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*"I went into the woods
because I wished to
live deliberately."
Henry David
Thoreau*

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WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS. Serving organizations across North Central Washington we provide resources, event promotion and training/consultation in capacity building and through vigorous advocacy and leadership across the state.



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CONTRIBUTORS

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY:
Sol Gutierrez



FEATURE ARTICLE:
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METHOW ARTS: ART CONNECTS GENERATIONS

Since the pandemic began, Methow Valley resident Carolyn Sullivan has stayed connected with her grandchildren remotely. "I was doing different activities with the kids online, like playing Clue," says Sullivan. "Then one day I went to the Methow Arts website and found your art videos."

Sullivan is referring to the art videos Methow Arts began creating in the fall of 2020, to support remote arts learning in dozens of schools throughout Okanogan and Chelan counties. When Sullivan saw the range of instructional videos available, she says, she immediately wrote her daughter-in-law, who lives in Kansas City, MO, with Sullivan's son and their two children. "Get the kids set up for tomorrow morning with paints, paper, and crayons," Sullivan told her.

Sullivan selected a video that she thought would be a good starting point for the two grandchildren, ages three and five:



artist Bruce Morrison's "Winter Light" lesson on painting a flickering candle flame. "I did the lesson in advance so I could anticipate what it would be like to do the lesson with the kids," Sullivan says. "The materials were so simple, and it was fun to go to the

Twisp Daily Art & Business Supply and buy the paints and crayons."

Sullivan sent her daughter-in-law the link to the instructional video, so that both grandma and grandkids were watching the lesson on a laptop or iPad. Then, Sullivan FaceTimed her grandkids, so that they could see each other. This element—parties in both houses being able to see Morrison's lesson as well as each other—is crucial to the success of the activity, Sullivan says. "It just makes it so connected," she says. "We can pause the video at the same time to fill in the background. Or if the kids have questions for me, we can pause the video and then resume after we finish discussing a certain aspect of the painting."



"And the really fun thing," Sullivan adds, "is that the kids aren't pausing ME—they're only pausing the art lesson. The lesson stops, but the FaceTime with me continues, so I get to watch them while they eat their cheese sticks, and then we go back to the lesson. It's just wonderful to do this project with the kids, and to get to watch them doing it."

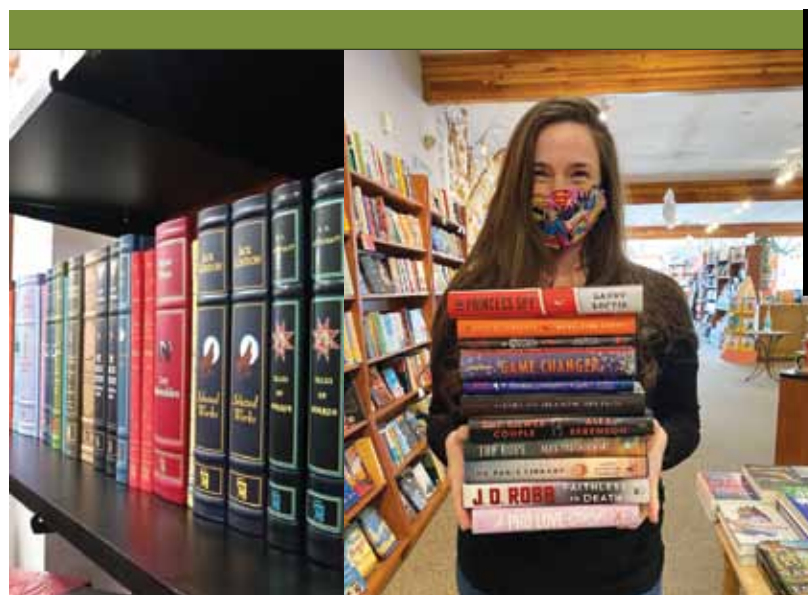
"An added benefit," Sullivan notes, "is that it gives mom and dad some time to do something else, while the kids are making art with grandma."

Never one to hoard fun, Sullivan quickly spread the word to her other grandma friends, and explained how easy it was to share remote arts experiences with grandchildren. Now, there's a small corps of intergenerational teams making art together, remotely.

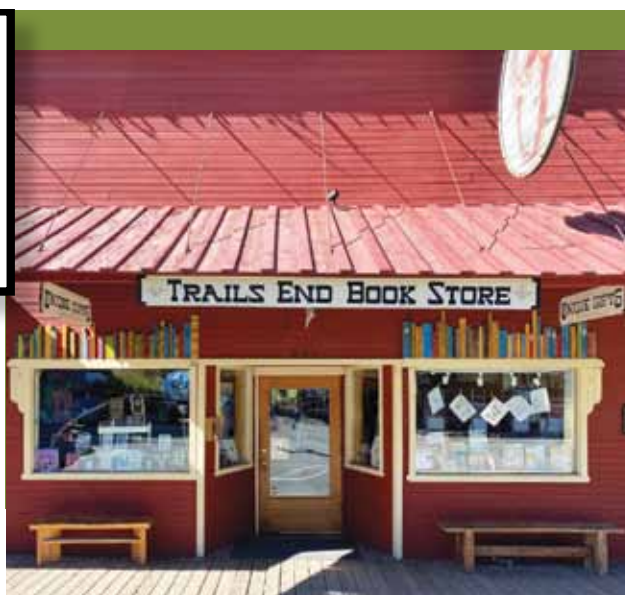
"Bruce's pace is perfect," says Sullivan of Methow Arts teaching artist Morrison, who creates weekly art videos with in Methow Arts' Studio A. "His voice is very calming, and his lessons are adjustable to different abilities. The kids would probably feel comfortable with Bruce as a teacher without me moving it along, but I just love being connected with them this way."



CONTACT: info@methowartsalliance.org, 997.4004 INFO: Find art videos on the Methow Arts website here: www.methowarts.org/arts-videos-grades-k-6.



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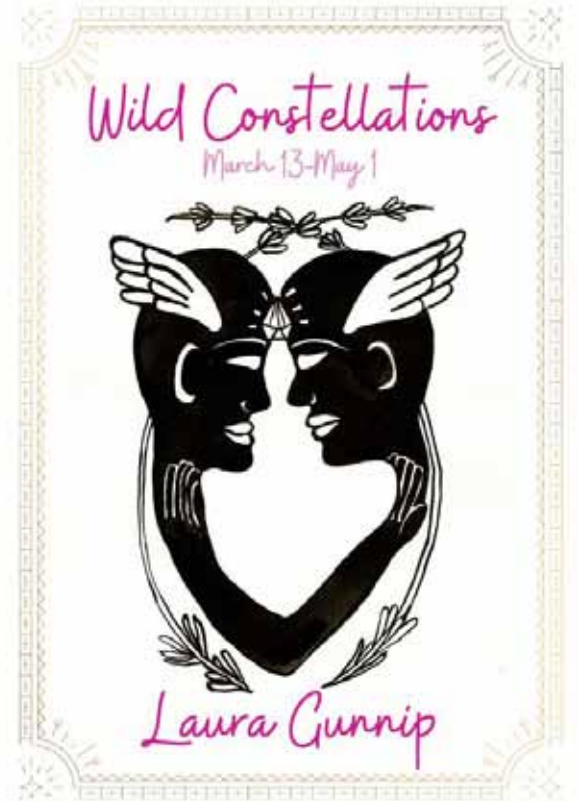
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Visit Confluence Gallery to view the art of Laura Gunnip from March 13 to May 1, 2021. confluencegallery.org

MARCH

Ginger Reddington Exhibit at Studio A
Mar 1-Mar 31
At Studio A, 114 Glover St, Twisp, Wa.
info@methowartsalliance.org

In the Company of Crows and Ravens
Mar 13-May 1
At Confluence Gallery's Community Gallery space.
info@confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787.

Wild Constellation: Laura Gunnip
Mar 13-May 1
At Confluence Gallery's Community Gallery space.
info@confluencegallery.com, 509-997-2787.

