A GALLERY OF OUR OWN

New sculpture-only venue draws opening-night crowd

BY PAUL HAIST

Nobody was counting May 16 at the gala grand opening of the Sculptors Gallery at Pioneer Place Mall in downtown Portland, but to say that 200 people came through the gallery’s doors that evening would likely not overstate the case.

The opening of the Pacific Northwest Sculptors first brick-and-mortar venue for three-dimensional art was, according to Gallery Director Carole Murphy, a milestone for the group and an unequaled opportunity to bring the art-buying public into direct contact with cutting-edge sculpture and the people who create it.

And the people who came to the opening did so not just to look. They came to buy.

“We sold five pieces at the grand opening,” said Murphy, “with three more sales pending.”

The artists whose work sold that night were Rick Gregg, Rosemary Tobiga, Denise Sirchie and Murphy. Gregg was the featured artist. Each month a different artist will be featured at the gallery. He sold two pieces at the opening with a third possible sale pending.

Dave Frei and Jennifer Corio recently installed their newest sculpture “Tulip Dance” in Mount Vernon, Wash., a city known for its expansive tulip fields.

Five brightly colored tulips, ranging in heights from 10-13 feet, appear to be dancing in their planter box. Corio designed the sculpture with her signature style of curving motion and striking color.

Frei engineered and fabricated the work using steel and aluminum. Each flower consists of five petals for a total of 25 hand-shaped pieces.

Fortunately the project allowed them to invest in a new metal forming tool called a Shrinker-Stretcher, which made the process much more efficient and allowed Frei to learn new forming techniques.

“Each project allows me to hone...”

See GALLERY, page 4  
See TULIPS, page 6
Well done, gallery builders!

The last time I wrote one of these notes the board had just voted to rent on a month-to-month basis 3,000 square feet of space in the Pioneer Place Mall in downtown Portland. That seemed like such an easy thing to do and indeed voting to do it was easy.

The rest blossomed into an all-consuming flurry of activity that lasted a month and a half. It is a tale of ten-thousand things to do and a group of volunteers who went at it with abandon. We took possession of the space on April 1, began moving in on the 3rd and by the 15th of April had it together enough to have a soft opening.

One month and a day later we had the grand opening and I am most happy to say that it was a success. Rick Gregg was the featured artist. Work was sold. The gallery is in the black. That is a rare thing for a featured artist. Work was sold. The gallery is in the black. That is a rare thing for a gallery just starting out.

So, well done! Well done!

We owe thanks to Carole Murphy who as gallery director volunteered countless hours in coordinating the setup. Hers was a massive task. Others, and I’m missing many, were Brian Echerer, Rick Gregg, Jessica Stroia, Sam Hingston, Phil Nelson, Alisa Looney, Cathi Newlin, Laurie Vail and many others.

Thanks to everyone.

Meanwhile, Dave Gonzalez has been coordinating our First Thursday presence in the Pearl District. No small job that. There are still a few spots open. I’ve been to it a couple times and it is always crowded. Contact Dave for further info. He’s also coordinating the Justice Center windows.

Cathi Newlin has offered to post items on our various social media sites. Contact her for that. Bear in mind the content must be fully edited and ready to post.

Contact me for any website stuff.

Cheers!

George Heath, President

Upcoming Member Meetings

June Meeting—POTLUCK
Hosted by Bruce Bowman
Friday, June 19th, 7p.m.
5905 SE Ash St.
Portland, OR 97225
503 354-8106
www.bowmanarts.net

July Meeting—POTLUCK
Hosted by Susan Zukauskas
Friday, July 17th, 7 p.m.
22330 SW Taylors Dr.
Tualatin, OR 97062
503 692-5797

