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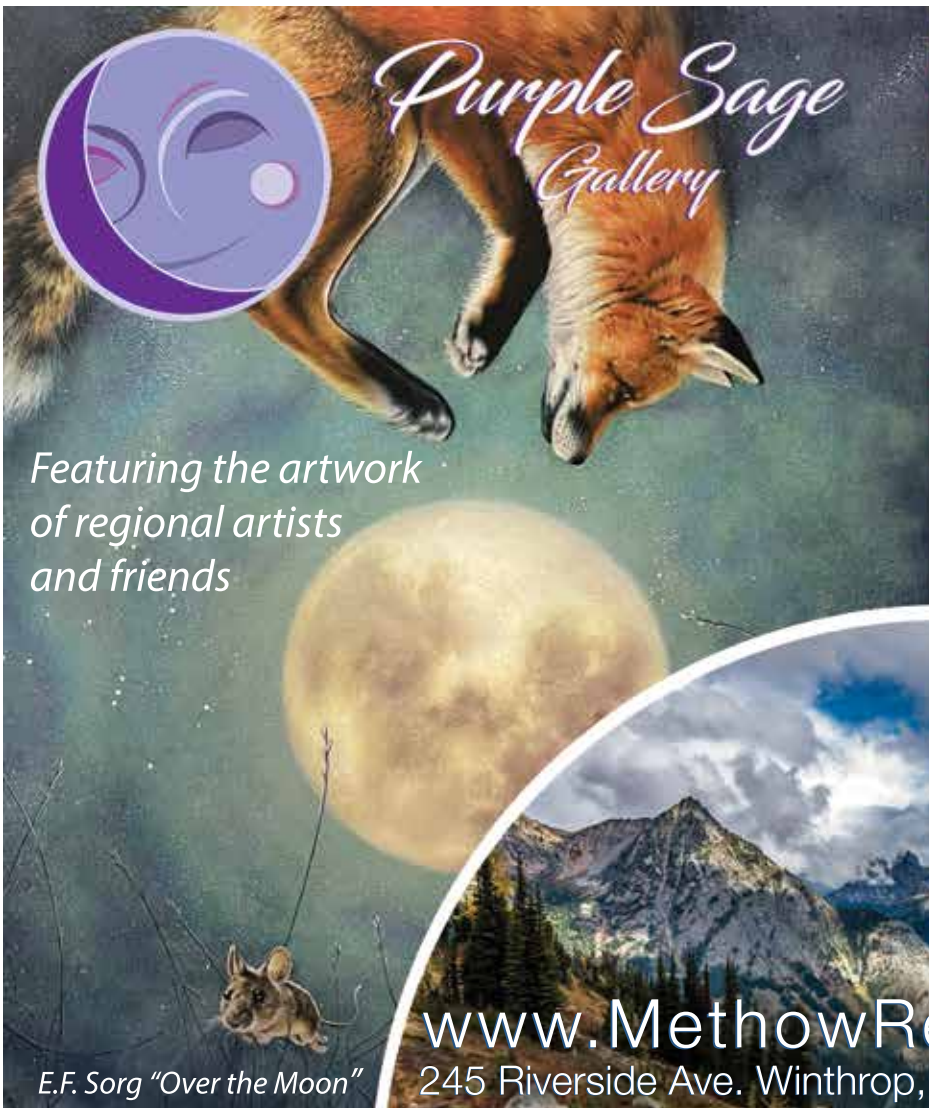
FALL 2021

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MAKE PIE, DRINK WHISKEY AND ENGAGE IN AN EVENING OF POETRY

TO AWARD-WINNING BAKER AND WRITER KATE LEBO, BAKING PIE IS A JOURNEY IN FRUIT, FLOUR AND BUTTER, SERVED WITH A DOLLOP OF POETRY AND A PINCH OF SASS!

Learn the art of making pie + drinking whiskey with Kate Lebo and Samuel Ligon at Pie & Whiskey on Thursday, November 4th. Space is very limited for Pie School participants and more for whiskey bystanders.

KATE LEBO is the author of Pie School, A Commonplace Book of Pie and her new book The Book of Difficult Fruit. Her essay "The Loudproof Room" appeared in New England Review and was chosen for Best American Essays 2015. Her poems, essays, and recipes have appeared in Best New Poets, Gastronomica, the Washington Post, Poetry Northwest, and elsewhere. She lives in Spokane, Washington.



Please note that both masks and vaccine cards are required to attend this in-person event.

SAMUEL LIGON is the author of—Miller Cane: A True and Exact Story, Among the Dead and Dreaming and Safe in Heaven Dead—and two collections of stories, Wonderland, illustrated by Stephen Knezovich, and Drift and Swerve. He edits the journal Willow Springs, teaches at Eastern Washington University in Spokane, and is artistic director of the Port Townsend Writers' Conference. Ligon lives in Spokane, Washington.

To award-winning baker and writer KATE LEBO, baking pie is a journey in fruit, flour and butter, served with a dollop of poetry and a pinch of sass. Tie on an apron and join her in Pie School, for creations as stirring as Blueberry Lemon Verbena Galette, Cheddar-Crusted Apple Pie and Whiskey Maple Pecan Pie. School has never been this much fun!



