Patrick Gracewood off to Japan for the Inami International Wooden Sculpture Camp

Japanese art has been a big influence on my aesthetic and choice of wood as my primary medium. This August, I will be attending the Inami International Wooden Sculpture Camp in Nanto City, Japan. It will be held at Zuisen-ji, the largest temple in the Hokuriku region, built 1390. The vicinity is the workplace of 200 woodcarvers, one of the world’s largest woodcarving centers.

Each invited sculptor is given a 6 foot log and 10 days to complete the artwork. The finished art becomes part of Nanto City’s Public Art Program. The theme of the carving camp is “To Bring the World Together through Wooden Sculpture.” It’s a mix of international sculptors and traditionally trained Japanese artists all working on the temple grounds. The public is welcome onsite to watch the progress. The camp celebrates both the long tradition of wooden sculpture and helps advance this art into the 21st Century.

The opportunity to meet sculptors from all over the world, and to have the focus on wooden sculpture is a rare experience for everyone to learn new techniques and exchange ideas. It is a positive environment to understand at a deeper level this ancient art we practice. While not a competition, carving a 6 foot log in ten days will be a challenge of planning, skill, and stamina. Japan in August is hot and humid.

On the registration form, they requested both an image and the meaning of the work I intended to make. I had an idea inspired by a famous poem by Matsuo Basho for very Japanese flavor artwork. Rereading the directions carefully, I found the stipulation that it reflect “your culture.” That made me pause: “What is my culture?” After a lot of thinking, I decided if they want my culture: Western, Christian, Catholic, I would carve “Listening to the Moon.” A young woman and the moon as an angel, an Annunciation. First carved as a small detail of a large sculpture, cont. pg 3
We owe a great big debt of thanks to Chas for all the work he’s done with the two shows we have coming up. It’s a big deal to coordinate a show. He’s doing two, working his job and doing his art. I don’t remember ever having that much energy. Doubtful I ever did.

I want get this newsletter out today as the deadline for the Making Space show has been extended a few days. I appreciate that personally as I have dots to paint yet, hundreds of them. The first batch didn’t look right.

Fun meeting at Jonas Hartley’s. I get excited around sculptures of imaginary or modified creatures so I was looking forward to this one. Now I have a phone that takes ok pictures. Just the thing for meetings. I will post some pictures in this edition. Thanks Jonas!

Thanks to All,
George Heath

Opportunities for Sculptors
(Worth Repeating)

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.

Members
The newsletter is your voice. Please send contributions to gheath6006@msn.com

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Jonas Hartley Studio with Tentacles and Wings
this is the opportunity to enlarge it. All the finished carvings become part of the public arts collection of Nanto City.

Unmatched Pairs

PNSW Group Show at Multnomah Art Center September 6 - October 1, 2019 Opening Reception Friday, September 6

Application Deadline Extended to Midnight Aug. 19th

Enter by midnight Aug. 19 for the 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: Renew

Thank you for your continued support!
August Meeting at Jonas Hartley’s

In 1965 I spent a summer in New York City, Queens to be exact. I was baby sitting my now elderly nieces and nephew. There, I drove a 1959 Studeback Lark station wagon. I learned to parallel park like a New Yorker. It is a magical skill handy anywhere near Hawthorne. It served me well at the last meeting as Jonas’ house is well within the radius of Hawthorne St. futility zone.

Jonas makes creatures, big ones. Unicorns, cats and winged things like flying snakes... Flying snakes. What a wonderful idea. You will note they are not bat type wings or the dragon sort of wings but pretty little bird style wings. That is advanced cartoon sculpture and to my mind, advanced thinking. I want to see this when it’s done.

Where do you put a full size paper mache’ unicorn? Well, the garage of course. Where do you park the car then? Jonas has obviously spent time in Queens.

To be serious for a moment. I went to this meeting in hopes of learning a few things about working with paper in a large scale. I was not disappointed. The armartures are generally wood in the very large pieces and paper and masking tape, gesso, Modge Podge, paint and gold leaf all play a part. One does what works. If there is one takeaway it is that.

Jonas has a website at:

https://jonashartley.com/art

There you can find more information about his process and materials and many examples of his work.

Thank you Jonas, that was really fun. I went home all fired up.

Unmatched Pairs Addition

Last month’s newsletter had images of pieces under construction for the Unmatched Pairs show coming up in September. Patrick Gracewood and I weren’t ready but have made progress:

- Green Kami and Awstruck Onlookers
  Gracewood and Heath

- Driftwood and Steel, 17” x 10”

A Sample entry for Making Space