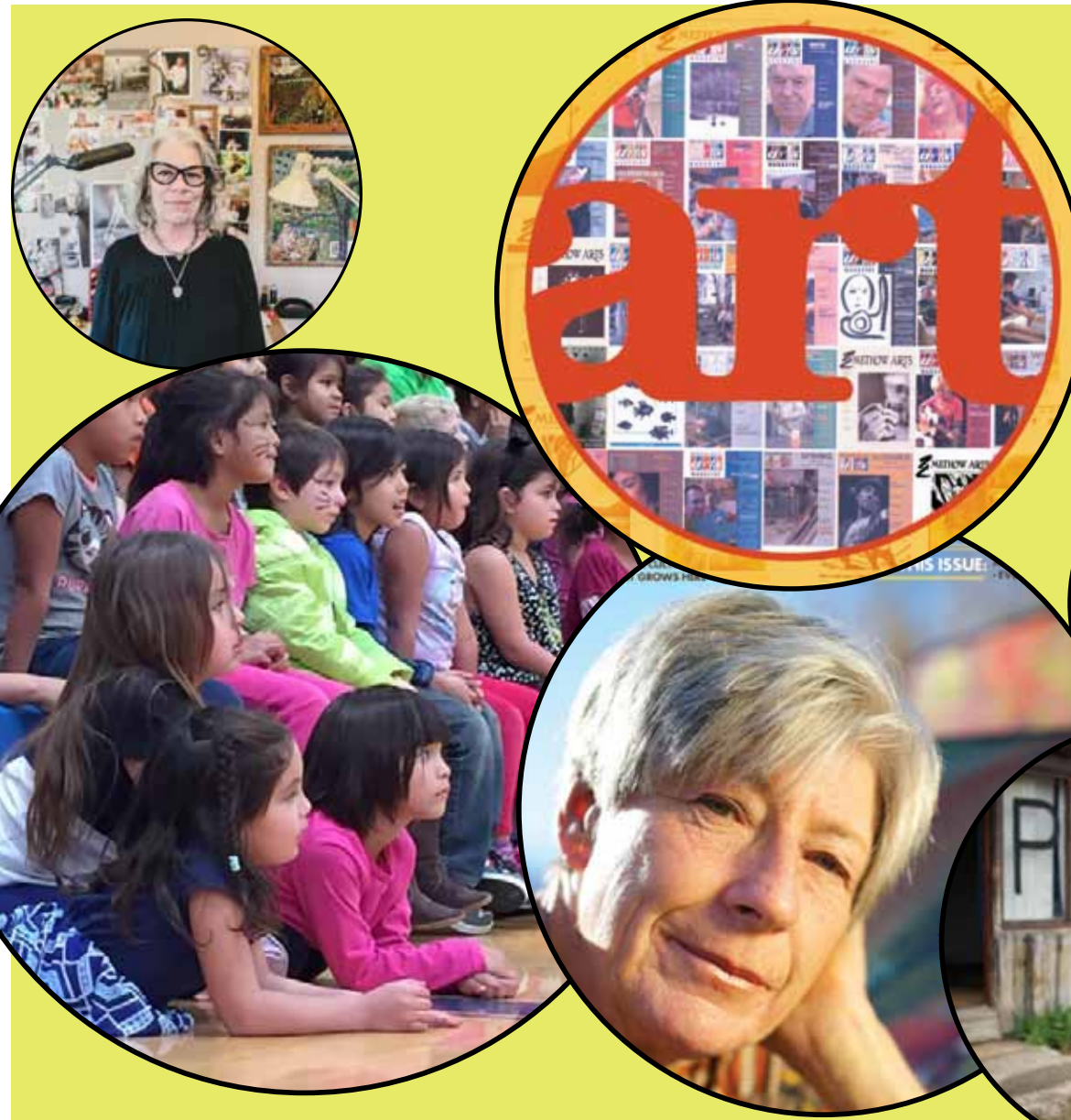


YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ARTS & CULTURE IN THE METHOW VALLEY AND BEYOND.

SPRING 2019
METHOW ARTS

FEATURED ARTIST
PATTY YATES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
EVENTS, FESTIVALS, CLASSES,
PUBLIC ART, RESOURCES.



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artu MAGAZINE connects audiences with the work of our many resident and visiting artists and the organizations that provide a breadth of arts programming. Our magazine is a celebration of the vision, genius and creativity that abound in the Methow Valley and beyond. Please become a member of our organization to receive a copy and we will mail you a copy quarterly. Thank you for supporting a diverse and plentiful arts community.

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METHOW ARTS PRESENTS

The Hunts - Sat, Mar 23

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! WE EXPECT TO SELL OUT.



Known for their harmony-laced take on alt-folk, The Hunts are a Chesapeake, Virginia-based band of seven siblings who've been playing music together almost their entire lives. Twin sisters Jessi and Jenni and five brothers Josh, Jonathan, Jordan, Justin, and Jamison, now ranging in age from 28 down to 19, learned to sing and play violin as young kids and spent much of their childhood performing in their community.

After widening their following and playing at theaters, festivals and universities around the country—and teaching themselves to play instruments like mandolin, piano, ukulele, banjo, and drums—The Hunts started experimenting with songwriting and have quickly honed their sound, crafting positive songs that move audiences. Their songs are full of joy, and powerful uplifting themes, and great to sing along to whether you're seeing them live or road trippin' with the music blaring and the windows rolled down.

The Hunts will tour six school districts in Okanogan County through the Methow Arts Education Program in Omak, Okanogan, Pateros, Brewster, Methow Valley and Paschal Sherman Indian School.

CASH/CHECK ONLY at event for concessions. DATE: Sat, Mar 23, 7pm, 2019. TICKETS: \$25/Reserved floor and front-row balcony reserved seating, \$17/Adults advance purchase, \$10/Kids 5-18yrs, LOCATION: The Winthrop Red Barn, Winthrop, WA. CONTACT: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org DOORS OPEN at 6:15 for ticket holders and at 6:30 for sales. CONCESSIONS: Beer, wine, cocktails, soda, coffee available for purchase. Bring ID. methowarts.org

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Pipestone Music Days

The Pipestone Orchestra invites the winner of the Cherrington Merit scholarship to perform, other groups meet around town for smaller performances. Music Days concert will feature the Pipestone Orchestra performing works by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, fanfares and contemporary symphonic works.



TICKETS: Available online at cascdiamusic.org. DATE: May 10, 7pm. CONTACT/INFO: cascdiamusic.org. LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center.

calendar

EVENTS/CLASSES/EXHIBITS

MARCH

The Fangs In My Heart Exhibit
Mar 2-Apr 6
Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

Make Art Work
Sat, Mar 30
An all-day conference to help our local artists succeed in creative industry. See article page 14. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

Cascadia Music Presents: Lynette Westendorf Trio
Mar 9, 7pm
Lynette's trio will play original music in a cafe style setting, refreshments available by donation. Tickets, cascdiamusic.org. MV Community Center, Twisp.

The Merc Playhouse: Charlotte's Web
Mar 15-24; Thurs-Sat 7pm; Sun 2pm
Tickets \$5-\$20. At the Merc Playhouse. Article pg. 18. www.mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

The Hunts
Sat, Mar 23, 7pm
Indie-alternative-folk band from Virginia, made up of 7 brothers and sisters. Making waves across the country. Article pg. 3. Tickets on sale while supplies last. At The Barn, Winthrop, WA. \$10-\$25. methowarts.org

APRIL

Double Vision
Apr 5, 7pm, 5-8pm
Exhibit of photography paired with ekphrastic poems. See article pg.13. At Gallery One Visual Art Center, Ellensburg, WA. 509-925-2670, www.gallery-one.org



(Featured artist Danbert Nobacon, ART magazine cover, 2013.)