TICKETS: \$65/Pie School with Kate Lebo – includes hands-on Pie Instruction, Lebo's cookbooks, pie tasting, whiskey and supplies for pie dough. \$35/Whiskey drinker, pie-taster and bystander. DATE: Pie & Whiskey class, Thurs, Nov 4, Methow Arts, Twisp, WA. CONTACT: info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004.

(Reserve your spot early for Nov 4th's Pie School with Kate Lebo and Sam Ligon, poetry and whiskey! The event will be small to allow for social distancing and lots of hands-on learning! info@methowartsalliance.org.)

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CONFLUENCE gallery & art center
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Winthrop RHYTHM & BLUES FEST
Winthrop Music Association 509.997.3837 www.winthropbluesfestival.com

methow arts
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Methow Valley Chamber Festival
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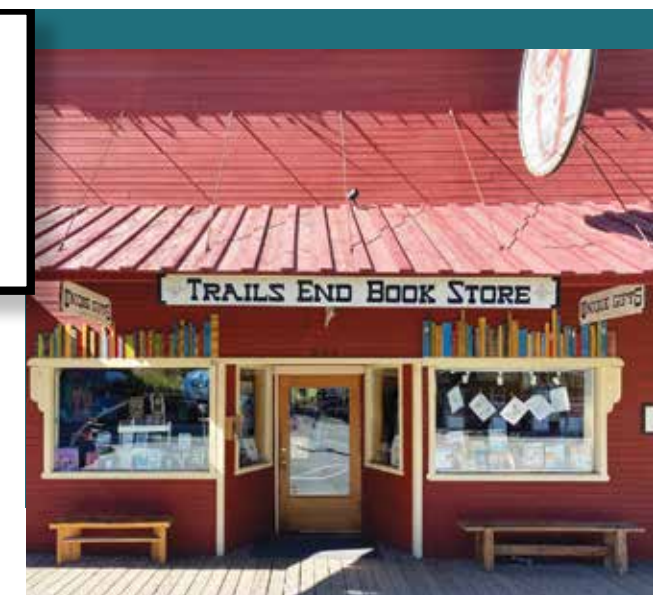


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SEPT

Methow Valley Orchestra Rehearsals
Beginning Sept 16, 6:30-8:30pm
In preparation for Cascadia's Holiday Concert in December. See article pg. 8.
At the Methow Valley Community Center, room 3, Twisp, WA. Registration and info, cascadiamv@gmail.com

Cascadia - Flora & Fauna of the Pacific & Subject to Change, the Work of Mark Eason
Through Sept 25
See article pg. 17. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Twisp Art Walk
Sat, Sept 25, 1-5pm
Over 40 local makers will be featured throughout Twisp, showcasing paintings, pottery, jewelry, sculpture, photography, and live music. See article pg. 5. Methowarts.org/twisp-21-fall-art-walk

Pop-Up Dance & Mural Painting
Sat, Sept 25, 1-5pm
Breakdancing, Poi-dancing and Mural Painting with Jess Newlin. At Methow Arts/outdoors, 204 E. 2nd St, Twisp, WA. info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004

Pause for Poetry
Sat, Sept 25, 105pm
The Treehouse Gallery, 214 S. Glover St., Twisp, WA.

Something in the Wind & The Work of Patty Yates in the Community Gallery
Sept 29-Nov 13
See article pg. 6. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

OCT

WA State Poet Laureate, Rena Priest
Tues, Oct 12, 5:30pm
At Methow Arts, 204 E. 2nd St, Twisp, WA. Registration in advance/masks & vaccine cards required. Free. See article pg. 7. Methowarts.org, info@methowartsalliance.org

CoronAnthology: The Year We Held our Breath
Oct 14-17
A creative, Methow compilation of stories, music, poetry, and more. See article pg. 5 \$5-\$10. Masks/vaccine cards required. At the Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. Mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529.

Teton Gravity Research - Stoke the Fire Film
Mon, Oct 18, 6pm and 8pm
TGR's 26th annual film release explores our athletes' evolution within skiing and the pure joy that manifests from that process. All ticket proceeds to benefit ROOM ONE. At Barnyard Cinema. thebarnyardcinema.com

Remembrance: Lifting the Veil
Thurs, Oct 28, 7pm
A reading of works celebrating the lives of those who have passed, as part of Dia de Los Muertos. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. info@confluencegallery.org.

Community Altar Building
Oct 28-Nov 4
A celebration of life while honoring death. See article pg. 9. At YourSpace, TwispWorks, Building N, Unit 2, 502 S Glover Street, Twisp, WA. Ideas, questions: Betani, kodiak0000@yahoo.com, Tracy, tracysprauer@gmail.com

Methow Arts' Pumpkin Carving Contest
Sat, Oct 30
Carve a pumpkin, enter our contest! Prizes \$25-\$150. Drop off your carved pumpkin Thurs, Oct 28-Sat, Oct 30 by 9:30am.
Prizes, winners announced Oct 30, noon. See article pg. 9. At Methow Arts. info@methowartsalliance.org.