E-Commerce Artist Workshop with Nicole Ringgold
Tues, Mar 23, 5:30pm
See article page 15. info@methowartsalliance.org. \$35.
Scholarships available to NCW artists.
methowarts.org/march-workshop-with-Nicole

Artist Workshop with Nicole Ringgold
Wed, Mar 25, 5:30pm
See article page 15. info@methowartsalliance.org. \$35.
Scholarships available to NCW artists.
methowarts.org/april-workshop-with-Nicole

Cascadia Music: Marcus Duke and George Schneider
Mar 26, 6pm
A virtual concert by Methow Valley musicians.
The concert will be rebroadcast on Apr 2 on KTRT, 97.5fm. Tickets by donation. Register and info @ cascadiamusic.org

Cascadia Music: Cherrington Scholarship Competition
Mar 29
Virtual concert of winning performances by high school students. Information at cascadiamusic.org.

Methow Arts: Sip & Paint
Tues, Mar 30, 6pm
Last Tuesday Sip & Paint with artist Bethany Wray.
info@methowartsalliance.org

APRIL

Cascadia Music: Marcus Duke and George Schneider
Rebroadcast
Apr 2
Concert by Methow Valley musician on KTRT, 97.5fm The Root. Tickets by donation. Register and info at cascadiamusic.org

April Tools and Trunk Sale
Sat, Apr 3, 9-2pm
Contact the MV Community Center with questions. See article page 11
509-997-2926, mvccenter@methownet.com.

A Poetry Reading for One and All
Apr 23, 6:30pm
Virtual poetry reading via Zoom by Confluence Poets.
christingintwisp@gmail.com

Methow Arts: Sip & Paint
Tues, Apr 27, 6pm
See article page 14. Last Tuesday Sip & Paint with artist Bethany Wray.
info@methowartsalliance.org

MAY

Mary Kiesau Community Fellowship Fund: Applications Now Being Accepted
Deadline: May 1
See article page 15.
MaryKiesauFellowship@gmail.com, methowarts.org/mary-kiesau-community-fellowshipfund

American Craft: We the People
May 8-June 19
Confluence Gallery, Twisp. 509-997-2787
info@confluencegallery.com

Buffalo Soldiers: Ready and Forward
May 15-June 15
Exhibition by local photographer Ryan T. Bell.
At Methow Arts, 204 E. 2nd St, Twisp, WA.
info@methowartsalliance.org

Methow Arts: Sip & Paint
Tues, May 25, 6pm
See article page 14. Last Tuesday Sip & Paint with artist Bethany Wray.
info@methowartsalliance.org

JUNE

Winthrop Gallery Exhibit: In the Forest
June 1-July 26
Join the Winthrop Gallery for an exhibit that takes you into the forest. 237 Riverside in Winthrop, 509-996-3925, winthropgallery.com



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METHOW ART PRESENTS: "BUFFALO SOLDIERS: READY AND FORWARD"

An exhibition by local photographer Ryan T. Bell documents the Buffalo Soldiers of Seattle, a group honoring the role of African Americans in the frontier West.

Article by RYAN T. BELL

For a group of historical reenactors, the scene at the Veterans Day parade in Auburn, Washington, was anything but accurate. A man dressed as a Confederate officer strolled up to a group of African American horsemen dressed as "Buffalo Soldiers" – black cowboys who rode in the U.S. Army's 10th Cavalry Division. (Their motto was "Ready and Forward.")

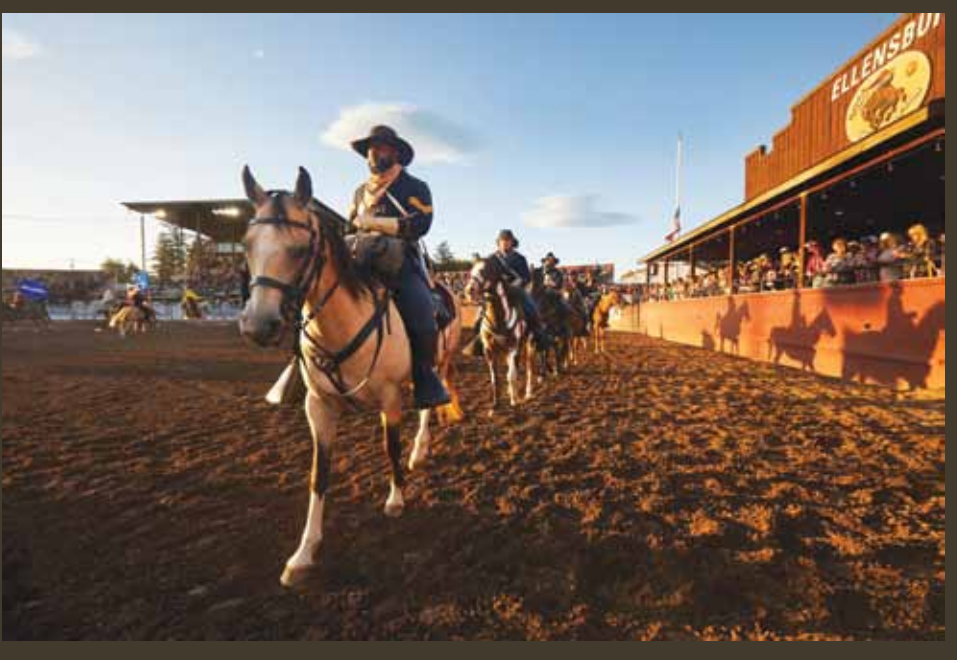
"I want to pay my respects," the man said, extending his hand. "You guys look better and better every year." The men struck up an easy conversation on the topic favored by military buffs everywhere: guns and paraphernalia.

As a documentary photographer, I observed the scene unfold from astride a horse, my camera in hand. Since 2017, I've been documenting a group of black horsemen called the Buffalo Soldiers of Seattle. The nonprofit organization is based in Yelm, Washington, but draws members from across the Puget Sound region to help keep alive the memory of the original Buffalo Soldiers. Riding with them has been like a graduate class in U.S. history.

are eye-catching and help pronounce the movements of the group's synchronized parade drills. Also, a member carries a bullwhip that he cracks to fire up the crowd.

"We don't mind upping the entertainment level a bit," says Geordan Newbill, the group's president. "That's why we consider ourselves living historians, not 'historical reenactors.'"

While there isn't direct evidence of Buffalo Soldiers patrolling the Methow Valley, they did protect the Oregon Trail, a route used by many of our region's first settlers. But popular culture has not always given African American cowboys their due. As the Civil Rights leader Rev. Joseph E.



Lowery once said about the role of black cowboys, "our history with the building of the West has been saturated with vanishing cream." Hollywood has been a major culprit, casting white actors in roles based on the lives of African Americans.

In *The Searchers*, John Wayne plays a role based on the real-life black cowboy Britt Johnson. And the Lone Ranger is believed to have

In May, Methow Arts will hold an exhibition of my documentary photography series "Buffalo Soldiers: Ready and Forward" at its headquarters in downtown Twisp. And, in the future, when it's safe to hold the 49ers Day Parade again, don't be surprised if you see the Buffalo Soldiers of Seattle riding in formation down the street. You'll know it's them by their dress, their black Friesian horses, and by the sound of that cracking bullwhip.

RYAN T. BELL is a National Geographic Explorer. See more of his work at www.ryantbell.com and on Instagram @ryantbell.

DATES: May 15-June 15. Interview and Q & A with Ryan T. Bell and Buffalo Soldiers date TBA via Zoom. LOCATION: Storefront windows, Methow Arts, 204 E. 2nd Ave, Twisp, WA. INFO: methowarts.org/buffalo-soldiers, info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004.



The group bases their dress on archival photographs from the late-1800s, wearing navy blue jackets, light blue trousers tucked into black boots, and Bowie knives snugged into their belts. They ride McClellan saddles and carry a number of replica firearms true to that era, including the .45-70 Springfield rifle, the Sharps Carbine rifle and Colt .45 single action revolvers. In full regalia, they look every bit as formidable as the 10th Cavalry soldiers whom the Cherokee dubbed "buffalo soldiers" during the Indian Wars because of their curly hair, dark skin and fierceness in battle.