Confluence Poets: Poetry Month Reading
Wed, Apr 10, 6pm
Article pg. 9. Trail's End Bookstore, Winthrop. christineintwisp@gmail.com

En Masse: An Assemblage Showcase
Apr 13-May 25; Opening reception Apr13, 5-7pm
Article pg. 16. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

A Reader's Theater Production: Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music
Apr 12-13, 7pm
\$10/adult, free for youth 18 and under. See article pg.8. www.mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

Auditions for A Diner on the Way
Wed, Apr 17, 6pm; Sat, Apr 20, 1pm
Auditioning for ages 18 and up. See article pg. 9. www.mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

Gallery One's Soup Line Dinner
Apr 19, 5-9pm
\$10-\$25. See article pg. 13. At Gallery One Visual Art Center, Ellensburg, WA. 509-925-2670, www.gallery-one.org

Cascadia Music Presents: Paul Taub, Flutist
Apr 24, 7pm
An intimate performance, refreshments available. Article pg. 15. Tickets, \$1/students, \$15/adults, cascdiamusic.org. At Confluence Gallery, Twisp.

MAY

Trashion Show
May 4, 6pm
The couture trash fashion event of the season, art takes the runway for the 9th annual Trashion Show. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

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JUNE

Methow Artists at Wenatchee Artwalk
Fri, Jun 7, 5-8pm
At The Nature Conservancy, Wenatchee, WA.

Catching the Light - Richard Elliott
June 7-29; Opening June 7, 5-8pm
Spot Artists, Jane Orleman. At Gallery One Visual Art Center, Ellensburg, WA. 509-925-2670, gallery-one.org

Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival
ANNOUNCING NEW DATES: June 20-29
Article pg. 8. www.methowmusicfestival.org

Ice Cream Social at TwispWorks
Sat, Jun 29
Celebrate TwispWork's success with cake and ice cream. www.twispwork.org



Cascadia Music Presents: The Volta Trio
May 4, 7 pm
Warm and brilliant trio performing classical music for a modern audience.
\$1/students, \$20/Gen admission, cascdiamusic.org.
At the Merc Playhouse

Cascadia's Pipestone Music Days
May 10, 7pm
Pipestone Orchestra and the Cherrington Merit Scholarship recipient perform. Reserved seating and tickets available at cascdiamusic.org. At Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp

Art Supply Sale
May 13, 10-3
Second-hand art supplies for sale. All monies go toward the Confluence Scholarships. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787

Liberty Bell Drama Company and The Merc Playhouse Present: Chicago
May 15- 19; Wed-Sat 7pm; Sun 2pm
Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. www.mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

Cascadia's Jazz in the Methow - Memorial Day Weekend
Fri, May 24-Sun, May 26
See article pg. 17.
Details and tickets at cascdiamusic.org.

The Big Shaabang
Sat, May 25, noon-3pm
Celebrate TwispWork's 10 year anniversary. Food, drink, music and open art studios.
TwispWorks, Twisp, Wa. www.TwispWorks.org

The Merc Playhouse and Seattle University Present: Love and Information
Sat, May 25, 7pm
by Caryl Churchill
Tickets \$18-\$20/adults, free youth under 19.
www.mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529

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Art and Jewelry Show at Culler Studio

Join Grace Ashford and Sara Ashford at Culler Studio on the TwispWorks Campus for a first look at new work, light refreshments and to try on new pieces.

Sara's paintings and wearable art celebrate the colors of the world by highlighting the natural color palette of the Methow Valley. She uses earth pigments, locally grown plant dyes and natural ochers to bring the beautiful colors of nature to life in her work.

Grace creates unique mixed-metal jewelry inspired by nature, architecture and symbolism. Her work features intricate piercework; riveted layers of silver, copper and bronze, and the incorporation of precious and semi-precious stones.

DATES: Mar 15, 3pm-8pm; Mar 16, 10am-5pm. LOCATION: TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-3300, twispworks.org.



(Jewelry by Grace Ashford, fabric arts by Sara Ashford.)



"Heel" from artist Jason Lien will be featured in the Confluence Gallery show The Fangs in My Heart, running Mar 2- Apr 6.)

[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

The Fangs in My Heart

Artist and activist Ai Weiwei has over 40 cats. Frida Kahlo had monkeys, parrots, parakeets, chickens, an eagle, a deer and a few xoloitzcuintli dogs. Expressionist Paul Klee had a cat called Bimbo. Picasso had a dog named Lump. Leonardo DaVinci was the original animal rights activist and was the first to go on historical record as a vegetarian.

It seems as if many of the greats had some fur-or-feather-clad muses by their sides. In the upcoming Confluence Gallery show, THE FANGS IN MY HEART, curator Penelope Varn looks deep into the relationships between humans and pets.

THE FANGS IN MY HEART asks the question, "How have your non-human companions staked a piece of your heart, with their fangs, fur, feathers or fins?"

There is plenty of evidence that suggests the relationships between animal and human have beneficial effects for both parties, and for artists, those relationships cultivate creative growth. DATE: Sat, Mar 2-Apr 6; Opening reception, Sat, Mar 2, 5-7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. INFO: confluencegallery.com

METHOW ARTS PRESENTS

CULINARY



METHOWARTS.ORG/THEARTOFCULINARY

recipes . stories . local ingredient spotlights . events & classes . ideas . in the CULINARY ARTS.



This issue's recipes are brought to you by Hannah Cordes, co-owner of Aspen Grove, author of Blue Kale Road cooking blog and Methow Arts board member.



This is a homey dessert, so I put the bowls of the ingredients out on the table and let everyone make their own. A layer of rhubarb, a scoop of oats, a dollop of cream and we could each stir up our cranachans. The cream balances out the tart rhubarb beautifully, with just a whiff of whisky, and the oats add toasty crunch and flavor. Simple comfort.

RHUBARB CRANACHAN

Serves 4

- 1 pound rhubarb stalks, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup heavy cream

1-2 tablespoons Scotch whisky, depending upon your taste (I used Glenlivet)

Place the rhubarb and honey in a medium sized sauce pan over medium-high heat. Bring it to a simmer and mix. The rhubarb will start to soften and break down, releasing juices. Lower the heat and let cook for about 15 minutes, until the rhubarb is soft and rather like a sauce. Set aside to cool.

Spread the oats out on a griddle or large fry pan. Over medium heat, stir and gently toast them until they begin to turn a bit brown and are fragrant. Watch closely as they can burn easily. Set aside to cool.

Using an electric mixer, beat the cream until soft peaks form. Add the Scotch whisky and gently stir. You can make it ahead and keep in the fridge.

When ready to serve, place the rhubarb, oats and cream in individual serving bowls with spoons and bring them to the table, along with small dessert dishes and spoons. Scoop from each bowl, mix and enjoy!



Find out more about Methow Arts' newest focus in the Culinary ARTs and find more spring recipes online @ methowarts.org/culinary-spring including Hannah's "Cherry Mint Shrub" which dates back to the Colonial Days. Hannah writes in her blog, "As my ice cubes gently clinked and melted, I sank back and savored cherries in a whole new way ... and began listening for more summer whispers."

