current work. It is fun, compelling, and meditative. Plan on leaving your judgments at the door and entering with a willingness to experiment!
Friday, June 15 – Sunday, June 17, 2012
9:30am – 4pm
$300 + $40 for materials, tools, and firings

Surface Techniques with Terra Sigillata
This is not as esoteric as it sounds. It is the fired material I use on my work that is quite different from glazing. It yields a soft, sensual gleam but is not glassy. Pre-requisite: previous ceramics experience or past/current enrollment in Bas-Relief Class.
Friday, June 24 – Sunday, June 26, 2012
9:30am – 4pm
$300 + $25 for materials and firing

Location: 2216 SE 50th Ave., Portland, OR 97215 (5 blocks south of SE Hawthorne)
Contact: 503-236-8589
Registration: To register, please send a check for $100 as a deposit to cover the cost of the workshop to Maria Simon. 2216 SE 50th Ave., Portland, OR 97215.
www.mariasimonstudio.com

Bill Bane Sculpture Workshops
I am planning to do a series of sculpture workshops beginning in September 2012. Each workshop will vary in length and subject matter, beginning with the portrait in clay.
Other workshops will include:
· Carving the portrait in marble using the point cutting machine.
· The figure from a model
· Alternative mold making
· Alternative casting materials
· Anatomy
· Enlarging
I am an Elected Member of the National Sculpture Society with work included in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute; National Health Institute; Purdue University; Oregon Health Sciences University; Portland International Airport; City of Portland; City of Anaheim; and Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum as well as many other public sites.
If you are interested in the workshops and would like additional information, please send an email to bbane@mac.com with Workshop in subject line.
Bill Bane
R.W. Bane Studio, LLC
Newberg, Oregon 97132
www.billbane.com

Sculpting Classes with Carole Murphy
Create in a form of aerated cement that is considered “green” by the construction industry. Follow your own vision, even if sculpting is new to you, with help from a teacher that supports you in discovering it.
For more info and to see a video of classes, go to www.carolemurphy.com or use your phone to QR to the website. 1405 SE Stark. Contact Carole at (503) 235-7233 or Sculptor@CaroleMurphy.com.

Murphy and Swink Teach at Art Camp this Summer
Creative Arts Community at Menucha offers two weeks of art camp for adults every August. During the first week, August 5-11, Carole Murphy teaches Carving Aerated Cement and Sara Swink returns to teach Creative Process for Ceramic Sculpture. For more info, visit www.creativeartscommunity.org.
Building Sculpture or Dancing Chickens? Yes!

I've seen this decorative sculpture a thousand times, but only recently noticed that the pleasing rhythmical shapes are dancing headless chickens! You can view this whimsical building decor at the corner of SE Ankeny and SE 28th Ave. (Crema Coffee Shop). Be sure to look up because the 20’ x 20’ welded metal sculpture is on the second story outside wall!

—Jim Ayala