Although, to a trained observer, there are a few aspects of the Buffalo Soldiers parade dress that veer from historical accuracy. The men ride Friesian horses because the flowing manes, tails and feathered fetlocks

been based on the exploits of an African American lawman named Bass Reeves.

"That white cowboy rode into my living room every night," says Jerome Young, member of the Buffalo Soldiers of Seattle. "I grew up wanting to be like him. Of course, I could never become a white cowboy. But I didn't have to because it turns out the Lone Ranger wasn't white either."



Cups With a Conscience

national cup call juried by Beth Lo & Richard Notkin

March 5-27



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WINTHROP GALLERY: IN THE FOREST

"Between every two pines is a doorway into a new world." – John Muir

On June 1st, come discover new worlds with the Winthrop Gallery artists as your guide. Over this past year, treks into the woods offered many a new found relief from the restlessness of Covid isolation. Over centuries, artists have always depended upon the forests for basic raw materials; wood, fiber and pigment, as well as inspiration. In our valley, we are fortunate to have this resource out our backdoor.

This exhibit will showcase creative ways our artists infused their interpretations into their work. You can experience the mood lifting, stress reducing and outlook boost daily by having any one of these forest inspired art in your home.

DATES: June 1-July 26. LOCATION: 237 Riverside in Winthrop, the Winthrop Gallery is open seven days a week from 10 am to 5pm and staffed by member artists. CONTACT: 509-996-3925, winthropgallery.com. Other upcoming Winthrop Gallery exhibits are: Now and Then, July 27, Starry Nights and Blue Days, Sept 21.

(Join the Winthrop Gallery for an exhibit that takes you into the forest. Photograph, Northlake Tarn by Pearl Cherrington.)



2021 SUMMER PROGRAM PLANNED AT THE PAVILION AT TWISPPWORKS

TwispWorks is picking up right where we left off last March, planning for a summer of arts programming at the Performing Arts Pavilion. Newly hired Retail Operations and Events Manager, Lindsey Bryson is looking forward to sharing the calendar of performances she curated in 2020 but then had to shelve as the pandemic shut down gatherings. While she understands that nothing is certain yet, Bryson is hopeful that by the summer we'll be able to gather to celebrate our community and the arts again.

"I'm excited to reach back out to all the signers, poets, performers, and actors I lined up in 2020. Seeing the Pavilion activated and sharing the arts with our community really is something to look forward to," says Bryson.

Initially conceived by Brice Butler, TwispWorks partner and architectural firm, Serious Fun Studio, has designed the Pavilion as a signature structure on the TwispWorks campus. It is a signature structure on the TwispWorks campus. Combining beautiful design with function, the

Pavilion can accommodate a wide array of artistic mediums. Wall panels along the back of the stage serve multiple functions. Designed with acoustics in mind, the panels pivot for fine tuning sound for the audience and performers, while the back side of each panel is flat for attaching artwork for outdoor art exhibitions. The Pavilion will also feature a movie screen and projector to accommodate movies and presentations.

INFO: www.TwispWorks.Org. Contact Lindsey Bryson if interested in learning more about performance opportunities at TwispWorks at LBryson@TwispWorks.



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CASCADIA PRESENTS: DRAKE DUKE AND GEORGE SCHNEIDER ON MARCH 26



(Join Cascadia Music for a virtual concert with Marcus Duke and George Schneider on March 26, 6pm. The concert will also be available anytime after that night and rebroadcast via radio by KTRT on April 2nd.)

What is jazz? Ask 10 people and you might get 10 different answers. Marcus Duke and George Schneider's approach to jazz is less about the genre and more about an adventurous attitude and improvisation-common threads that tie together an instrumentalist drawing from traditional yet diverse styles including jazz, folk, blues, rock, world fusion and classical.

In addition to an original bluesy composition by Duke, the duo will perform several lovely bebop numbers (Monk, Cannonball), a haunting ballad (Towner), a hybrid folk/classical tune (Fleck), and a Debussy piece. They'll also play several pieces by musical colleagues Tor Dietrichson (world jazz) and Shawn Weaver (funky/rockin' blues): and they'll wrap up with a high-energy Brazilian jazz piece by Airtó.

MUSICIAN BIOS:

Drake started playing piano at age 3 and has been performing professionally for over 50 years, often with his own bands. Through original compositions and covers, he strives to evoke rather than emulate diverse musical styles from around the world through creative, free-wheeling conversations with his fellow musicians. He and his wife have owned a house in the Methow for 26 years, and moved here permanently in 2017.

Schneider arrived in the Methow Valley with his wife Boo ten years ago, and immediately jumped into the music scene. He has collaborated with local jazz musicians, plays flute with the Methow Valley Orchestra, and has gigged extensively around the valley. His music has been shaped by listening to masterful musicians in Jazz, rock, and classical genres.

Find out more about Schneider, Drake and other local musicians and learn how to support them at cascadiamusoc.org/musicians-of-the-methow.

DATE: Virtually on March 26, 6pm, and available anytime after that. Rebroadcast on KTRT, April 2. TICKETS: By donation at cascadiamusoc.org/musicians-of-the-methow. CONTACT/INFO: cascadiamusoc.org.

IN THE COMPANY OF CROWS AND RAVENS

The family Corvidae embraces Crows, Jays, Magpies and Nutcrackers. Members of this family are wonderfully intelligent, mysterious, and magical. Corvids are social, noisy, aggressive, playful, and mischievous. They eat anything from fruit, and eggs, to nuts and carrion.

We see them playfully completing aerial maneuvers, in the company of eagles at a deer carcass feast, or being mobbed by small birds after raiding a nest. They will follow hunters, coyotes, or wolves and alert other scavengers to help open up a carcass; some cache seeds that if forgotten will become future trees. They mimic, they teach, they learn. They are iridescent and striking and provide a rich source of inspiration to create art.

Curators invited artists to create work that tells a story about the ecology and/or mythology of this wonderful avian family. They are hoping to represent all Corvids

and their allies – not just ravens or crows – so here is your chance to learn about magpies, jays and nutcrackers.

Curators, Jennifer Molesworth and Caryl Campbell

DATES: Mar 13 to May 1.
LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. CONTACT: 509-997-2787, info@confluencegallery.com.

(Michael Azzano, Spoils, watercolor.)



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CLAIRE WAICHLER SEEKS TO UNCOVER “WHAT IS MISSING”



(2016 Liberty Bell graduate Claire “Cal” Waichler is conducting research for artist Maya Lin during her internship at Colby College in Maine.)

2016 Liberty Bell High School graduate and Methow Arts intern Claire “Cal” Waichler is conducting research for artist Maya Lin, through an internship at Colby College in Maine, where Waichler is a senior.

Waichler and another student are “researching Maine’s ecological history to contribute to Lin’s “What is Missing?” project, a multi-sited, multimedia project devoted

to issues of biodiversity and habitat loss,” reports the Buck Lab for Climate and Environment, which has partnered with Colby College’s Lunder Institute for American Art to create the internship program.

Essentially, says Waichler, “we’re compiling an ecological timeline of Maine: sifting through online digital archives, tracking down old books through [the Colby] library’s Special Collections, and trying to synthesize historical and contemporary information and sources into a cohesive, engaging timeline.”

“What is Missing?” is a virtual art project—an interactive website dedicated to habitat loss and the global biodiversity crisis. It is still a work in progress, but is intended to be Lin’s “final memorial”—a testament to what once was. Waichler and Bennett’s work on the ecological timeline is not yet published in “What is Missing,” but will be when the website relaunches on Earth Day, April 22, 2021.

The hope for the “What is Missing” project, says Waichler, “is to make people care, and then to encourage them to choose practices and organizations that will help places and species rebound. Some of the forward-looking pieces of the project provide a template for people to make sustainable choices and think about their role in the environment in a different, active way.”

INFO: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org. Read full article at www.methowarts.org/claire-waichler-seeks-to-uncover-what-is-missing



(Featured at Colby College Museum of Art. Maya Lin, *Disappearing Bodies of Water: Arctic Ice*, 2013.)



(Waichler climbs at Otter Cliffs in Maine.)



CASCADIA MUSIC’S CHERRINGTON MEMORIAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



The Cherrington Memorial Merit Scholarship Competition will be held virtually again this year.