NOV

Methow Arts: Pie & Whiskey with Kate Lebo and Sam Ligon
Nov 4, 5:30pm
Get ready for the holidays and enroll in Pie School and sip whiskey with Kate Lebo and Sam Ligon. Limited space. Vaccine cards/masks required to participate. See article pg. 3. info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004.

Methow Arts: Missoula Children's Theatre - The Snow Queen
Sat, Nov 13, 2pm & 7pm
Methow Valley 1st-12th grade students are invited to audition/perform for Missoula Children's Theatre's production of The Snow Queen. Auditions held Mon, Nov 8, from 12:40-2:40pm. At the Methow Valley Elementary School. info@methowartsalliance.org

Tori Karpenko in Seattle's Traver Gallery: Living Inside a Reflection
Nov 13-Dec 18
Traver Gallery, 110 Union St. #200, Seattle, WA. travergallery.com, torikarpenko.com

10 X 10: A Riot of Color & Methow: Image & Word, the work of Greg Wright
Nov 17-Jan 8
See article pg. 13 Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Methow Arts: The Atomic Bombshells Burlesque
Sat, Nov 20, 7pm
Adults only, 21 yrs+, Vintage Burlesque with the renowned Atomic Bombshells of Seattle. \$45/seat. Vaccine cards/masks required. Group accommodations. See article pg. 20. nfo@methowartsalliance.org

THE MERC PLAYHOUSE REOPENS ITS STAGE

Performers, drama aficionados, and community members who endured a year of darkened theaters are rejoicing (in cautious optimism) in the upcoming reopening of the Methow Valley's treasured stage at The Merc Playhouse, beginning with a Readers Theater-style original production about the global pandemic.

When COVID-19 began to feel real, back in March 2020, we drew in a collective breath: of anticipation, of uncertainty, of wonder. And then a year later—for a while at least—we released it.

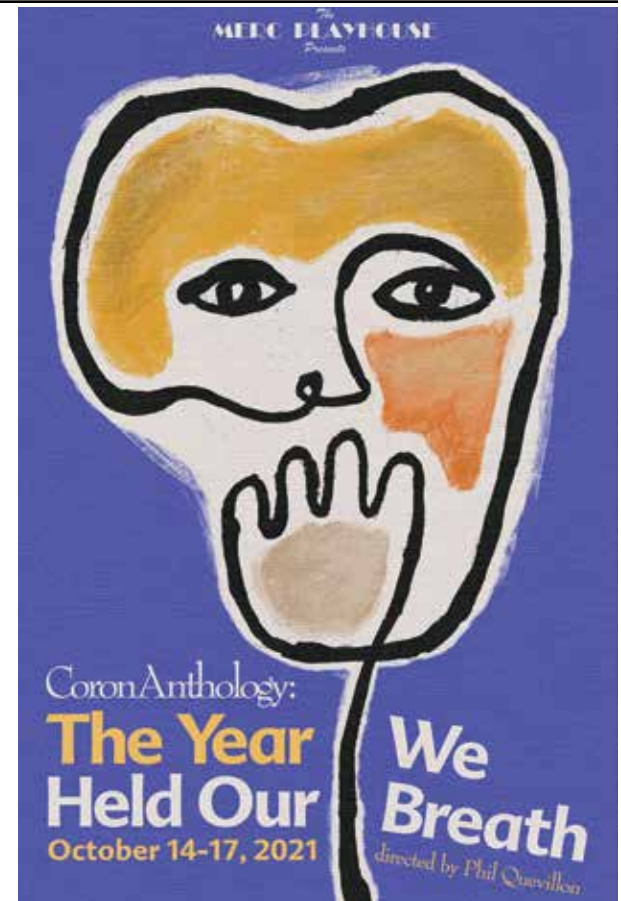
In October, The Merc Playhouse will honor the pandemic-era experiences of valley residents and visitors through its first indoor live performance in nearly two years in an original, Reader's Theater-style production called "CoronAnthology: the year we held our breath." Directed by local actor and theatre coach Phil Quevillon, "CoronAnthology" is scheduled to be performed at The Merc on Oct 14-17, 2021, and will feature the stories, thoughts, and learnings of those whose submissions were selected for the show.

The Merc's December production will be "a gift to the community," says Executive Director Missi Smith. "It's a Reader's Theater-style performance with The Merc staff and board. It's going to be really fun; there will be some new face up there—board members who have never appeared onstage before. It's going to be a great way to finish out the year."

2022 will bring—finally—the long-awaited and long-rehearsed "Fantastic Mr. Fox," through the Tom Zbysewski Children's Theater: a production that was in dress rehearsal the week before statewide pandemic shutdowns in March 2020. "The set is still painted on the wall," says Smith. "That's partly why we're doing Reader's Theater productions this fall; we're not going to paint over that beautiful set and then repaint it in the winter!"