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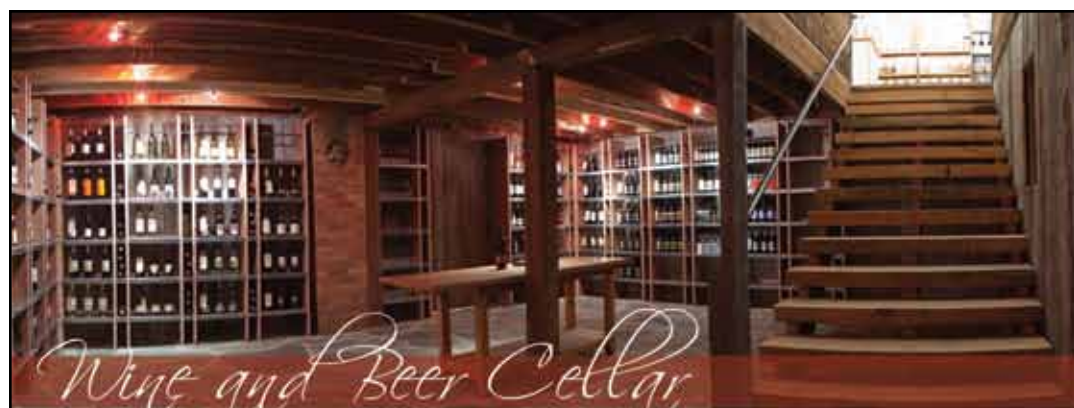
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[METHOW VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL]

The Magic behind the Music

It takes a lot of talent, synergy – and a little magic – for the impeccable performances at the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival to come together. It's a process that unfolds over time. Festival artistic director Kevin Krentz is putting the finishing touches on the essential first steps for this summer's chamber music festival, lining up a roster of gifted musicians to play some of the most exquisite music written for small ensembles.

Although Krentz sometimes hires an established quartet – which can allow the Festival to present an especially difficult piece – he relishes the energy set in motion by combining charismatic, soloistic chamber music players. "What's wonderful is that the players understand that we don't have much time, so they come prepared," he said.

"At the rehearsal, everyone is trying to feel each other out and get the broad strokes of the music," said Krentz. Part of the success comes from that openness to interpretation. "I can make it beautiful if played fast, and I can make it beautiful slow," he said.



Once Krentz has chosen the performers, he turns his attention to programming. "It's most important to find what people are good at, and what they're interested in – the music they already have in their fingers," he said.

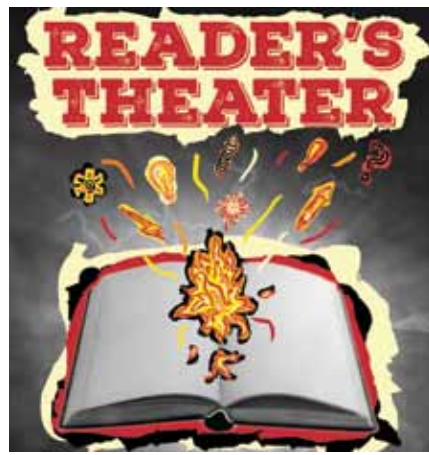
The line-up for this summer includes veteran Methow Chamber Music Festival violinists Grace Park and Mikhail Shmidt and violist Maurycy Banaszek. String bass virtuoso Travis Gore, will be featured in a mystical solo for string bass as well as ensemble work. New faces include violinist Siwoo Kim, described by the New York Times as "incisive and compelling," and award-winning pianist Tanya Gabrielian, who's known for the powerful physicality and poise she brings to the keyboard. Cellist and composer Paul Wiancko, who has captivated Festival audiences with his innovative musicianship over the years, will be on hand for the entire Festival this summer.

DATES: June 20-29. The 2019 Festival will be earlier than usual – from June 20 to 29 – to take advantage of the beauty and clear skies of early summer. The Festival features four CenterStage concerts in the Signal Hill barn, plus informal concerts around the valley. People are invited to see how the musicians make their magic at free open rehearsals every concert day. LOCATION: Signal Hill Barn TICKETS: On sale in April. INFO: methowmusicfestival.org

[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

A READER'S THEATER PRODUCTION OF: Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music

Directed by Carolanne Steinebach, Written by Lee Blessing



Eve Wilfong, lives over a local country music bar called "Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music," she is paid a visit by her niece Catherine Empanger, a novice nun who's been asked to leave her convent. Roy, an honest if simple fellow from the bar, wants to court Catherine -- whether she's a nun or not. Eve feels she should give her niece the benefit of her experiences with men before allowing her to venture back into the mad, modern-country world. What ensues is comic, romantic, and poignant.

Reader's Theater is a scaled-down production in which cast members read from scripts onstage with no staging and minimal costumes or set, allowing an intimate look at the ideas and themes contained within the literature of a script. This approach provides the opportunity to work with plays that may have limitations such as set requirements or high budget items that would typically hinder production at The Merc. With a much smaller rehearsal commitment, it brings actors and directors to the stage that may not ordinarily be able to participate.

DATE: Apr 12 and 13, 7pm. TICKETS: Adults \$10; Under 18 Free. Purchase at the door. Doors open at 6:30. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. INFO: 509.997.7529, mercplayhouse.org

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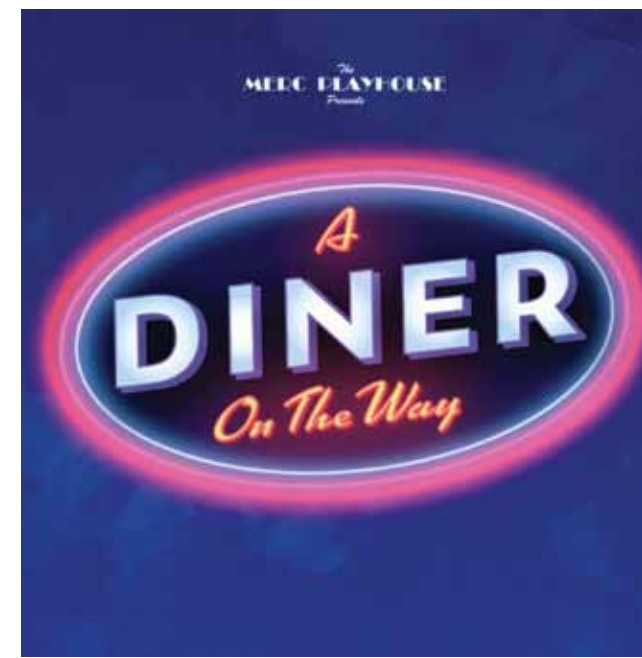
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[THE MERC PLAYHOUSE]

Auditions for: A Diner on the Way

BY MICHAEL RAY YOUNG

The Merc Playhouse invites actors, or those interested in acting, to audition for this summer's production of A Diner on the Way, directed by Mark Easton. No previous experience necessary. The Merc is looking for actors to fill 7 roles: One female who can play an 18 to 22 year old, 2 males who can play between 25 and 50 years old, and four males and/or females who can play between 50 and 80 years old. A Diner on the Way is a suspenseful, humorous and witty play told through the lens of the Hubbards: a big city family traveling through a very small town, stopping for a quick bite at a local diner. What they discover about themselves and their new acquaintances is much more than they ever expected. Each role is rich in character and makes up an ensemble cast that is onstage for the duration of the performance. Join our theater family, make new friends, and be a part of creating live theater in our community. Bring your calendar to audition and be prepared to list schedule conflicts.

AUDITION DATES: Apr 17, 6pm; Apr 20, 1pm. At the Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. INFO: 509.997.7529, info@mercplayhouse.org. Rehearsals begin Apr 22, show opens July 12 and runs through July 21. Scenes to read will be handed out at auditions.