Students’ applications have already been submitted and they are busy preparing their pieces. Now it’s your opportunity to see the winning performances on March 29. Winners receive cash prizes and an opportunity to perform for the public.

Volunteer judges this year are Marcy Stamper, John Trotter and Murray Sampson. The Cascadia Education Committee helps in organizing the competition.

In addition to the Annual Scholarship Competition, Cascadia is grateful to be the stewards of the Cherrington Memorial Scholarship Fund which provides funds for needs-based scholarships or partial scholarship assistance. If your family is thinking that music lessons are not in their budget, Cascadia can help. For this information you can contact them at cascadiamusiceducation@gmail.com

DATE: March 29. Virtual performances and winners announced. The winning videos will be posted on the home page of Cascadia’s website on the same day at cascadiamusic.org.

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METHOW VALLEY SEED COLLECTIVE

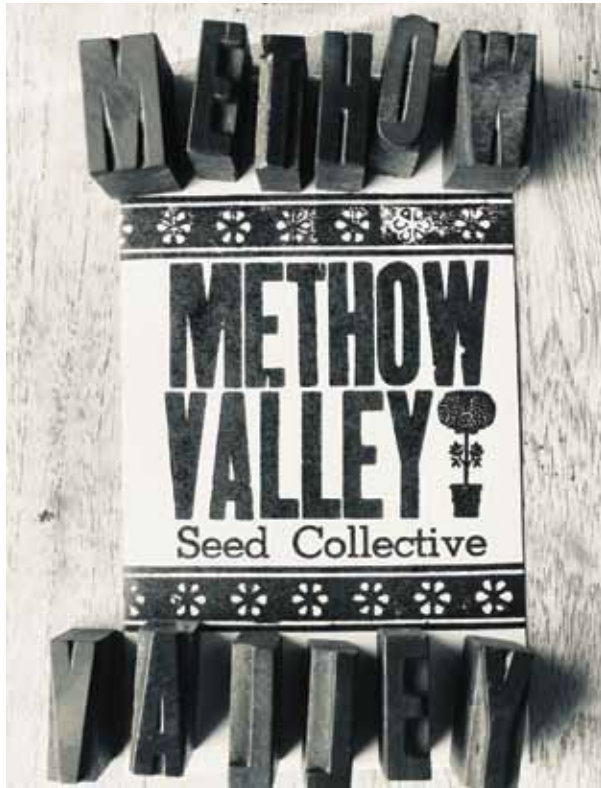
This spring Methow Valley Seed Collective will be doing a soft opening of its new garden seed offerings. They will be offering a limited selection of locally grown, regionally adapted vegetable, flower and herb seeds for local gardeners.

Anaka Mines began growing wholesale organic seed in 2013 and is now ready to launch a retail line of seed available to local growers. She has teamed up with Cailyn Brierly and Kyle McKnelly of Hoodoo Blooms to create the seed collective and offer a beautiful and delicious array of seeds. Not only are the seeds local, but the hand-printed seed packets offer a fully local, hand-crafted product, thanks to the collaboration with Fireweed Print Shop*.

This season sales are by email order. To request a catalog and order email them at mvseedcollective@gmail.com. Also look for their seeds at the Classroom in Bloom plant sale this spring.

*Fireweed print shop is a community print studio operated by artist Laura Gunnip and located at TwispWorks, fireweedprintshop@gmail.com.

DATES: Spring 2021. CONTACT/INFO: Methow Valley Seed Collective, mvseedcollective@gmail.com.



APRIL TOOLS & TRUNK SALE

The Methow Valley Community Center is hosting an April Tools event on April 3, from 9-2 in the parking lot of the community center. Let's celebrate spring while selling or buying fun stuff or found treasures. This is recycling at its best and a neighborly way to score some tools, supplies, vintage, and collectables.



community center. Let's celebrate spring while selling or buying fun stuff or found treasures. This is recycling at its best and a neighborly way to score some tools, supplies, vintage, and collectables.

All proceeds will pay for advertising, porta-potty and other expenses to promote this event. The

Methow Valley Community Center is looking for a few volunteers to assist them in this endeavor. DATE: Sat, Apr 3, 9am-2pm. CONTACT: Methow Valley Community Center for donations and questions. 509-997-2926, mvcenter@methownet.com.

CONFLUENCE POETS: A POETRY READING FOR ONE AND ALL

The Academy of American Poets started this event in 1996, and six years ago Confluence Poets began celebrating it. They were thrilled in 2015 when a seven-year old from Seattle joined to read her poem. This year, they hope people of all ages will be inspired to write a poem, or find one they wish to read at this event.

If you would rather read another poet's poem or need lessons on writing poems they recommend going to www.poets.org.

Confluence Poets started in 2014. The group represents a confluence of voices and styles within the Methow Valley. They now organize the annual William Stafford Birthday Reading in January, amongst other quarterly events, as well as coordinating other poetry events in the area. Meetings are held two to three times monthly, at which time we write impromptu responses to prompts, share and critique works in progress, and conduct short educational programs.

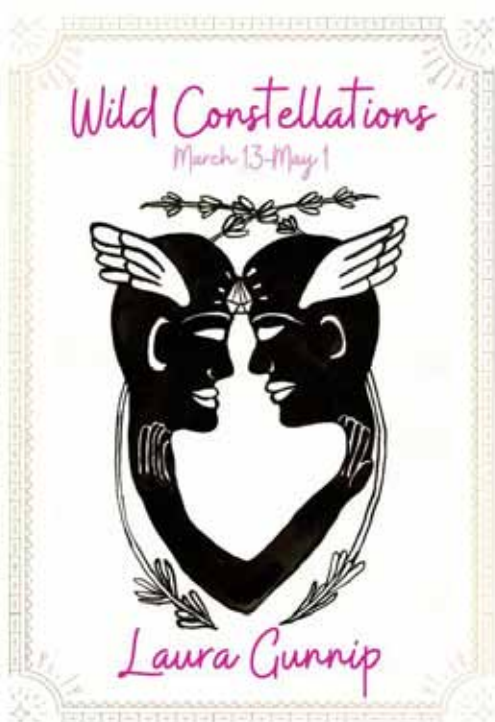
DATE: Apr 23, 6:30pm. LOCATION: A Virtual presentation via ZOOM-- Meeting ID: 827 9555 6016, Passcode: 489240, Phone: 253-215-8782. Sign up to read when the room opens, or ahead of time by contacting Christine Kendall at christineintwisp@gmail.com.



THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS

Each week hundreds of Methow Valley Elementary School students participate in Methow Arts' Youth Arts Initiative program (YAI), which provides sequential art learning aligned with Washington State's Arts Learning Standards. Now in its second year, YAI equips K-3 students with a foundation in the principles and elements of art and design.

(YAI instructor, Bethany Wray, organizes her art room with supplies in advance of classes.)



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At the Confluence Gallery.

BETANIA: SWEEPING UP

BY MARCY STAMPER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOL GUTIERREZ

Betania (pronouns: they/them) of Bristle & Stick Handcrafted Brooms knows intimately how to take a seemingly mundane chore and transform it into art and a profound, life-affirming ritual. Betania makes brooms by hand, creating exquisite, functional works of art that are part of a healing, restorative practice.

“Sweeping a room can shift the energy faster than almost anything,” Betania said. “That’s a really effective practice and makes the broom a very powerful tool.”

That power is heightened by Betania’s connection with the elegant brooms they make in the folk tradition. “When you have a beautiful handmade tool, it becomes less of a chore. There is a certain spirit and life essence when you know the energy and story behind a handcrafted object you are working with,” they said.

“People tend to separate energy and matter. One will typically energetically clean a space – or be working to physically clean it. I prefer to do both, at the same time, when I’m cleaning,” Betania said.



These sweeping rituals are not only therapeutic, but are part of Betania’s essence. “Things aren’t always binary, even though we are often taught to think of them that way. A space can look really clean, but in actuality be really messy-feeling – or vice-versa,” Betania said.

Betania feels a kinship with non-binary elements of the natural world around them. Betania said their identity has always felt very amphibious, “like I don’t fit into any of the assigned boxes.” Their ancestry is mixed, with roots in Mexico, the Iberian peninsula, Sardinia, and Wales.