After the 2020 summer being socially isolating due to the pandemic and the 2021 summer being isolating due to smoke, community members are craving connections, Smith says. "The Merc is as much a community meeting space as it is a performing arts space. Performing arts bring up topics that we love to explore, and we love to consider these topics with others. We create emotional connections through shared experiences, and they enrich our lives. We've all felt this void, and we're ready to reclaim this space to connect."

CONTACT/INFO: mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529. To read the full article visit www.methowarts.org/the-merc-playhouse-reopens-its-stage. DATES: The Merc production of CoronAnthology will be held Oct 14-17, Thurs-Sat, 7pm, Sun, 2pm. TICKETS: \$5/youth, \$10/adults. Masks and proof of vaccination (ages 12+) required.



TWISP FALL ART WALK AND STUDIO TOUR

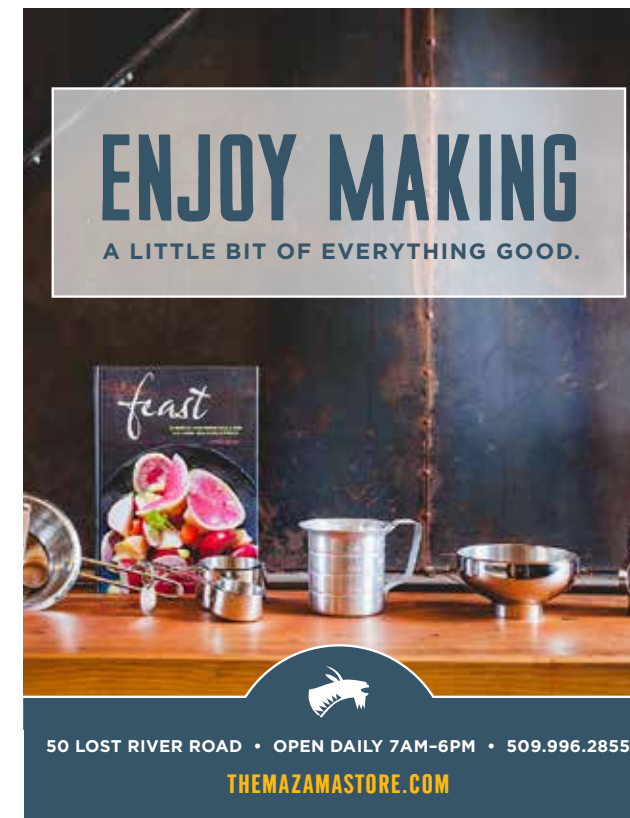
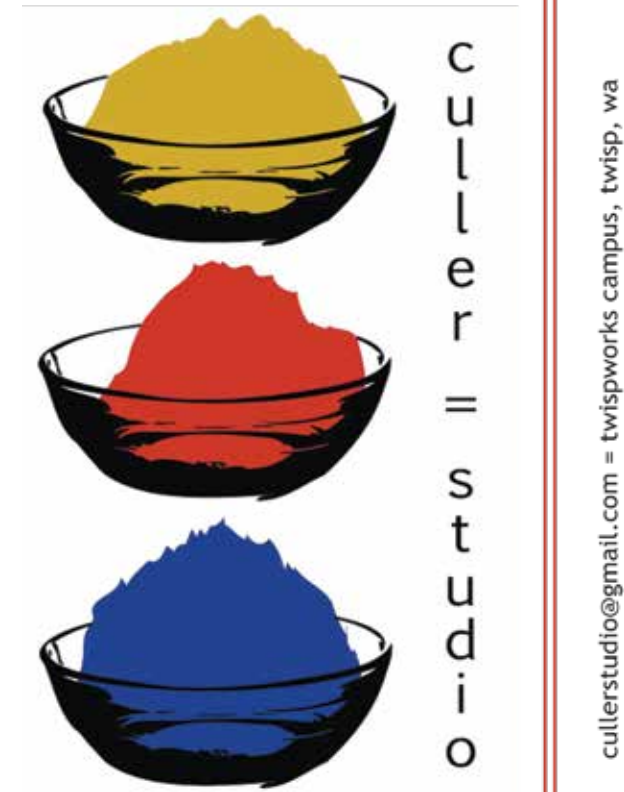
Art! Music! Food! On Saturday, September 25th from 1-5pm, find out why Twisp is the heART of the Methow Valley at the 3rd annual Twisp Fall Art Walk and Studio Tour.

Over 40 local artists, craftspeople and makers will be featured throughout the Town of Twisp, which comes alive with paintings, pottery, jewelry, sculpture, photography, tasty bites, live music and — above all — community connection. If you've had your eye on a piece of art, the Twisp Fall Art Walk is the perfect time to visit the Methow Valley to meet and support our local creators. This is a free event!

Walking maps highlighting studios, galleries, and other locations where you can find art and fun will be available in advance at TwispWA.com/fall-art-walk as well as in person at all participating organizations.

And don't forget to end your day at TwispWorks for an afterparty featuring live, local music!

DATE: Sat, Sept 25, 1-5pm. LOCATION: Throughout Twisp, WA.