Confluence Poets Celebrate National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, a time poets honor poetry's vital place in our culture. Join Confluence Poets to do so at Trail's End Bookstore in Winthrop, Wednesday, April 10 at 6pm to read a poem of your own or one by a favorite poet. All ages are welcome to read or recite. Featured poets will be: Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Vicky Douxmont, Cindy Williams Gutierrez, Christine Kendall, and Greg Wright. In addition Trail's End Bookstore in Winthrop is offering a 10% discount on all books of poetry for the entire month of April.

DATE: Wed, Apr 10, 6pm. LOCATION: Trail's End Bookstore, Winthrop, WA. CONTACT: christineintwisp@gmail.com



(Photo above, Richard Elliott in his studio)

Gallery One Presents: Catching the Light - Richard Elliott

SPOT ARTISTS, JANE ORLEMAN

Northwest Icon, Richard Elliott, is probably best known for his development of reflector art and the many public artworks he created across the Northwest and the nation during his decades-long art career. Dick & Jane's Spot is the home in Ellensburg that he shared with his wife and artist, Jane Orleman, who still lives there. It has become a destination for art-lovers with numerous quirky installations, architectural embellishments and free-standing sculptures scattered among a well-manicured garden. Gallery One is proud to feature an overview of the artistic legacy Elliott has left behind including prints and mixed media works. The show will also feature a large painted mural by Jane Orleman and a collection of works by the many artistic employees who were hired by the couple over the years to work for their janitorial business, but also maintain the art in and around their home.

ATE: Opening, June 7 5-8pm; Exhibit June 7-29; LOCATION: Gallery One, Ellensburg. CONTACT: 509-925-2670, www.gallery-one.org

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PATTY YATES *A Force of Nature*

By Marcy Stamper

Photographs by Sol Gutierrez

Coming down from Loup Loup Pass, there's a view of the Cascades that's so compelling that Patty Yates often turns her car around just so she can drive back down the road to gawk at it again.

It was that view of the Sawtooths that convinced Yates to move to the Methow Valley from California. "It was June, 35 to 40 years ago. The trees were tiny then, so you could see that view of the mountains," said Yates, who'd come north to visit a friend in Omak. "I told my friend that I wanted to live right there. She thought I was nuts."

As a watercolor artist, Yates doesn't view the natural world as merely a pretty backdrop. It's an organism, a life force. "After my first view of the valley, I asked, 'Where have you been all my life?'" she said.

Yates tracks light, shadow, and color the way someone else would notice a flashing neon sign. She exults in the way the light caresses a familiar mountain range, and in clouds as they morph into new shapes. "I don't have to go very far to be happy," she said.



Yates is repeatedly drawn to certain subjects. There's the pair of hills that frame jagged peaks in the distance. "I have painted that so many times," she said. But the hills are always different. "It's the sunshine, clouds, weather, the height of the sun in the sky, or the reflective quality of snow in the winter," she said.

Along with trees, flowers, and mountains, Yates

estimates she's been watching 50,000 aspens over the years, observing the trees as they change color, become scarred and pockmarked, and send up tender new shoots.

Her favorite grove, near Leader Lake, on the way to Okanogan, burned a few years ago. "They kind of call me – those were some of the first aspens I painted. In the fall, they'd turn golden – you could see which sisters were which, because they'd all turn at the same time," she said.

Yates likes the way trees develop character and dignity, much the way people do. "A lot of stuff on their trunks, like eyeballs and colors, reflects things that are happening as they grow up," she said.

She's painted aspens hundreds – maybe thousands – of times, in every season and in different mediums. In one painting, a grove of aspens, their trunks flecked with black and russet blotches, casts a stately silhouette against a snowy backdrop. Another presents aspens in a limited palette of black and grey, with watery smudges for trunks and a tumult of black streaks and spatters for the branches.

Sometimes it's fences that catch her eye. Yates sees fences as just one more phase of a tree's life, with their own personalities and attitudes.

likes to paint fish and birds, which she imbues with so much personality that they seem like a series of portraits.

She recalls the joy she felt watching koi in a pond. "That got me interested in what fish were about – and in the humor of fish," she said. Her fish are rendered in yellows and oranges that shimmer in a sea of aquamarine and purple.

And then there are the birds. "Watching birds on sunflowers – I can just sit and gawk. It's like I'm in the zoo, except they're free," she said.



Lately Yates has been doing a series of informal bird portraits. In one, a spotted towhee is dwarfed by a massive sunflower head. In another, a black-and-white chickadee stands out against ochre and olive-green of seed pods and leaves. A tiny house sparrow nearly fills a sheet of paper as it stares straight ahead, framed by close-cropped branches.

Yates works mostly in watercolor. Her watercolors have a loose, relaxed quality, where a few deft brushstrokes convey the angle of the light and changes in weather. She indulges the translucency of the paint and the texture of the paper. Some paintings are explosions of color, so closely cropped that they're almost abstract.

But for trees in the fall, Yates often turns to acrylics to convey the intense color and the texture of the leaves. "I love color. Since I paint in watercolors, things are not always as bright as they can be," she said. Her acrylic paintings have a different sort of vitality, from the richness of the color and the swirling energy of the paint.



"Watercolor is my love, but I love to experiment with stuff and try different things," said Yates. She likes to paint on silk, creating shimmering circles of color painted with fish or flowers.

Recently, she's been playing with cold wax, which she scrapes with a knife and spreads on the canvas in abstract patterns. In another technique called paint dumping, she mixes colors in a cup, swirls it around, and upends it on the canvas. "It runs out and it turns into fantastic, phantasmagoric things," she said. Sometimes these mesmerizing swirls become backgrounds for trees or mountain landscapes.

A LIFETIME OF EXPRESSION

"As a child, I think I drew on everything that was lying around that didn't require mailing," said Yates. "I painted with anything that caught my eye, even strawberries – any squishy stuff."

After she drew on a wall with lipstick, a family friend gave her a stick of charcoal and a notebook. She filled the entire notebook with drawings of a forest. "That was how I expressed myself – on paper, or by building something," she said.

Yates studied art in college. "I had a lot of fun in school – it was using the other side of your brain," she said. Although she enjoyed ceramics and sculpture, she always came back to painting.

After college, Yates found a job as a truck driver and plied the route from California to Nevada for 13 years. Even that gig honed her artistic vision. She

made art whenever she could, sketching on scraps of paper and even on her log book. "And I did a lot of painting on my eyelids – I collected beauty as I was going down the road," she said.

After she moved to the Methow, Yates spent 16 years in the restaurant business, grabbing time during the slow seasons to paint. She'd retreat to the mountains or the ocean and "paint my guts out," she said.

Even now, with unlimited time to make art and a brand-new studio out her back door, Yates doesn't stick to a schedule. "I'm totally undisciplined. I have ideas and little pieces of paper. I wander out to my studio with ideas and get waylaid by other things. It's wonderfully fun – I don't have time constraints," she said.

Some days she stares out the window, watching prayer flags ripple in the sunshine while the birds feast on sunflower seeds and crabapples. "In my studio, I can do what I want and be out here – watch the day go by in colors."

"But then the light changes – or the shadows change – and it's so gorgeous, I have to paint it," she said.

Even a blank sheet of paper is an inspiration. "Any sheet of paper – especially the one I love – gives me a thrill," she said. When that sumptuous paper was discontinued for a while, she was devastated.

Many watercolor artists plan meticulously, knowing where they want the white of the paper to show through, but Yates tends to be spontaneous when she paints. Still, as soon as she dabs a brushstroke on that precious paper, she's convinced she's ruined it.

Then, since she's already spoiled the paper, she figures she might as well just keep painting. "It's like having faith. It's going to be wonderful, because there are so many surprises in watercolor," she said.