HEALING THROUGH NATURE AND CLEANING

Today Betania flourishes as an artist and a healer. But they arrived at this creative and fulfilling place after a tough and painful period as a teen and young adult.

Betania was signed over to the state of California as a 12-year-old and went from group home to institutional setting to juvenile hall, sometimes living in their car, and sometimes “on the streets.” As a result, Betania became wary of humans, but found solace in nature, feeling accepted and nourished living in wild places and among trees.

They also found much-needed healing through daily rituals of cleaning and sweeping. At first it was unconscious, simply an act that felt soothing, safe, and empowering. Ultimately Betania

recognized that they were sweeping away the trauma of all those years. “Sweeping cleared my mind and helped me to feel calm when the world felt really chaotic and unsafe around me. It gave me a sense of stability and empowerment,” Betania said.

Betania started collecting handmade brooms as a teenager. They started making brooms about seven years ago after moving to the Methow Valley. They instantly fell in love with the process and made hundreds of brooms while living and working on a farm in Carlton.

Time-honored technique

Betania uses the oldest broom-making techniques, which are both delicate and very physical. The process demands strength and stamina to maintain tension on the foot bobbin as Betania wraps twine to secure the layers of broom corn.

Betania makes many types and styles of brooms. Full-size farmhouse brooms, cobweb sweepers, and hearth brooms are all woven onto natural wood handles. Betania also makes turkey-wing hawk tails, woven whisks, and a few other hand-held styles.

Betania has developed their own style based on traditional folk designs. They sort the broom corn (Sorghum vulgare) by different characteristics and, when they’re ready to make a broom, grab the handfuls of sorghum selected specifically for that style of broom and weave them together, layering each bunch in a distinctive design. For some brooms,



the bundles are soaked before weaving, but others are not.

To attach the broom handle, Betania holds and balances the broom while binding the corn with a continuous strand of twine, a process that takes about an hour. If it’s not tied just right, the whole thing will fall apart. “It’s the oldest, most difficult way of making brooms, but I like doing and teaching crafts in older, more intimate ways because it develops a deeper relationship and respect for the work, as well as a better-quality, longer-lasting item,” Betania said.

The “knuckle,” part of the sorghum plant that’s used for decorative weaving, has to be soaked before it can be worked.

“It’s pretty hard on your body – the pulling and sitting,” Betania said.

A broom on a handle has multiple layers of soaked and woven material that needs to hang for two weeks to dry before the layers are sewn and then trimmed. Most brooms are sewn flat, but some are left round. “You sweep differently with a round broom,” they said.

Betania forages in the forest for broom handles, selecting narrow branches of trees such as saskatoon, maple, hazel, myrtle, willow, and red-osier dogwood that have to cure for a year before they can become handles. Some handles are straight, while others have sculptural bends and twists. Part of the process is always asking the plants and forest spirits for

permission, and then selecting the ones that want to be in service as a broom, Betania said.

Betania leaves some handles as natural wood. Others are burned black or to create designs, or are decorated with milk paint made from earth pigments. The brooms are naturally understated earth tones, but some are bound with rainbow twine or have bristles dyed collaboratively with Methow Valley textile artist Sara Ashford of Culler Studio.

Before specializing in brooms, Betania had pursued other crafts, including hide tanning, basket weaving, and painting with earth pigments. “It’s deeply healing to work with my hands, and to sit in a circle with people and make things,” they said.

“I just fell in love with the old ways of craft – with having a relationship with a tool you use every day that’s enlivened with spirit, versus something made in a factory,” they said.

Betania shares that process of creation by teaching broom-making and other craft workshops. Before travel and group classes were shut down by the COVID pandemic, Betania taught broom making up and down the west coast. A series of workshops on the east coast had to be postponed.

HIGHER BEINGS

After humans failed to care for Betania as a teen,

Betania found themselves turning to plants and animals. Betania sees plants as higher beings. “My best friends are non-humans,” they said.

Betania is drawing on their life experiences and art to help others heal from trauma. They are studying a form of therapy called somatic experiencing™, which uses movement to help people work through the physical scars of trauma.

As someone who’s experienced these challenges firsthand, Betania believes they bring an essential understanding that can build trust and help others heal. People who need healing the most often have the least access to the support we need, they said.

Betania will be working as an advocate and mentor to help and uplift underserved youths in Okanogan County. “You understand things in a different way when you have actually experienced them,” they said.

For Betania, cleaning is a very effective way of healing, a means of letting go and of giving things back to the land. “There is ritual, sacredness, and magic in the most basic, everyday things we do – if you chose to see it,” they said.

Betania’s work can be seen on their website at www.bristleandstick.com and at their studio on the TwispWorks campus.



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AMERICAN CRAFT: WE THE PEOPLE

The core of artwork speaks of its origin through the inherent expression of its maker. Working with traditional materials of wood, paper, glass, metal, textiles, ceramics, and items of a decorative nature, the act of crafting tends to serve a functional purpose, yet, reaches beyond mere utilitarian needs into the soul-satisfying realm of beauty.

During these unique and challenging times, there has been resurgence in interest and practice of the domestic arts and traditional American craft. From modern day victory gardens and home canning to knitting and weaving, many are finding comfort in the tactile experiences that bring us closer together and are expressive of living well

at home. Craft also tells our stories of grief, joy, cultural movements, racial justice, and political revolution.

Curators - Theresa Miller and Salyna Gracie.

DATES: May 8 to June 19. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, 104 S Glover St., Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787

(Artwork, *Winged Rabbit Saves Lady Liberty*, by artist Kay O'Rourke.)



AUTOMOTIVE TECH EDUCATION DREAMS BECOME A REALITY AT TWISPPWORKS



It's amazing what you can accomplish with a clear vision, hard work and determination. After numerous local students expressed a desire to learn about automotive technology, a plan was hatched to renovate

a 650 square foot garage on the TwispWorks campus into a workspace.

TwispWorks is committed to supporting educational opportunities for local youth, and the back of the garage space will also double as a 'Maker Space' for a wide range of DIY student projects. With instructor Trent Whatley, students recently completed the modernization of the building and rolled in car their first car, a 1975 Camaro. What a car! The lines on this hot rod are a work of art but it needs repair in almost every way, and that's what

the students will learn about this semester. Their curriculum covers the full range of learning about tools,

how various parts make a car run, how to fix them and even repairing body damage.

The garage gives the new Automotive Tech program a launch-pad, but the dreaming doesn't stop there. Given that one car barely fits and that at some point Covid will end and class sizes will return to normal numbers, it's clear that a much larger space is what the program really needs. Enter local architects and TwispWorks partners Kit and Sam Kollmeyer of Serious Fun Studios, who are volunteering their time to work with three ILC students on conceptual designs for a larger, truly modern automotive education facility on the TwispWorks campus. In the same way that a car has many parts that must work together, designing a building is incredibly multi-faceted and requires a lot of forward thinking, research and thorough planning. From start to finish, all aspects of creating an automotive tech program are providing incredible real-world learning opportunities for our students.

INFO: TwispWorks, 509-997-3300, 502 S Glover St, Twisp, WA, www.twispworks.org

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PATTY YATES USES ART TO PROCESS COMPLEX EMOTIONS OF "BLACK HISTORY IN AMERICA" CLASS

As a kid, Patty Yates was constantly getting in trouble for doodling during class. But there was a method to her motion. "I learn better if my hands are busy," Yates says. "I had trouble all through school. I was dyslexic—which wasn't a word back then—and doodling made that learning disability easier to manage. I'd draw all over my college notebooks. I got in trouble, but I remembered what I learned if I was drawing, so it was worth it."



{Patty Yates painting during first day of Bill Hottell's class.}

Now (and for many years) a professional artist, Yates still processes information best if she's engaged in a right-brain pursuit like sketching or painting. And recently, while participating in Methow Valley historian Bill Hottell's "Black History in America" class, Yates is finding the strategy to not only help her retain information, but also to process the complex emotions she experiences in each session.