Member Discounts

| ADX | adxportland.com |
| ADX | 1515 NE Burnside, Portland 97214 |
| ADX | 503-232-2216 |
| Courtney Frisse, Photographer | courtneyfrisse@gmail.com |
| Columbia Art | 3223 NW Guam, Portland 97210 |
| Columbia Art | 503-228-1222 |
| Georgie's Ceramic and Clay | 756 NE Lombard St., Portland 97211 |
| Georgie's Ceramic and Clay | 503-283-1383 |
| International Sculpture Center | isc@sculpture.org |
| International Sculpture Center | www.sculpture.org |
| LASH Quality Molds and Sculpture Supplies | 4702 NE 102nd Ave, Portland 97220 |
| LASH Quality Molds and Sculpture Supplies | 503-251-6959 |
| Pearl Packing | 1230 NW Hoyt St., Portland. |
| Pearl Packing | 503-227-6655, 503-962-9919 |
| Pearl Packing | Email info@pearlpacking.com |
| Quimby Welding Supply | Locations in NW Portland and Tualatin |
| Southern Oregon Soapstone Co., LLC | 541-479-4862 |
| Southern Oregon Soapstone Co., LLC | SouthernOregonSoapstone@gmail.com |
| Stan Brown Art and Crafts | 13435 NE Whitaker Way, Portland |
| Stan Brown Art and Crafts | 503-257-0059 |
I decided to enter the “Brawl in the Fall” competition at the 2014 Concrete Decor Show in Fort Worth, Texas, while I was searching through the show’s magazine and website.

The annual Concrete Decor Show is billed by its organizers as “the premier event for decorative concrete.” The Brawl in the Fall features selected teams of competitors who demonstrate “the beautiful and amazing projects” made possible with decorative concrete materials.

I read the rules and saw the prizes, and thought, “What the heck, I’m going to join!”

I next needed to determine what I was going to do for the competition. There were several challenges in making this decision. The first was that I hadn’t worked much in concrete and cement, but I had years of experience working in plasters. Another challenge was that I had three days in which to complete the project. There were eight teams in the competition and you could have up to eight people on a team. I was having difficulty finding team members because people I knew were either attending classes at the convention or were not going to Fort Worth due to the cost.

I decided that if I was going to do this primarily by myself, I needed to do something that I had previous experience in doing. I’m also planning to launch a new product line for my business—Elite Artistry. I will be selling relief-work molds on-line; I thought this would allow me a great opportunity to demonstrate how molds can simplify an otherwise complex and time-consuming project.

I chose a relief project I had done two and a half years ago on a fireplace in my home. The original fireplace took me over 200 hours to complete. Knowing I would only have three days (24 hours) to complete what had taken me basically 10 times that to do originally, I decided to cast molds of the different fireplace features and ship the cement casts to Fort Worth.

I sent the dimensions of the fireplace to the sponsors and they built a fireplace that was 8 x 6 feet on which I could apply the cement overlay and my casts.

I arrived in Fort Worth late on Monday afternoon. There was a dinner for all the contestants and their teams. At the dinner, the sponsors went over the contest rules and wished us well.

I awoke early Tuesday morning and began my work. I had to break for a five-hour class in the afternoon. I came back after my class was finished and worked into the late evening on getting everything ready to go for the competition that would start Wednesday morning at 9 o’clock.

I had a wonderful, positive and encouraging experience during the competition. The sponsors were very helpful. The other contestants were encouraging. And I had tremendous support and help from some of my former students who came by to assist me when they weren’t attending classes.

The winner was announced at noon on Friday. I was blown away that I had won. It seemed incredible that I had been able to complete the fireplace in two days and to a standard that had earned me first place.

It was validation that my molds will work and enable other decorative artists to complete beautiful projects in a short amount of time. It also gave me a deep sense of satisfaction that others see beauty in my work. And, as my husband said “You kicked man-butt!”

All the other projects were destroyed at the end of the show, but one convention participant was able to rescue the fireplace and plans to install it in her cabin. I know it will be loved and appreciated.