Yates often paints from photos she takes for reference. In warm weather, she goes out with other artists

to sketch and paint outdoors. Another source of inspiration is a weekly gathering with a group of watercolorists. Yates used to lead it as a class, but now they mainly paint and share ideas.

In her studio, Yates may put on a bad movie as background while she paints. She doesn't really watch the movies – in fact, she often uses the computer screen as an easel – but she finds the dialogue supplies a creative backdrop.

For years, Yates exhibited at a gallery in California, even after she moved to the Methow. But about two decades ago, she got involved with the Winthrop Gallery, a cooperative gallery where artists do everything, from hanging exhibits to tending the store. The gallery has carved out a successful niche among shops that cater to tourists, appealing to visitors and locals with paintings, photography, woodwork, ceramics, and jewelry.

For Yates, the gallery is not only a place to exhibit and earn her livelihood, but it's also a source of inspiration from fellow artists. "The gallery is just like a driving force of nature – and art – to be there in Winthrop," she said.

"I love this valley for the artists," she said. "There are so many wonderful people to play with and learn from – it's like magic."

"I'm really easy – the beauty of something will get to me. It doesn't have to make sense to anybody but me," she said.

Find Yate's artwork at the Winthrop Gallery and in an exhibit at Cinnamon Twisp from April through the end of July. View more photos @ methowarts.org/featuredartist/patty-yates



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[TWISPPWORKS]

The Big Shaabang!



TwispWorks: 10 Year Anniversary 2009 to 2019

TwispWorks is kicking off their 10-year anniversary celebrations with the third annual Big Shaabang. Come join them for a fun, free, family event featuring live music, open art studios and delicious local food and drink! Meet some of the Valley's most talented artists and craftspeople, tour the native plant and natural dye gardens, cool off in the Plaza splash pad or just enjoy a picnic lunch on the lawns. The Big Shaabang is a celebration of everything that makes summer in the Methow so wonderful – from the breathtaking outdoors, to arts and culture and community!

DATE: Sat, May 25. TIME: 12pm-3pm. LOCATION: TwispWorks campus, 502 S Glover St, Twisp. INFO: www.TwispWorks.org.

[TWISPPWORKS]

The Methow Investment Network supports local Artists

Recognizing that one of the biggest challenges artists and other entrepreneurs face is access to capital, TwispWorks started the Methow Investment Network (MIN) in 2017. The MIN connects community members interested in investing locally with Methow Valley entrepreneurs needing capital to start or grow their business. The program moves money 'from Wall Street to Main Street' by matching lenders with businesses and providing training and mentorship throughout the process. MIN investor members are residents who understand that keeping their money local strengthens and diversifies our economy and promotes job growth in the Methow Valley. Business opportunities are distributed to members as they are received, and members come together for pitch nights and networking events 3-4 times per year. There are currently forty investor members and over a dozen businesses that have pitched their ideas to the network resulting in more than \$1M invested in local businesses in less than two years.

One local artist, Robin Doggett recently received a micro-loan from one member of the MIN to establish her new business, fledging from the TwispWorks campus to her new 2nd Avenue location in Twisp. Robin's new studio is a multifunctional space, serving as a design and printing space for the artists' and a letterpress printing business with a small dedicated retail space offering printed works, including books, stationery, and paper gifts. Robin hopes to add to the expanding arts representation in Twisp and will be working this spring to build a catalog of letterpress printed work to sell locally, regionally, and online. The studio is also home to several pieces of historical printing equipment including a hand-operated letterpress dating back to 1911. Robin uses the press in making her designs as well as custom client-based work. Visitors to the studio can share in the experience with printing demonstrations on Saturdays during the Methow Valley Farmers Market.

Be sure to visit Robin's new studio to see all of her exciting new creations and celebrate the community's commitment to investing in the arts!

INFO/CONTACT: www.twispworks.org, or Don Linnertz at 509-997-3300.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Wenatchee Artwalk features Methow Artists & Moses Coulee Landscapes



The Nature Conservancy of Wenatchee features Methow Valley artists, among others, in their open house during Wenatchee's First Friday Artwalk on June 7th, 5-8pm. Donna Keyser, a Twisp artist, showcases her plein air work as part of a group of North Central Washington artists and highlights the 35,000-acre Nature Conservancy land holding at Moses Coulee.

The show follows a planned artist weekend on the Moses Coulee Conservation land just south of Quincy. Coordinator Kmbri Bond of Wenatchee invited over a dozen regional artists for a weekend there. "The property had at one time been a B&B and we all stayed there, cooked meals together, and then painted," said Kmbri. "We offered to house the artists for one weekend in exchange for an art show in 2019 based on the experience."

READ MORE online @methowarts.org/enatcheeartwalkjune and @Wenatchee First Fridays on Facebook. DATE: Fri, June 7, 5-8pm. At The Nature Conservancy, Wenatchee, WA.

(Photograph taken at Moses Coulee. Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy.)

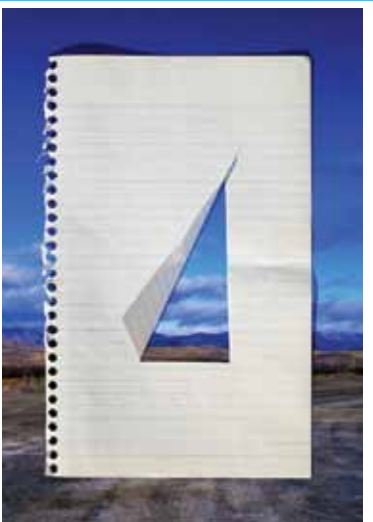
[ELLENSBURG'S GALLERY ONE VISUAL ART CENTER]

Double Vision

This April, in collaboration with Inland Poetry, Gallery One features five photographers curated by Blue Sky Gallery, paired with ekphrastic poems written in response to them by local poets and 2019 Inland Poetry Prowl featured readers. This annual event now in its fourth year, attracts poets from across the state and beyond including the current and previous Washington State Poet Laureates. In partnering with this event, Gallery One aims to encourage a deeper exploration of the visual arts while encouraging crossover with other disciplines.

DATE: Opening, Apr 5, 5-8pm; Exhibit, Apr 5-27. LOCATION: Gallery One Visual Art Center, 408 N Pearl St, Ellensburg, WA. CONTACT: Gallery One Visual Arts Center, 509-925-2670, www.gallery-one.org.

(Artwork right, Jennifer Zwick, Paper.)



(Enjoy Gallery One's Soup Line Dinner on Apr 19, 5-8pm in Ellensburg.)

Soup Line Dinner

At this annual Gallery One fundraiser you can enjoy a casual evening of soup, art music and friends to benefit their ceramics program. It's a great time to meet other art lovers, eat some tasty food, and enjoy entertainment by local musicians. This event offers an array of beautiful, handmade, ceramic bowls filled with a variety of tasty, homemade soups made by Gallery One's Board of Directors and volunteers. The meal is accompanied by fresh breads, soft drinks, wine or beer for purchase, and cookies for dessert. Arrive early for the best selection of soups and bowls.

DATE: Apr 19, 5-9pm. TICKETS: \$10-\$25. INFO/CONTACT: Gallery One Visual Arts Center, 509-925-2670, www.gallery-one.org

Samantha Carlin - Lucid Glassworks
 Located at TwispWorks | 408 Lincoln St | Twisp, WA. 98856
LucidGlassworks.com | 509-341-9102 | Sam@samanthacarlin.com

Lucid Glassworks

Volta Trio
 The Merc Playhouse Twisp
 May 4th, 7pm

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www.gallery-one.org

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Confluence Presents: Make / ART / Work

Make / ART / Work will be a day-long conference of professional skill development for Okanogan County artists. The event features workshops and presentations of skills useful to artists, in all disciplines and at all levels.