"The first day Bill started talking, I was blown away," Yates says. "He started with the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6th, then went back to Jim Crow laws, then back to the mass slaughter of Black people. It was so emotional for me, right away."

Yates happened to have some canvases prepped for paintings she is working on for an upcoming show at Confluence Gallery ("Corvid"—an exhibit of ravens,

crows, magpies, and jays). As she struggled to contain her emotions while Hottell spoke, her eye landed on these blank backdrops. "I knew I needed to listen to what Bill was saying in order to get control of myself. So I started painting, to maintain my focus."

What Yates painted was black. But gradually, she says, she began painting what she could see from her studio windows: little aspens, Russian Olive trees, some sun, some shadows. "There was beauty all around me, and I painted it as I listened to the horrors of the way we've treated Black people. It was heavy—knock-your-socks-off heavy," she says.

Since that first class, Yates has coped with the heaviness of the subject matter by continuing to paint. She's not, however, attempting to create images of specific events addressed in the class. "The imagery of situations described in the class is so heavy that I'm afraid it would distress my soul to paint re-creations. Those aren't things that I could put on canvas and live with." Instead, Yates says, "I paint a feeling. I try to pull up great compassion and express it as snow or aspens, or shadows."

"Did you notice anything when you moved to the Methow Valley?" Yates continues. "It's largely white. This is why I took a particular interest in Bill's class. I knew from taking his other classes that he would have a sensitive approach."



"Everything is so powerful," Yates says of the class. "It's a challenge in emotions. There are these horrors, and then there are these joys, like listening to music created by Black musicians." Yates refers to the class watching Jimi Hendrix's version of "The Star Spangled Banner" at Woodstock in 1969. "It's been years since I watched that," she says. "That was my era. Now here I am painting and being blown away by it."

Yates adds, "As I'm watching Jimi Hendrix play, I'm thinking about others taking the class, others who were from that era too. And we're all so straight now."

Yates isn't sure what she'll do with the paintings she's creating during Hottell's 10-week class; some may end up at the Winthrop Gallery, the cooperative gallery where Yates is an artist member. But showing the work isn't the point—digesting the class's material is.

For those who might like to try Yates' strategy of learning while drawing, Yates suggests just "putting pencil to paper and let it flow while you listen."

"Everybody has art in them," Yates says. "Grab a crayon, play around on paper. See if you can hear better."

INFO: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org. Read full article at <http://www.methowarts.org/patty-yates-uses-art-to-process-complex-emotions>

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VALLEY GOODS: CELEBRATING OKANOGAN COUNTY ARTISTS YEAR-ROUND!

Launched on the TwispWorks' campus last November Valley Goods serves as a year-round showcase for local artists, makers, and crafters.

Open 6 days per week, and featuring one-of-a-kind products from more than 70 vendors, the store has become a welcoming space for people looking to shop local and has become an important source of income for many Methow Valley micro-businesses. With holiday bazaars and markets closed due to COVID, Valley Goods played a critical role providing a retail opportunity during the important holiday sales season. In just its first 6-weeks of operations, Valley Goods paid out over \$45,000 in commissions!

Manager Lindsey Bryson is excited to carry this success forward in 2021 as she continues to welcome and promote new artists. She also has plans for special events to take place at the store aligned to health and safety guidelines. If you are an Okanogan-based artist, maker or producer and you're interested in learning more about Valley Goods, please email Lindsey at LBryson@TwispWorks.org.

Valley Goods is brought to you by Methow Made, a marketing program that gives local artists, makers,

producers, and micro-manufacturers exposure to customers who love the Methow Valley and want to support our local economy. For more information on the Methow Made program visit www.MethowMade.org

LOCATION/HOURS: Valley Goods is located on the TwispWorks campus in the South Warehouse, Building #10. Open Monday through Saturday 11AM-4PM. **CONTACT:** www.MethowMade.org, 509-997-3300.



LAST TUESDAY - SIP & PAINT WITH BETHANY WRAY

In this virtual class, students will learn basic watercolor technique from artist Bethany Wray to create a unique and colorful painting. All levels are welcome. Fun is ensured. Spots are limited. Be sure to register now!

SIP & PAINT BASIC MATERIALS NEEDED

- cold-pressed watercolor paper 90-140 lb at least 5x7" (two sheets)
- watercolor brushes (Daily Business has a great brand called Simply Simmons) round size 5 & 8 and flat size 1"
- watercolor paints in a 12 pan set with two sets of reds, oranges, yellows, greens, blues, and browns
- blue painter's tape or artist's tape
- permanent felt-tip pen
- pencil and white eraser

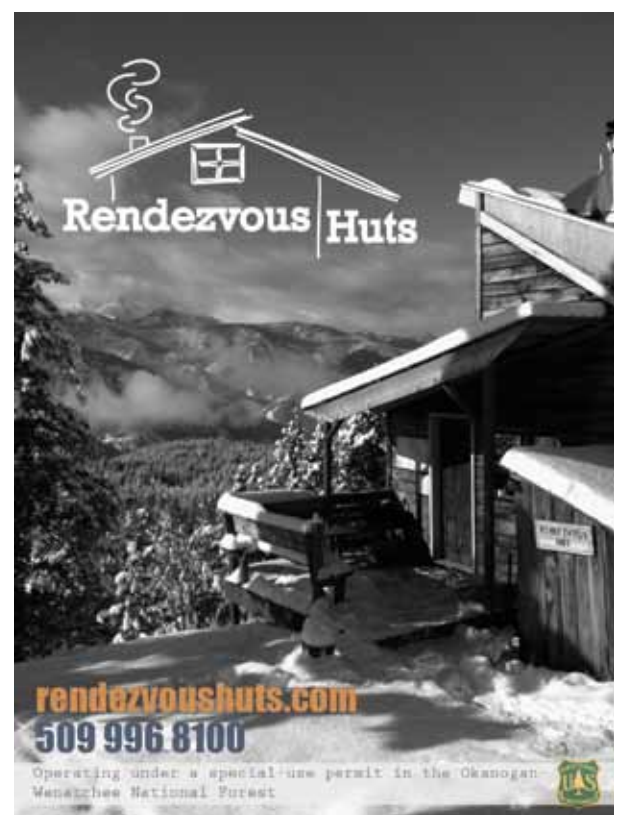
Registration required: info@methowartsalliance.org. DATE: Tues, Mar 30, 6pm, April 27, 6pm, May 25, 6pm. via Zoom. After registering we will send you the Zoom link to login. FEE: \$45/class. CONTACT/INFO: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004.



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MARY KIESAU COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP FUND: APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

"Natural history education, especially place-based education that gives people a direct connection with and knowledge of the places in which they live, is more important now than ever before."

– Mary Kiesau

We are pleased to announce the Mary Kiesau Community Fellowship Fund. This fund supports the independent projects of artists, photographers, naturalists, and naturalist educators working to further their own creativity, professional development, and the community's connection to the land, art, and each other. The application period is open from January 31 to March 31, 2021.

Through generous donations to the fund from Mary's community of friends, family, and loved ones, we will offer 2 awards in the amount of \$1,000 each in 2021.

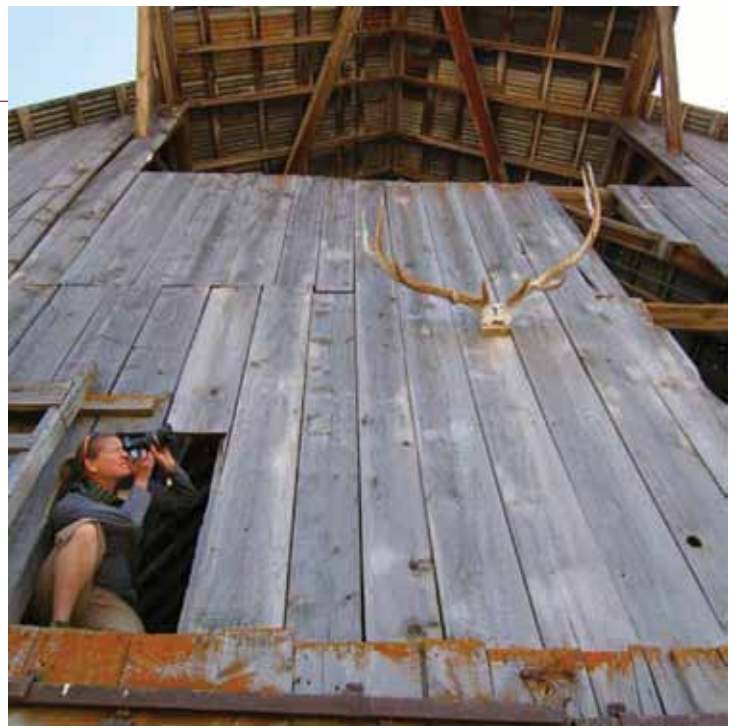
Artists, photographers, naturalists, and naturalist educators are invited to apply for the Fellowship. These funds are designed to support your "field" work and ultimately the creation of artistic works and knowledge that can be shared with your community.