SOMETHING IN THE WIND & THE WORK OF PATTY YATES

A show about the air element... Let's honor our air element and the winds that circulate around us. We imagine a show of transition, alteration, things moved by the wind – trees, leaves, and clouds; fire and smoke; kites and hot-air balloons; even rain and snow, migrating and soaring birds, and wind-blown people. We envision depictions of the unseen air, the very breath we breathe – the elemental qualities that make their power known through their effects on other things.

Curators, Cheryl Wrangle & Marcy Stamper

AND IN THE COMMUNITY GALLERY... THE WORK OF PATTY YATES

"When The Confluence asked me to have a show in the Community Gallery, all I could think about was trees, naturally – with drops of blue sky, a river, a hidden lake, and all my feelings for the Methow tumble out

of my paints. And the rocks. They cannot be forgotten.

We'll see if I follow this thread as I paint, or if the winds of change blow in. Regardless, it all comes back to the beauty of nature," Love Patty.



DATES: Sept 29-Nov 13 for both exhibits. INFO/CONTACT: info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787. LOCATION: At Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA.

FALL INTO TWISP

If you're a regular subscriber to Methow Arts Magazine, then you know how Twisp is home to an active artist community comprised of galleries, studios, theater, and live music venues.

No matter which time you visit this fall, get a start on the day with a locally-brewed, award-winning coffee and make your way around our navigable town to check out its charming eccentricities. Confluence Gallery on Glover Street (Twisp's main street) is a great place to start, offering free galleries and rotating exhibits year-round. Just a block north is Methow Arts, whose staff will happily point you to Twisp's local art spots, like the huge wasp sculpture in the nearby park, or the giant sphere sculpture located at TwispWorks. Speaking of TwispWorks, the 6.5-acre outdoor campus is a must-see when you're in town. Formerly a Forest Service complex, a decade of hard work transformed the spot into an eclectic studio space, perfect for shopping and strolling.

If you're visiting on a Saturday, our artists, makers and farmers all come to you at the Twisp Farmers Market, open 9am-Noon through October in the parking lot of the Methow Valley Community Center – home of the Twisp Visitor Information Center.

Not only is Twisp the heart of the Methow Valley, but it's also known for its scenic beauty. From Glover Street, it's a short half-mile walk (or drive) west along Twisp River Road to the Twisp Ponds, a haven of scenic paths between native plants and rearing ponds. Art and nature coexist at the ponds, where you'll find large-scale installations backed by stands of willow and black cottonwood. Between the various birds and busy beavers, you're almost guaranteed a wildlife sighting.

For a bit more exercise and epic views, Lookout Mountain can't be beat. This hike to a historic fire lookout tower is located approximately 8 miles from Twisp. Generally accessible through October, the 3-mile round trip trail delivers hikers through pine grass, lupine, and ponderosa pine to 360-degree valley views at 5,500 feet. It's the perfect fall hike in the Methow Valley.

Restore your calories back in downtown Twisp with your choice of a mile's worth of family-owned restaurants, spanning the north end of Glover Street (Twisp's main street) to the local-favorite food truck at the south end of Highway 20. Finish your night with a handcrafted brew at the OSB Taproom on the



TwispWorks campus while watching a live performance at its new outdoor pavilion, or head over to the lively Twisp River Taphouse (formerly the Twisp River Pub) for a slew of regional sips and jam out to a regional band. To know exactly what's on the arts and music agenda when you arrive, head to the Events page at TwispWA.com before your visit.

INFO/CONTACT: To plan your next visit, or to learn more about the local goings-on this fall, contact TwispWashington@gmail.com or call Twisp's Visitor Information Center: 509-997-2020. (PS: Mistletoe Madness Shopping Extravaganza returns to Twisp in early December – Stay Tuned!)

RENA PRIEST, WA STATE POET LAUREATE, WILL VISIT THE METHOW VALLEY AND OKANOGAN COUNTY IN EARLY OCTOBER

Methow Arts is excited to announce that poet Rena Priest, who was appointed the sixth Washington State Poet Laureate this year, will travel to the Methow Valley this October for school residencies and a public reading on Tuesday, October 12th.

Priest's literary debut, Patriarchy Blues, was honored with the 2018 American Book Award, and her most recent work is Sublime Subliminal. A member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation, she will be the first Indigenous poet to assume the role.

"I am incredibly excited and honored to take on this role," said Priest. "I'm fascinated by the way people come together around poetry. I am always delighted by how they gather in quiet rooms and let themselves be drawn in, lit up, and transformed by the words of other people. It's a powerful way of connecting."

Priest's term will run from April 14, 2021, to March 31, 2023. She will succeed Claudia Castro Luna, the former poet laureate. Prior to Castro Luna, Tod Marshall (2016-2018), Elizabeth Austen (2014-2016), Kathleen Flenniken (2012-2014), and Sam Green (2007-2009) held the position.

The Washington State Poet Laureate program is jointly sponsored by Humanities Washington and the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA). Poets laureate work to build awareness and appreciation of poetry—including the state's legacy of poetry—through public readings, workshops, lectures, and presentations in communities throughout the state. Laureates are selected through an application and panel review process that evaluates candidates' writing acumen, commitment to reaching diverse communities, and experience promoting poetry.