ROXANNE BEST AND CASSANDRA WATERS ON DEVELOPING AN ARTIST BUSINESS PLAN. Presented in partnership by Northwest Native Development Fund and Roxtopography, Roxanne and Cassandra will introduce the basics of a successful business plan. This overview will cover the importance of a formal plan and a look at what to expect when applying to grants.

ARTIST TRUST'S CHRISTINE MALEK ON SUCCESSFULLY SELLING YOUR ARTWORK Christine Malek, artist and owner of Gallery Boom in Olympia, will cover finding your audience, markets, and pricing your artwork. This presentation will discuss strategies for finding and developing an audience, the art market, and how to price your work.

JENN TATE ON WHY A WEBSITE MATTERS Entrepreneur and artist Jenn Tate will present why artists need a website in today's art market. Jenn will offer insight on how building a viable website can get an artist much-needed recognition.

PERRI HOWARD: PUBLIC ART FROM THE INSIDE OUT Local artist, Perri Howard, will discuss the world of public art, illuminating the process of making permanent public works. This presentation will show examples of successful projects, how to scale and transform 2-D visual works, and the administrative side of public art.

DATE: March 30, 2019. PRICE: Sliding scale participation fee (\$0-45). confluencegallery.com

THE CREAM OF THE CROP:

Sun Mountain's Art Show Highlights

the Methow as Muse for the Valley's Finest Artists

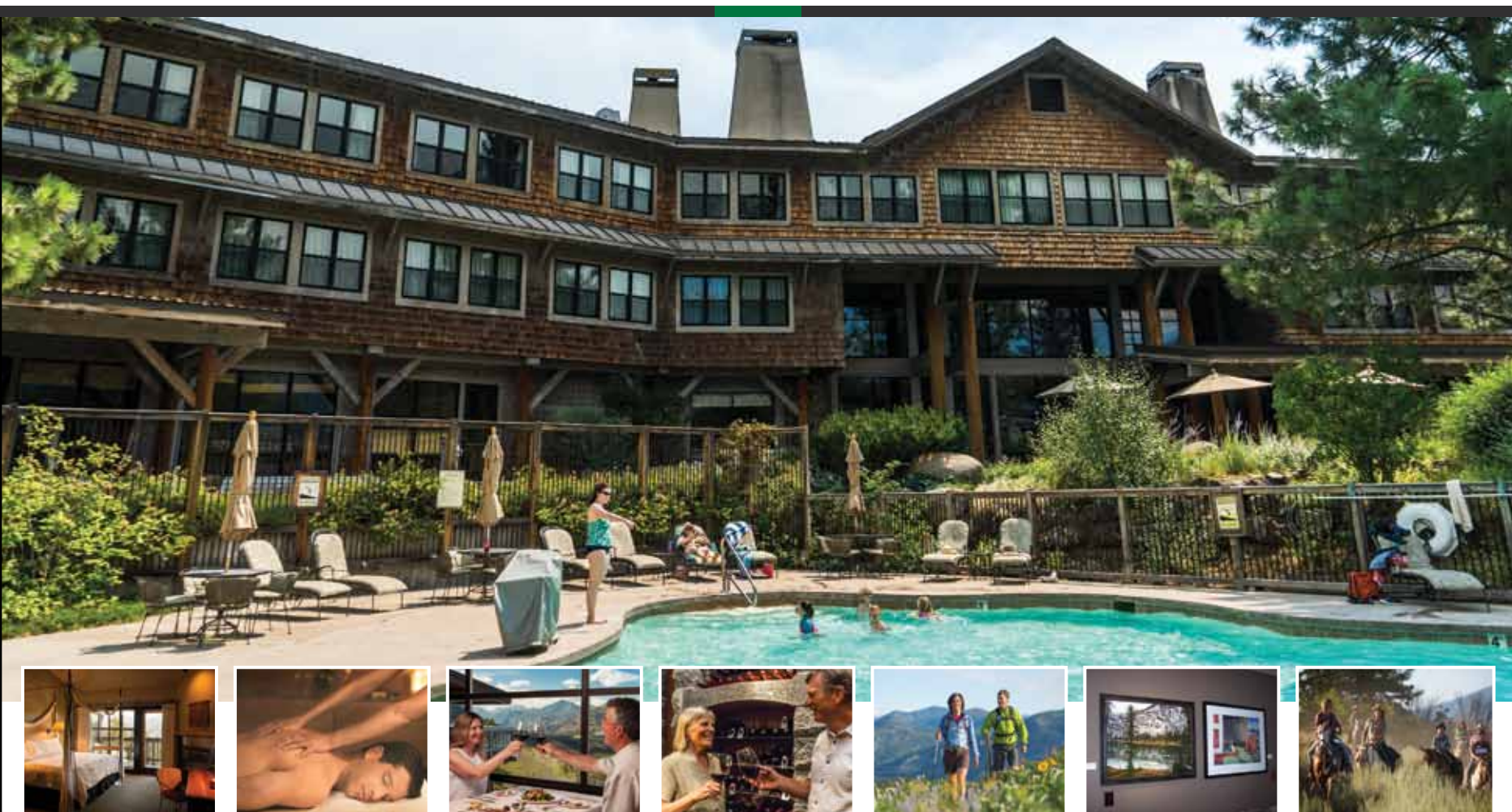
Sun Mountain Lodge is known for its breathtaking views, fantastic trail system and luxurious accommodations, but for decades, Sun Mountain has also highlighted some of the best art the Methow Valley has to offer.

The arts population in the Methow Valley is quite large. Walk down the street in any of our towns or poke your head into a store or coffee shop, and you're sure to run into a local artist of some sort. Is it the community that brings artists to the area or is it the bucolic environment that lures them?

Artists Donna Keyser and Laura Karcher have curated The Gallery at Sun Mountain Lodge since 2014. These professional artists reside in the Methow Valley and each has been in the arts for decades. Artists include Kathy Meyers, Donna Keyser, Paula Christen, Rod Weagant, Jon Adams, Margaret Kingston, Rick Balam and Mary Powell.

Read artist bios online at methowarts.org/sunmountainlodgeartists

(Enjoy Mary Powell's artwork at Sun Mountain Lodge in conjunction with several other Methow Valley artists.)



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[CASCADIA MUSIC]

Flutist Paul Taub

Since his arrival in Seattle in 1979, flutist Paul Taub has been a leading performer of chamber and contemporary music in the Northwest of the United States. Professor of Music at Cornish College of the Arts, he has had a strong musical presence in the Seattle music scene for years as a founding member and Executive Director of the Seattle Chamber Players. He has performed and recorded American and world premieres by internationally-known composers including Robert Aitken, Henry Brant, John Cage, George Crumb, Janice Giteck, Sofia Gubaidulina, Lou Harrison, Wayne Horvitz, Toshio Hosokawa, Shulamit Ran, Ned Rorem, Toru Takemitsu, Peteris Vasks, Reza Vali and many others. Here he is with Jovino Santos Neto.

TICKETS: \$15/adults, \$1/students. Available online at cascadiamusic.org. DATE: Apr 24, 7pm. CONTACT/INFO: cascadiamusic.org. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA.



The Volta Trio

Hailed by Gramophone magazine for its "warmly considered playing" and "shadings of exquisite sheen and vibrancy", the Volta Piano Trio, formerly known as the Icicle Creek Piano Trio, has established itself as one of the Pacific Northwest's premier chamber ensembles.