Mary Kiesau was a woman of extraordinary energy and drive. This fellowship will fund projects that honor Mary's legacy and align with her values and artistic passions: -Living in harmony and balance with the earth and its finite resources. Being observant, interested in, and connected with the natural world in order to gain a deep appreciation for the place one calls home. Helping to create a strong, resilient, and enlightened community that is composed of the Methow flora, fauna, and people.

Before applying, we recommend spending time reviewing Mary's work and values at her website mountainkindnaturalist.com.

There will be two stages of applicant review:
1) Application, Portfolio, Artist & Impact Statements review. 2) Finalist in-person or virtual interview.

CONTACT/INFO: MaryKiesauFellowship@gmail.com, methowarts.org/mary-kiesau-community-fellowshipfund. IMPORTANT DATES: Application Deadline: Midnight, March 31, 2021. Panel Review and Finalist Interviews: April 2021. Award Announcement:



May 1, 2021 50% of award paid at this time. Funding Period: May 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. Final Report Due: February 1, 2022. Upon receipt of the final report, final 50% payment will be issued.



SPRING ARTIST WORKSHOPS WITH NICOLE RINGGOLD

E-COMMERCE
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WITH NICOLE
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TUES, MAR 23, 5:30PM

In this workshop artists learn the basics of E-Commerce via Facebook and Instagram. This workshop is for beginning level artists. Artist should have Facebook and Instagram accounts prior to the class.

INFO/REGISTER: info@methowartsalliance.org. \$35. Scholarships available to NCW artists. methowarts.org/march-workshop-with-Nicole



ONLINE SALES ARTIST WORKSHOP
WITH NICOLE RINGGOLD

THURS, MAR 25, 5:30PM

In this workshop learn online sales, invoicing and shipping for artists. This workshop is for artists who are savvy in social media and use Facebook and Instagram for sales.

INFO/REGISTER: info@methowartsalliance.org. \$35. Scholarships available to NCW artists. methowarts.org/april-workshop-with-Nicole



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HELLO, SPRING.

FROM THE TWISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



You know it's Spring in the Methow Valley when locals have an extra spring in their step – not just because the snow begins to melt

while arrowleaf balsamroot begin to bloom... but also because they can all literally take steps again without worrying about slipping on a patch of ice.

Happy Feet

In Twisp, sun-splashed sidewalks are a dream to to all who traverse Twisp on foot — which is basically everyone (no Uber required, nor is there one available anyway). Twisp's centralized downtown corridor makes it easy to walk around to a variety of engaging locales. What's more, when you're on foot you'll notice things you didn't expect to encounter, like a free little library, a rotating light pole banner on main street or a new exhibit at a local gallery.

Spring Strolling

Once you've had lunch or a snack at one of several recommended eateries in Twisp, treat yourself to some street strolling, anchoring your walk with a tour of the town's public art: mosaics, murals, steel sculptures and cast aluminum pieces can be found around all around the area – such as the massive metal flower right outside Fiber, Twisp's adorable yarn store. Even though some art buildings haven't fully re-opened to the public due to the pandemic, such as Rod Weagant Studio, Methow Arts and The Merc Playhouse, they still encourage you to walk by and window-gaze their exquisite works. Culminate your experience by heading into Confluence Gallery, Twisp's free art gallery, which offers local and regional art pieces. (Also: the wine/oil/vinegar cellar at Glover Street Market isn't technically a gallery, but there is an undeniable visual and gustatory artistry to this stone-lined space of vials and bottles – pop in and take a look before your walking tour comes to a close.)



(Visit the Cinnamon Twisp Bakery on Glover Street in Twisp for an assortment of freshly baked goodies.)

atmosphere for reading as well as some downright friendly librarians. Or take your own book to one of Twisp's parks, located outside the Methow Valley Community Center and near the Methow River by the pool.

Spring Snacking

If you happen to be in Twisp on a Saturday morning, it's impossible to miss the weekly Farmers Market in the Community Center parking lot from 9am-Noon, starting in April.

Need an afternoon pick-up after such a busy morning? Treat yourself to a cookie or eponymous pastry at the Cinnamon Twisp Bakery. While you can certainly find coffee there, they still recommend you walk (or, okay, even the locals drive) to the east end of town to get your java on at the Blue Star Coffee Roasters café and roasting plant, which you can view from the café through glass windows.

And That's (Not) All, Folks

They'll end your Spring in Twisp tour here, but needless to say those same eateries mentioned earlier also make great dinner spots, too. (Make sure to check in first with the restaurant that catches your eye to find out their current dining policy under COVID-19 restrictions. Many have begun offering limited seating inside as well as creative outdoor dining.)

Happily exhausted from your experiences in Twisp? The Twisp Chamber hopes you'll come back and visit us soon!

For full information, visit the Twisp Information Center online or in person. Tag Twisp on Facebook or Instagram (@/#TwispWA) so they can repost your Spring adventures!



(You know it's Spring in the Methow Valley when arrowleaf balsamroot begin to bloom.)

Warming Up

Starting at TwispWorks, the 6.2-acre outdoor campus located at the south end of Glover Street, check out all the artist studios that line the grounds of this former Forest Service complex. You'll find everything from jewelry to painting to woodworking to bag-making to metalworking to species-specific bird nesting boxes to pottery to a natural dye operation. Don't have enough time to tour the entire campus? Then head into Valley Goods, which sells the works of 70+ local makers in the Methow Valley, including those on campus.

central hub for Methow Valley services ranging from an oil change to a good haircut (all found in our Twisp Chamber Member Directory). Gifts galore can be acquired at Fiber, Glover Street Market, Confluence Gallery, Twisp Daily Art & Business Supply, Ulrich Valley Pharmacy, and The Thrifty Fox. For groceries, and for one of the most talked-about grocery aisles (hint: look up) hit up Hank's Harvest Foods. Heck, you could even get a massage or facial at the TwiSpa if you needed to work out a kink or two!

If you'd rather just curl up with a good book and read for a couple of hours, they've got you covered: our local Twisp library welcomes visitors and has a relaxed

On sunny days you can enjoy a riverwalk at the northeastern end of town, or travel an easy .25 miles up Twisp River Road to enjoy the Twisp Discovery Ponds, a complex of meandering trails, native plants, large-scale art pieces, and salmon-rearing ponds.

Spring Cleaning

Errands to accomplish? No problem! Twisp is the

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MIA STRATMAN'S PATH TO ART



When 2018 Liberty Bell High School (LBHS) graduate and Methow Arts alumni intern Mia Stratman moved to the Methow Valley as a sophomore, she had taken few art classes. Now she's a junior at Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration.

paired with a Children's Literature class gave her perspective into both the literary and the visual arts aspects of kids' books.

Stratman does a lot of digital design these days, using an iPad. "It's important to me not to look overly digital, however," Stratman says. "I always want to retain an original look, so I make deliberate stylistic choices. I use collage and other methods to create a whimsical, quirky, and sometimes surreal quality in my art. I want it to be recognizable as mine."



This whimsical and quirky nature—what Stratman often calls 'wonky'—shows up most poignantly in her illustrations of people coupled with a single word or short quotation. The characters appear vulnerable, but also fearless; they open themselves up to life—its risks, its rewards. They're a bit like Stratman, and really, like most of us: doing our best

to appear confident in a world that demands confidence, yet willing to expose their



vulnerabilities, which make them both endearing and inspiring.