Each laureate puts their own unique focus on

the position, and Priest will focus on two primary goals during her term: celebrating poetry in Washington's tribal communities, and using poetry to increase appreciation of the natural world and the threats facing it.

"There are 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington, composed of 140,714 tribal citizens," said Priest. "I'm sad to say that in the hundreds of poetry readings I've attended over the years, I've only met a handful of Native poets. I know that this is not because we don't exist, but because we don't have the same access to writing communities as

"Poetry is a gift. This is my approach to it and my belief about it: I'm very lucky to have it. We all are," says Rena Priest.

people living in cities and towns."

For the environmental piece, she "hopes to use poetry and story to invite readers to engage in contemplation of how they can help protect the natural world."

"We are in an important historical moment when science has given us a deadline to make significant changes to heal our planet," she said. "I want to use poetry as a tool to offer new perspectives and generate enthusiasm for the idea that we can slow and reverse the effects of ecological destruction simply by loving the Earth."

Priest was drawn to poetry from an early age. Her grandmother published a small chapbook of poetry, and she cites that and Shel Silverstein's book Where the Sidewalk Ends as "among the finest gifts I've ever been given." And as a child, Priest would lie in bed at night and "whisper pleasing word combinations. It was the best thing



I knew how to do. It's still the best thing I know how to do."

In addition to winning the American Book Award, Priest received the Allied Arts Foundation 2020 Professional Poets Award, a 2020 Vadon Foundation Fellowship, and residency fellowships from Hawthornden Castle, Hedgebrook, and Mineral School. She is a National Geographic Explorer and a 2019 Jack Straw Writer. Priest's work can be found in Poetry Northwest, Pontoon Poetry, Verse Daily, Poem-a-Day at Poets.org, and elsewhere. She has taught Comparative Cultural Studies and Contemporary American Issues at Western Washington University and Native American Literature at Northwest Indian College. Priest holds a BA in English from Western Washington University and an MFA in Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. She lives in Bellingham, Washington.

DATE: Public Reading, Tues, Oct 12, 5:30pm-6:30pm. LOCATION: Methow Arts, Twisp, WA. MASKS/VACCINE CARDS required. Attendees will be encouraged to pre-register. Limited space. INFO: info@methowartsalliance.org, methowarts.org

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CALLING ALL MUSICIANS! METHOW VALLEY ORCHESTRA BEGINS REHEARSALS THIS SEPTEMBER

The Methow Valley Orchestra returns this fall in preparation for their annual Holiday Concert December 7th & 8th. A true community ensemble, the Methow Valley Orchestra is open to any orchestral musician who would like to participate.

Musicians play for the love of making music together, and connect through creativity. Even if you haven't played since high school, dust off that oboe and join in Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm at the Methow Valley Community Center. Like many activities right now, participation requirements, ensemble structure, and all dates are subject to change based on the public health situation. All musicians must provide proof of full vaccination.

Cascadia is excited to announce that Terry Hunt is their new 2021-22 Orchestra Director. Terry Hunt

co-founded of Pipestone School of Music with his wife Pam. He has been teaching guitar for over 35 years, and has served as the Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus (OVOC) Orchestra Director and the Cascadia Chorale Director. He holds an M.A. from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Colorado, Boulder, both in classical guitar performance.

DATES: Rehearsals: Thursdays, beginning Sept 16, 6:30-8:30pm; Performances: Cascadia Holiday Concert, Dec 7 & 8, time TBA.
LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center Auditorium, Twisp, WA.
CONTACT/REGISTRATION/INFO: cascadiamv@gmail.com.



CASCADIA CHORALE UPDATE

The Cascadia Chorale brings together singers of all generations to rehearse and perform a wide variety of music. Because singing indoors remains a high-risk activity, Cascadia looks to 2022 to convene again under the baton of Dana Stromberger. Cascadia invites all current and future members of the Chorale to stay involved and welcomes the community to join leadership committees or the Cascadia Board. This will

ensure that when it is safe, Cascadia Chorale can come back stronger than ever.

CONTACT: Cascadia Music, cascadiamv@gmail.com, www.cascadiamusic.org.

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Get your pumpkins ready for carving this Halloween with Methow Arts' 2nd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest – a celebration of the artistry of our local community. Prizes range from \$25-\$150 and include both youth and adult categories.

This year, all pumpkins will be displayed and judged outside of Methow Arts. All pumpkin-carving contestants should bring their carved pumpkins to Methow Arts between Thursday, October 28 and Saturday, October 30th by 9:30am. Winners will be selected and announced by noon on Saturday. Contestants can take their pumpkins home at that time for Halloween or donate their pumpkin to the Burgar Street Halloween Festivities for display.

Like last year categories will be organized for both youth and adults with cash prizes for the top selected winners.

Categories, rules and prize information can be



found online @ methowarts.org/pumpkin-carving-contest2021.

DATES: Drop off pumpkins Thurs, Oct 28-Sat, Oct 30 by 9:30am. **INFO:** info@methowartsalliance.org



Confluence Poets Presents

Artwork by Tania Gonzalez Ortega

Remembrance: Lifting the Veil

On Thursday, October 28 Confluence Poets presents a reading of works celebrating the lives of those who have passed, as part of annual local observances of Día de Los Muertos.