The members of the Volta Piano Trio originate from the United States, United Kingdom, and Russia. Together or as individuals, Jennifer Caine Provine, Sally Singer Tuttle, and Oxana Ejokina have performed in venues such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Alice Tully Hall, the Phillips Collection, and the Royal Albert Hall, and have toured in Austria, Germany, France, Italy, and the U.K.

TICKETS: \$20/adults, \$1/students. cascadiamusic.org. DATE: May 4, 7pm. INFO: cascadiamusic.org. At The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA.

[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

The Trashion Show

One of the Methow Valley's premier annual events, the Trashion show, combines waste with couture fashion to provide a truly unique event. Confluence Gallery will present the 9th Annual Trashion Show May 4th at the Methow Valley Community Gallery.

One night a year artists, designers, models and spectators join together to share in the creation of spectacularly odd outer (and under) wear. A fabulous runway show with Upcycled Recycled outfits ranging from Street-Style to Country Couture transformed from everyday trash.

This year's theme is "Trashion Prom." There will be a photo booth, bar and the Fork food truck present. Please note this is now a 21+ event.

VIP ticketing now includes limited balcony seating. VIP tickets will go on sale March 15th and general admission will be available April 1st.

DATE: May 4, 6 - 10pm LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center, 201 Division St, Twisp, WA TICKETS: General Admission \$20; VIP limited seating Front Row \$100 (includes early access and preview cocktail party), second Row \$45 in advance, balcony seats \$50 CONTACT: 509-997-ARTS. INFO: confluencegallery.com



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[WINTHROP GALLERY]

Gregg Caudell Catches a Painting

by Susan Donahue

Like the avid fly fisherman that he is, artist Gregg Caudell has many tales to tell. When he goes fishing, he says if he doesn't catch a fish, he may "catch a painting." Every fishing hole is a good painting, he says. In his long painting life, he has caught many paintings.

Anyone who knows Gregg's art knows his horse paintings. He also paints landscapes. He believes that Plein air painting, painting outdoors, is the "Zen" of painting. It requires the artist to be "in the moment." As Gregg says on his web site, www.gcaudell.com, Plein air painting is a "light poem reflecting creation from the mirror of a single soul."

Any viewer of Gregg's paintings knows that he likes to paint big, the bigger the better. He believes that you have to see the "fingerprints" of the artist, but an artist must develop his own particular process. Gregg's style is ever evolving in technique, expression, materials, scale—in everything really—and always reflects his life.

Gregg understands that at some point in an artist's life, the artist has to confront the challenge of subject matter and how to say what he wants to say. This winter in his studio, he is addressing how he can create a visual language to respond to climate change. For him, this involves fish, which he considers to be the "canary in the coal mine" for climate change. He sees that we are in an historical period analogous to what the Impressionists faced who painted at the advent of photography which radically changed visual awareness.

Gregg is clear about what he thinks and what he is doing, but he struggles with the mystery of how painting communicates. He welcomes this struggle. He would be happy if his paintings were as immediate and strong as a fish that suddenly breaks the surface of the lake as it jumps on the end of a fisherman's line.

Gregg is a new member of the Winthrop Gallery in Winthrop, Washington, where his work is always on display. You can meet him while he works in the gallery. The Gallery Members' In-Gallery Schedule is displayed in the gallery's front window.

LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside, Winthrop. HOURS: Spring hours are Thurs-Mon, 10am-5pm. INFO: 509-996-3925 or www.winthropgallery.com.

[CONFLUENCE GALLERY]

En Masse: Assemblage as Art at Confluence

The dictionary defines assemblage as, "a work of art made by grouping found or unrelated objects," as well as, "a collection or gathering of things..." We are hoping for artists to express themselves on any subject matter by using a collection of parts and pieces. The parts may be disguised or outright overt, but each work of art must be made by assembling parts together to make a whole.

For Show Committee Board Chair and Curator Joanne Marracci, this particular show combines media to tell a story. "It seems to be a terrific metaphor for life in general," said Joanne. "We take all these small individual experiences and in the end, we've created a whole unique life."

"In assemblage, the craft is in the combination of concepts," said Joanne. "I love how assemblage can draw you in to inspect the parts, then allow you to step back to see the whole. It offers a change in perspective; the Micro to the Macro in one piece of artwork."

DATE: Apr 13- May 25; Opening Apr 13, 5-7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. INFO: ConfluenceGallery.com

(Ephraim Brown's The Final Breath, right.)



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The Westerlies & 'Jazz in the Methow Weekend' coming Memorial Day Weekend



The Westerlies are a New York-based brass quartet comprised of childhood friends from Seattle: Riley Mulherkar and Chloe Rowlands on trumpet, and Andy Clausen and Willem de Koch on trombone.

Formed in 2011, the self-described "accidental brass quartet" takes its name from the prevailing winds that travel from the West to the East. "Skilled interpreters who are also adept improvisers" (NPR's Fresh Air), The Westerlies explore jazz, roots and chamber music influences to create the rarest of hybrids: music that is both "folk-like and comely, lovely and intellectually rigorous" (NPR Music). Equally at home in concert halls and living rooms, The Westerlies navigate a wide array of venues and projects with the precision of a

string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family sing-along.

The Westerlies Concert will be a part of a full "Jazz in the Methow Weekend" which will include educational components, jazz jam sessions, and performances by other accomplished jazz ensembles. A Dance Party with Jacob Zimmerman at the Barnyard Cinema in Winthrop will take place on Fri, May 24. Times and ticket prices are TBA.

Details for workshops, schedule of events and tickets available at cascadiamusic.org

UNDERSTANDING ABSTRACT ART

By Tamera Abaté

To understand abstract art all one needs is an open mind and a big imagination. Abstract art is open to interpretation; it doesn't jump out and say "THIS is what I'm about!" It requires an inquiring mind, inviting viewers to enter the painting and see where it takes the viewer. Abstract art gives one the freedom to explore the painting and assign meaning with no right or wrong answer.

Abstract art is not "about nothing." At its core it is about form, color, line, texture, pattern, composition and process. Abstract art is an exploration of these formal qualities but meaning is derived from how these formal qualities are used to create a visual, emotional or cerebral experience.

Picasso said, "Everyone wants to understand art. Why not try to understand the song of a bird? People who try to explain pictures are usually barking up the wrong tree." An abstract painting can't be explained adequately in words because its impact is personal and speaks to nonverbal parts of our existence.

Rather than trying to figure out what the painting looks like, abstract art allows the viewer to be taken in by the painting. Take the time to see what emotions or memories emerge. Just relax and see where it leads.

Tamera Abaté's abstract encaustic paintings can be seen at the Winthrop Gallery.

LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside in downtown Winthrop, WA. HOURS: Spring Thurs-Mon, 10am-5pm. INFO: 509-996-3925 or www.winthropgallery.com.



(Tamera Abaté's Openness above.)

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2019 BEST OF SHOW AND CATEGORY WINNERS

Congratulations to students Anahi Castillo, Bailey Cline, Jasmine Yusi, and Linda Rodriguez for their art awards. Anahi's "Winter Snakes," "Humanity, and "Yum" pieces all won Best in Show awards, as did Bailey Cline's "The Old Man." Linda's "Flash" was 1st place in printmaking. Beautiful work, young artists!

Okanogan high school art teacher Dan Brown says, "Jasmine Yusi's Squid sculpture was made in collaboration with the metal shop and teacher Jesse White. Her drawing was cut out with the programs new computerized plasma cutter. When she sprayed on her patina chemicals, the designs on the newspaper spread on the floor were so cool we framed them and entered them as a stencil print."