"A lot of my work focuses on the human connection," Stratman says. "Vulnerability is a cornerstone of the human experience. Humans are funny creatures in the ways we interact and communicate."

"There's a bit of a stigma about making art," Stratman continues. "People believe that you shouldn't do it if you're not 'great' at it. I've learned that you don't need to be great to begin. It's ok to take your own path."

INFO: Methow Arts, info@methowartsalliance.org. Read the full article at <http://www.methowarts.org/mia-stratman-s-path-to-art>



Stratman is exploring traditional and nontraditional forms of illustrative art through textiles, product design, and editorial classes. One day she's designing a fictional mural store display for eyewear brand Warby Parker; another day she's reworking old book covers; still another finds her creating signature packing for an eponymous coffee company. A Children's Book Illustration class

GINGER REDDINGTON EXHIBIT IN STUDIO A

Be sure to stop by Studio A to view Ginger Reddington's new exhibit. Ginger Reddington is an artist currently working out of her home studio in Twisp, Washington located in the Methow Valley. She developed a multi-step process using layers of acrylic paints, 3-D outline and clear acrylic finish. The paintings have a depth, movement and jewel-like quality to the color that make them truly unique. It is a very physical process and gives her the opportunity to work on several paintings at the same time.

In addition to the works available at Studio A her paintings are on display in various exhibits regionally, and at her studio in Twisp. Commissions are very welcome.

"I am not a writer but I have lots of adventures and stories to tell, thus my paintings are my pages. As in my life, I must have humor, so you will see it in the paintings or just a title. Sometimes with bright colors and subject matter, I will make a statement."

INFO: info@methowartsalliance.org

(Ginger Reddington's new exhibit is located in Studio A, a project of Methow Arts, located between Cinnamon Twisp and Thrifty Fox on Glover Street in Twisp.)



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METHOW ARTS: 100 ARTS EDUCATION VIDEOS

If you'd told Methow Arts a year ago that in March 2021 we'd be celebrating the completion of our 100th art instruction video, we might not have believed you. But it's the truth!

Over the past six months our art instruction videos have reached thousands of students of all ages--from a 3-year-old in Kansas City, MO to her grandmother in the Methow Valley; from hybrid students to remote learners to homeschoolers; from teachers to community members to youth groups; throughout Central Washington, down the Pacific Coast, and even across the globe. Our videos nurture a love of creative expression and they help students develop skills to observe, reflect, focus, engage, and persist.

We wouldn't be celebrating this 100-video milestone without the imagination and dedication of our teaching artists. Thank you Bethany Wray, Christa Culbert, Amber Zimmerman Fine Art, Bruce Morrison, Anne Andersen, James Daniel Anderson, B Boy Hero, Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Missi K Smith, Roxanne L Best, Dan Brown, Rob Crandall, Miguel Renteria, Hannah Viano, and Brooke Bourn.

Find our art videos here: <http://www.methowarts.org/arts-videos-grades-k-6/> And stay tuned for 100 more!



(Since Covid-19 resulted in school closures, remote learning and reduced student hybrid days in some schools, Methow Arts has leased a new Studio (Studio A) to film arts education videos featuring our local artists with high-quality lessons. Artist photos top and clockwise: Subhaga Crystal Bacon, Miguel Renteria, Brooke Bourn, Bethany Wray, Rob Crandall, Missi Smith, Anne Andersen.)

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GOT FOBS?

FOBS: FEAR OF BEING SEEN



By Paula Christen

At the end of his catching up email was "Oh, and I wrote book." Wow! I immediately zipped back a congratulations, letting him know I followed the link and bought it immediately. How exciting! My friend - the author! Never would have guessed. This guy was a high school classmate; so into football and muscle cars. You just never know.

His modest reply back "It's not much to brag about." Yep, totally get that. FOBS - fear of being seen. It's the universal nightmare of standing naked in front of a crowd with that thing you just poured your time and soul into now on public view. It's personal. You are stripped bare and judged. Been there.

My paintings were on the walls in my first ever group gallery show. Passing through the doors, I could hardly breathe and could actually hear the blood pulse in my ears. Scared, nervous and exposed, I spent most of the time just looking at every other artist's work and only glancing at mine out of the corner of my eye. Honestly - I wished they had given me the gallery keys so I could sneak in there at night before the show opened, just to take it all in and fake a facade of calm at the opening reception.

Doing anything creative and sharing, means facing FOBS. Don't let that stop you. Give us your book, music, poetry, paintings, pottery, tapestry and bread.

Have no regrets of "shoulda' coulda". Take that idea that's bumping around in your brain now for months (or years) and bring it to life. I stand up to applaud you in advance!



ABOUT PAULA CHRISTEN.

"Even today, living out our lives on small screens, we still need that connection to nature and landscapes.

Until a few years ago, I could not have told you my big "

Why." Why am I drawn to paint landscapes and the stories of people who share part of their lives in open spaces? The layers of my life reveal a simple truth - nature's landscape has been both a place of celebrations and of refuge. "Nature immediately connects me to joy".

Mountains are the backdrop for many great memories of family and friends gathering together. I grew up in the forested, rural countryside. My parents spent time with my sister and me in the outdoors; camping, lakeside picnics, walks in fall colors, sledding and skiing. To pay for college, I worked four summers as a U.S. Forest Service lookout perched above the trees. Those months of living in that serenity, I honed peace and centering skills that would help me navigate life. By spending time in nature, you can find breathing room and calm.

Nature has also been my trusted companion during those painful chapters in life. As a civilized western nation, we tend to go the way of the "3 M's" - Medication, Mars Bars or Merlot. My default became long walks outside. By moving one foot in front of the other out

in the fresh air, eventually the giant knot in my stomach lessened and the brain fog cleared. The direction I needed to take became clear outdoors. Being in nature and relaxation are connected.

Today, we let our lives get over-the-top busy, layered with packed schedules, long commutes and a seemingly endless list of "must do". We don't get outside enough and stare at small screens too much. The media often reminds us that Nature needs our protection and the truth is, we in turn, need Nature to develop and nurture our best selves. My paintings are a way to reconnect us back to those spaces, places that give us so much."



METHOW ARTS PRESENTS

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GINGER REDDINGTON AT STUDIO A THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021.

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HANNAH VIANO DESIGNS ART PANELS FOR TWISP CREATIVE DISTRICT

A series of art panels will soon be installed on buildings in downtown Twisp, thanks to a recent grant from the Washington State Arts Commission, matching funds from Methow Arts and In-kind support from the Town of Twisp.

For the Project Methow Arts hired Hannah Viano to design artwork that would help in connecting different unique aspects of Twisp, WA. The artwork also should encourage one to walk around Twisp and explore.

Viano is an artist and illustrator based in the Methow Valley. She strives to mix art, science, history, and education together to foster curiosity and sense of place. "Starting with simple tools I create, graphic, modern images that timelessly capture the movements of the hand inside each line, and distill down the essence of a subject," says Viano. Beyond original art pieces, this comes to life in children's books, teaching residencies, and public art projects.

The Project includes four 3' x 6' steel panels. Each will have a colorful powder coated steel as the background with core-ten steel cut to depict the art images and smaller details made from stainless steel. One depicts the Methow Valley Community Center showcasing the Vibrance, Community and Commerce of Twisp. The second is a design of the Twisp Lookout Tower focusing on Recreation, Forestry and History. The third is an iconic barn located just outside Twisp representing Agriculture, Farming and Foodways. And the fourth depicts a boat on the Methow River, Relaxation, Recovery and Rivers.

"The panels are intended to connect both visitors and community members with Twisp's history and story," says Amanda Jackson Mott, executive director of Methow Arts and Twisp Creative District Project Administrator. "We'll add a fifth vinyl design to the Bus Kiosk on Glover Street which will incorporate all four designs and serve as a place to elaborate about our Creative District and future projects."

Twisp was officially designated a WA state Creative District last June. Since that time Methow Arts and the Town of Twisp have teamed up to implement its first Creative District project. Designs will be on display in Methow Arts windows starting in March for public viewing. INFO: amanda@methowartsalliance.org.



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