Learn more about this Mexican custom through this alternately somber and lively event! At The Confluence, Thurs, Oct 28, 7pm. Free.

Methow Valley Watershed Photo Contest 2021

Whether you are a professional photographer or just like to snap photos with your phone, the Methow Valley Citizens Council wants to experience the Methow through your lens.



3 Photo Categories
Wildlife
Landscape
#MethowCharacter*

Submission Deadline - Nov. 1st 2021

Judges: Peter Bauer, Wildlife Photographer; MVCC Board Member
Tari Diegel, Professional Photographer; NCW Audubon Society
Bruce McCannan, Professional Photographer; NCW Audubon Society

Prizes: Grand Prize = \$150
First Prize in Each Category = \$50
1 Honorable Mention in each category (no prize)

*entries accepted via Instagram & Facebook
For more info and to enter click on the Photo Contest link at www.mvccitizens.org
Questions? Email: photocontest@mvccitizens.org

CELEBRATE LIFE OVER DEATH WITH A COMMUNITY ALTAR BUILDING

Please join us for a community Altar building and celebration of life while honoring Death event at YourSpace on the TwispWorks campus October 28-November 4th. YourSpace will be opened for prayer, conversation, stories, candle lighting and adding to the altar each afternoon and into the evening.

A small, intimate, and open circle will take place each evening in the Lookout building located in the southeast corner of the Native Plant Garden also on the TwispWorks campus. Each evening the conversation within the circle will discuss a different theme on death. More details coming soon, stay tuned to the TwispWorks website for updates.

DATES: Oct 28-Nov 4. **LOCATION:** YourSpace Building N, Unit 2, 502 S Glover Street, on the TwispWorks campus,



Twisp, WA. **CONTACT:** Questions, thoughts, ideas email Betania at kodiak0000@yahoo.com or Tracy at tracysprauer@gmail.com.

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Mandy Shoger of Foxtail Pottery: Turning mountains into art

BY MARCY STAMPER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOL GUTIERREZ

It's a rare privilege to be able to literally shape mountains into art. That's how Mandy Shoger of Foxtail Pottery relates to her work.

"I'm addicted to clay. There's a magical feel about clay – it's basically mountains beaten down by the years," she said.

Part of that obsession grows out of the limitless possibilities for shaping clay into different forms, from graceful to chunky to sculpturally eccentric. But there's also simply the way clay feels.

Clay has a unique plasticity that enables it to be shaped with the hands. "Once you start feeling that, it's really magical – it's great therapy for stress," Shoger said. "You have to be present in the moment – if you move your hands, you lose control."

Watching a potter start with a slab of clay and then coax it into a bowl or mug on the wheel can seem magical. But clay also works its power in mental and physical ways. It teaches patience, Shoger said.

"It can be cruel – it can crack, or not work out the way you think, so you need detachment," she said. "You can't control clay like other mediums, because it's so susceptible to the elements, to heat and humidity. The kiln is not always predictable, and that's part of the magic."

It wasn't until relatively late in her career that Shoger dedicated herself to ceramics, although she's always been attracted to the satisfying malleability of clay. As a child, she created little pastries out of mud, which she'd set out to dry in the sun.

In college, Shoger studied painting, focusing on portraiture (she also studied philosophy, for good

measure). Although she had a chance to work with many mediums in school, she'd never really explored ceramics.

After graduation, Shoger tried to find a way to make a living as an artist. She did quick pastel portraits at arts fairs and made jewelry before getting a job as a buyer for an import gallery in Seattle that specialized in pottery and textiles.

She would accompany the owner on trips to small towns in Mexico, where each village had its own distinctive style of pottery. The job exposed her to the rich array of crafts and how they reflect regional traditions. The artists had evolved their own technique for shaping and firing pieces based on the local clay deposits, Shoger said.



But then Shoger's career took a turn. She wanted to do work that helped people directly and went back to school to become an X-ray technologist. She ultimately specialized in interventional radiology, where she did extremely precise work, feeding tubes and wires into blood vessels to clear blockages in the heart or brain.

"It was really fun, hands-on – and high stress," Shoger said. Patients were often in critical condition,

and it was common to be called into work in the middle of the night to do a procedure.

For a break from her job, Shoger took pottery classes at a community center near her home in Seattle. As she became more accomplished, she started selling mugs and other functional pottery on Etsy, and ultimately built wholesale accounts, selling to stores and galleries. Demand grew and she sold more locally and all over the country. Over several years she transitioned from full time to part-time hospital work so she could grow her business and focus more and more on clay.

After Shoger and her husband moved to the Methow Valley in 2017, she continued to work a few days a month as a cath lab and interventional radiology tech, but two years ago, she finally made the leap and committed to focusing full time on pottery.

Today, Shoger's so busy that she can no longer serve her wholesale accounts. The bulk of her sales are at the Twisp farmers market and her retail space at TwispWorks. Shoger loves the serendipity

of the market, the interactions with customers, and the different reactions to her art. "I love setting up my table and seeing who walks by," she said.