PNWS member Ellie Ellis, CSA, CMS, operates Elite Artistry in Happy Valley, Oregon. Learn more about her and her work on line at www.eliteartistrybyellie.com.
EVERYWHERE one turns at the new Sculptors Gallery they are greeted by an astonishing panorama of three-dimensional art.

Continued from page 1

at the gallery that night easily exceeded 200.

As pleased as he was with his sales, he seemed even more pleased with what the opening of the gallery means for PNWS.

“For 13 or 14 years, most of the long-term (PNWS) board members have talked about this,” he said. “Carole (Murphy) and I have actually looked at buildings, a place of our own for the membership. We looked and looked, then this came totally out of left field. We jumped on it.”

One couple who came to the opening and who described themselves as “avid collectors” said they had run out of wall space in their home and were now shopping for three-dimensional work to add to their collection. “It’s amazing to see so much excellent sculpture in one room,” they agreed.

More than 40 PNWS members have taken advantage so far of the opportunity to show their work in the gallery. Participants are allowed to show up to three pieces, depending on gallery needs. The featured artist can show up to 10 pieces.

PNWS President George Heath said one of the group’s central objectives is to create opportunities for the more than 150 PNWS members to show and

See GALLERY, next page

DAVID ‘GONZO’ GONZALEZ, a PNWS member and board member, discusses his sculpture “Fractured Mother,” at left from his Mother Earth series, with a guest at the Sculptors Gallery grand opening. The evening was an opportunity for artists and the art-buying public to meet one another and begin to build relationships.

ROSEMARY TOBIGA sold her ceramic sculpture “Looped” at the Sculptors Gallery grand opening. Here, she takes a moment with buyer Bill Bowling.

ARTISTS bought art at the grand opening too. PNWS member Jill Townsend shares a moment with Rick Gregg whose sculpture “Sketch” she purchased.
GALLERY: ‘The culmination of years of effort’

Continued from previous page

sell their work. The new gallery does that, he says, while also providing for “a deeper public understanding of the diversity and sophistication of the regional arts community.”

He added, “We have traveled locally demonstrating, mounting shows and exhibitions, but we have not had a place we could call our own.”

Now the group does, he said, “thanks in large part to Chris Haberman, Jason Brown and the management at Pioneer Place Mall.”

Haberman and Brown are partners in the A.I.R (Artist in Residence) and Peoples Art of Portland galleries at Pioneer Place and hold the lease on the 3,000 square-foot space now occupied by PNWS. After consultation with key PNWS members and with the cooperation of Pioneer Place Mall, the two men made the space available to PNWS.

“This space will give a face to our organization and provide a means for us to give the public a deeper understanding of the sculptural arts,” said Heath.

Murphy shares Heath’s enthusiasm.

“This is where we’ve been headed all along. It’s a huge opportunity for all of us to put our work out there on this grander scale and support each other in what we do,” she said.

She added, “This is the culmination of years of effort of putting together shows and learning how to do so in a manner and an environment that is consistent with the extraordinary quality of our members’ work.”

Murphy and Heath agree that having a sculpture gallery staffed by artists is a big opportunity for the public too.

“You can have an intimate interview with an artist every day,” said Murphy, who also confirmed that once-a-week artist demonstrations are being scheduled for the gallery, as well as a monthly lecture by an artist.

“We are an edgy, dynamic group of sculptors that now offer our works in a grand setting at the top of Pioneer Place in downtown Portland,” Murphy said.

“Sculptures range from stunning realism to provocative contemporary art, from intriguing wall pieces to distinctive pedestal creations and grand freestanding works of art. All can accent corporate venues and private homes. The excellence of all the work will speak for itself. Come be delighted,” she said.

On the third Saturday of each month, the gallery will open a new show featuring an individual artist and new members’ works, including many sculptures that have never been seen before.

Otherwise, Sculptors Gallery is regularly open Thursday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

Pioneer Place Mall is located at 700 SW Fifth Ave. The Morrison Street entrances at either SW Fourth or SW Fifth avenues provide the most convenient entrances.