And "Anahi Castillo's Winter Snakes best of show was a multimedia project. She made it as a powerpoint, I helped her turn it into a book, and then she turned one of her images into a giant vinyl cut with the art programs new vinyl cutter."

CONTACT: dbrown@oksd.wednet.edu.

[THE TOM ZBYSZEWski CHILDREN'S THEATER AT THE MERC PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS]

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE - BASED ON THE BOOK BY E.B. WHITE, DIRECTED BY JANE ORME

Come see the Methow Valley's talented young performers bring to life this delightful play about "some pig" and a beautiful friendship story that lasts a lifetime.

All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte.

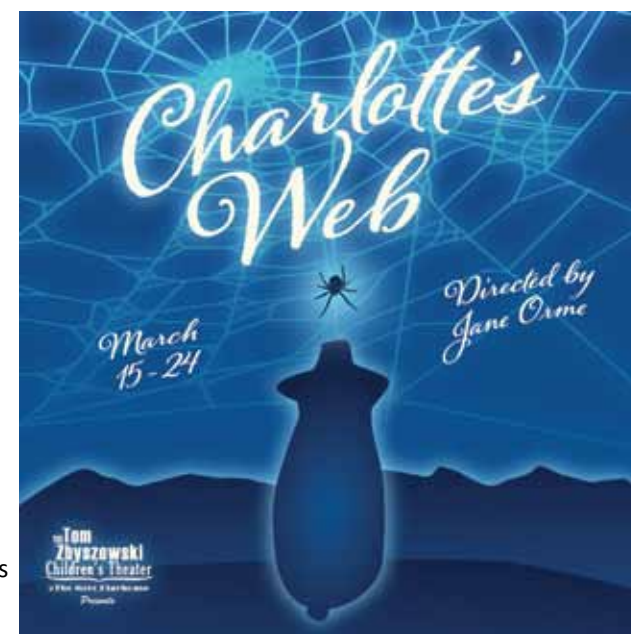
Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

DATES: March 15-24, Thurs-Sat, 7pm; Sun, 2pm; Thurs, Mar 21 is admission by donation. TICKETS: Adult reserved \$20, Adult general \$18; Youth reserved \$7, Youth general \$5. Purchase at MercPlayhouse.org or at the door. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time.

SPRINGTIME

Snow and ice slap against the wheels,
sticking to the undercarriage.
Driving south from frozen rivers
and sun-on-ice
Toward warming breezes.
Eight degrees now, and climbing.
Studs rattle on dry roads,
winter flashes past the rear-view mirror.
Ice is melting, skittering in the road,
running to the river
A white-tail deer finds new grass on the roadside.
We slow for her, ride the last of the snowmelt
to the sea, stop, and breathe salt air.

~ Lazo Gitchos, Methow Valley High School Student



Okanogan Student wins Washington State Poetry Out Loud Competition



Okanogan High School junior Madeline Luther is the face of poetry for the Okanogan area this spring. As the newly-proclaimed Washington State Poetry Out Loud Champion, Madeline was one of 13 high school students to participate in the annual Washington State Poetry Out Loud competition, and rocked it, reciting her poems with poise, passion, and a demonstrable understanding of the poems' content. On April 30, she'll compete at the National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington DC, along with winners from other states and US Territories.

Madeline's proficiency in poetry recitation was enhanced through the dedication of her English teacher, Dennis O'Connor, and her poetry coach, Methow Arts teaching artist Thome George, who worked with Madeline over a period of months on poetry selection, delivery, tone, gestures, and the dozens of other components that resulted in Madeline's stand-out performance at the state competition.

READ MORE at: <http://www.methowarts.org/madeline-luther>

(Photo of Madeline Luther with her mom.)

Backstage with the Liberty Bell Drama Company



(Liberty Bell High School Students experience an Urban Culture Trip as a part of the Methow Arts' Education Program in Seattle.)

The Liberty Bell Drama Company (LBDC) formed in early 2014, following a gap in school district drama class offerings after the retirement of long-time drama teacher Jane Orme. Built on the theater arts foundation laid by Orme and constructed with the quirky, edgy aesthetic and collaborative spirit of former Chumbawamba punk rocker Danbert Nobacon, the LBDC took flight quickly, producing two original "plays with music" (as opposed to full-scale musicals) in its first two years. When English teacher Kelly Grayum—who had little prior drama experience but turned out to have an instinctive knack for both acting and directing—joined the LBDC in 2016 (enabling the program to become a credit-earning arts elective as opposed to an afterschool activity) the program soared.

Educationally, say Grayum and Nobacon, participating in theater arts "goes far beyond what can be achieved in a classroom setting." They continue, "Putting on a play really does cover all the bases of social learning by doing. For the students to see the glow that comes from the feelings of forming a community that pulled it off and coming off stage and knowing 'we did this—we came together and made art and stood up in front of the public and did it'—is truly a wonderful thing."

The LBDC is in halfway through the process of making another piece of art: the satiric musical "Chicago," which runs May 15-19, 2019 run at the Merc Playhouse in Twisp.

To facilitate other experiences that enhance arts learning, Grayum and Nobacon have cultivated relationships with individuals and organizations that can help them further their mission of keeping theater alive for high school students. One such relationship is with Methow Arts, which sponsors the annual URBAN CULTURE TRIP to Seattle. On this year's trip in February, LBDC members participated in myriad arts experiences, beginning with a visit to Seattle's MoPop (Museum of Pop Culture), whose mission is "making creative expression a life-changing force." At MoPop, students explored the worlds of punk and grunge rock, science fiction, and fantasy, experimented in the Sound Lab, and visited the touring Marvel Comics Universe of Superheroes exhibit. "I think that the kids were honestly in love with MoPop," Grayum said after the trip.

After MoPop, the students ate dinner at the Seattle Center's Armory Food Court, in the shadow of the Space Needle and surrounded by public art and the vibrant social culture of an urban setting. Anchoring the trip was an evening at the 5th Avenue Theater's professional production of the musical "Rock of Ages." The students were, says Grayum, "generally blown away by 'Rock of Ages.' It was an absolutely spectacular show."

After a slumber party on the gym floor at the Bush School students toured the Theatre Department at the Seattle University, which was excellent, says Grayum. "They got to hear from a current student working on their production and see the set." A visit to the Frye Museum capped the trip, says Grayum, and "was totally weird and interesting," as it included a performance art event in a gallery setting.

The urban culture trip, says Nobacon, "is a means of giving students the chance to see that live theater is alive and well, that it is a thoroughly worthwhile endeavor for all involved, including the essential role and audience plays in making a play a success." For those who are really interested, Nobacon says, the trip shows students that "this is something that can be pursued in college and as a vocation in working life. Seattle is in the top five cities in the US for the theater arts, and our students get to see what is possible in the wider world of theatre arts.

Grayum adds, "For many of our students who are not even used to going to Seattle (and on some trips there are students for whom this trip is their first trip to Seattle), getting to see the world of the arts in a vibrant city is a wonderful way of broadening their horizons, of seeing what is possible in the world out beyond the valley. I think it can be a real game changer for a lot of students who wouldn't normally get this kind of experience with their families."

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE @ methowarts.org/backstage-with-liberty-bell-drama

MAY 15-19

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The art booths give Arts Fest participants a chance to engage with ART with projects ranging in difficulty from simple to intricate, to appeal to all age groups and levels of manual dexterity. Along with perennial favorites like face painting and tie-dye t-shirts, Arts Fest 2019 booths will bring new projects and many more opportunities to get creative.

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