Learn more about PNWS and Sculptors Gallery on line at http://www.pnwsulptors.org.

PNWS members interested in showing their work at Sculptors Gallery should contact Murphy. Her email address is sculptor@carolemurphy.com

Follow the gallery on line at http://www.pnwsulptors.org/pioneerplacegallery.htm.
Students interested in taking part in the Magrath Sculpture Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle have time now to explore the program before registration opens on Aug. 4.

Now entering its second year, the Magrath Sculpture Atelier is “a multi-year, part-time Atelier designed to confer the core disciplines needed to become a practicing figurative sculptor at a high level of excellence,” according to the atelier’s promotional material.

The atelier is named for and headed by celebrated sculptor Michael Magrath, a former member and founding member of Pacific Northwest Sculptors.

The atelier program is designed to allow the student to build cumulatively upon the core skills of drawing and modeling from life, while adding critical understanding of anatomy, composition in the round and relief as well as technical skills such as mold making, casting, basic fabrication and subtractive techniques in wood, stone, metal and composite materials.

The full series is designed to be undertaken over three years, but may be taken part-time over several years, and culminates in a year of independent study and the production of a final, significant project.

Registration is subject to instructor approval. For more information contact Carol Hendricks by email at carol@GageAcademy.org or by phone at 800-880-3898.

Learn more online at www.gageacademy.org.
First Thursday, Justice Center windows available for art

There is time yet for PNWS members to sign up for two opportunities to show and sell their work in coming weeks.

David "Gonzo" Gonzalez, who is the PNWS shows coordinator, has lined up opportunities for members to display their work for sale in the Madison Street windows of the Multnomah County Justice Center in downtown Portland and at the Urban Arts Network First Thursday Street Gallery in Portland's Pearl District.

Echerer peddles bicycle sculpture at Amgen Tour

BRIAN ECHERER, a PNWS member seen at left on the road last month in California, sold his cycling-themed sculptures to cycling enthusiasts along the race route at the Amgen Tour of California, an eight-day, 724-mile race. Echerer operates Velo Gioielli in Portland where he designs, creates and markets cycling-themed jewelry and visual art. Shoppers could watch the race live on the big screen in the background of the photo.

Annals of art

Lucy's hometown wants statue gone

Officials in Celoron, N.Y., have revealed plans to remove a controversial bronze statue of film and television icon Lucille Ball from a city park named in her memory. Celoron was Ball's childhood home.

The lifesize sculpture was unveiled in 2009 and has been widely criticized in the media ever since. Critics and the public call the statue frightening and say it looks nothing like the "I Love Lucy" star.

In response, sculptor Dave Poulin said, "I take full responsibility for 'Scary Lucy,' though by no means was that my intent or did I wish to disparage in any way the memories of the iconic Lucy image."

The statue will be moved to
PNWS Spotlight

Isabelle Johnston-Haist sculptures in Astoria Studio Tour

PNWS member Isabelle Johnston-Haist will show her sculptures during the 2015 Astoria Studio Tour.

The 2015 tour is set for July 25 and 26. Thirty-five artists will open their studios to visitors that weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The Astoria Studio Tour is presented by the Astoria Society of Artists and sponsored by Columbia Memorial Hospital with additional support from Astoria Visual Arts, and through that organization, funding from the City of Astoria Arts and Cultural Program to Promote Tourism.

Tour maps will be available online at www.AstoriaArtists.org. A brochure with tour map will be available in Astoria at Dots’n’Doodles Art Supply, Imogene Gallery, Old Town Framing, RiverSea Gallery and Tempo Gallery, as well as other locations that will be announced online at www.AstoriaArtists.org.

The studio tour is free to the public.

Johnston-Haist’s studio is located at 194 Bond Street, at the corner of Bond and Second Streets.

Contact the artist by email at isa@isabelle-johnston.com and see more of her work online at www.isabellejohnston.com.

“Lotus Mudra,” cold-cast bronze by Isabelle Johnston-Haist