"I'm really surprised that in a tiny little town, you can be a full-time artist. There's just such support for artists here," she said.

Shoger's pottery, in muted greens, blues, pinks, and off-white, is distinguished by geometric



designs inspired by her extensive travels in Asia and Morocco, and by ornaments from Gothic architecture.

She uses a brown clay that takes on a warm, understated shade after firing. Her sumptuous designs feature stripes, arches, and spiral designs; riffs on flowers, buds and petals; scallops; flocks of birds, and intricate whorls. There are stout, rounded mugs; deep and shallow bowls; and gently flared vases and cake stands.

Although working with wet clay is Shoger's favorite part of the process, she's captivated by patterns and colors. "I feel an energy when I see certain patterns and shapes together – I feel a spark," she said.

While she makes many lines of pottery, the colors, shapes, and overall aesthetic are cohesive. Many of Shoger's clients collect different pieces, add to a set, or mix and match designs.

Shoger enjoys blending pottery techniques that have been used for thousands of years with modern computerized tools. She devised a technique for creating designs using stencils, something that's rarely done in pottery. She draws her designs on paper or a computer, and then scales them to fit a mug or bowl. Using a specialized scrapbook printer, she prints a cut-out stencil on adhesive-backed vinyl, which she peels off and affixes to the clay

after the initial firing. When she glazes the piece, the areas under the stencil remain unglazed.

Making functional pottery requires turning out many identical pieces, but Shoger makes so many different shapes – mugs, bowls, plates, trays – that there's

an incredible variety. "The actual working with wet clay is so satisfying that even the repetitive stuff is enjoyable, because I love clay so much," she said.

There's also the infinite diversity achieved through glazes. Mastering glazes requires in-depth knowledge of both art and science. Shoger has been expanding her understanding through an online class in glaze chemistry, learning from glaze experiments by thousands of fellow students from around the world.

In a room in her TwispWorks studio, dozens of containers are stacked on shelves containing ordinary-looking white and brown powders – silica, magnesium, calcium, tin oxide, bentonite, talc. Just a hundredth of a gram can alter the color, sheen, or texture of a glaze.

Hundreds of glazed samples show the range of effects, from glossy opaques to translucent pastels, to surfaces flecked with bubbles or flinty specks. Different kiln temperatures also affect the outcome.

Pottery is simultaneously a connection with the past and an opening to unknown possibilities of the future. Potters still use some of the same glaze recipes used in China, Turkey, and Japan thousands of years ago, she said.

Shoger always has a project going, whether it's ceramics or another hands-on pursuit. Her passion for working with the earth also extends to gardening, which connects her directly to the earth in a therapeutic way, much like clay. This summer, she's growing 140 dahlias.

"Plants surprise me every day," she said. She'd like to create floral arrangements with ceramic vessels specifically designed to complement the arrangement. She plans to keep studying the science of growing flowers and the art of creating floral installations, with the hope of weaving her love of clay and flowers together in a way that can bring joy to others.

Working with clay and devising new designs are immensely satisfying on their own, but it's the way pottery links her to the world – to the earth and to cultures over the long span of time – that is especially satisfying.

"To think that this came out of the earth, from a mountain, and I formed it with my hands. And then a person will use it during their day for coffee – it's such a special connection with other humans, a way to communicate without words," Shoger said.



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YOUTH ARTS INITIATIVE LAUNCHES IN CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT, EXPANDS IN METHOW VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thanks to a grant from Icicle Fund, students in grades K-5 in the Cascade School District and grades K-6 in the Methow Valley School District will engage in regular, sequential art instruction through Methow Arts' Youth Arts Initiative (YAI) pilot program.

The initiative is a three-year pilot grant that has a goal of increasing the dosage of high quality arts education. The program focuses specifically on sequential art learning in the principles and elements of art for early grade levels, establishing a foundation in the arts for later years.

The YAI program is aligned with Washington State Arts Learning Standards and was developed in the Methow Valley and Omak School Districts in 2019, serving more than 900 students in grades K-3. The YAI program was discontinued in Omak due to funding concerns, but will begin its third year in the Methow Valley in fall 2021, serving all enrolled Methow Valley K-6 students.

The grant acts as a pilot program to be monitored, tested, and adapted, and aims to assist other organizations across NCW in establishing successful partnerships with school districts and arts education program development and implementation after completion of the project.

None of the schools who will be reached through this grant—Alpine Lakes Elementary, Methow Valley Elementary, and Peshastin-Dryden Elementary—has a designated art teacher.



THE FACES OF YAI

BETHANY WRAY continues to teach grades K-3 in the Methow Valley's YAI program. Bethany began teaching the YAI program in Omak in 2019, then moved to Methow Valley Elementary in

2020, delivering a diverse and engaging YAI program throughout the school year (read more HERE). Bethany graduated from Biola University with a BFA in Painting and Otis College of Art and Design with a MFA. Her work has been shown in various locations including Los Angeles and New York. Bethany works with classroom teachers in grades K-3 to develop learners who understand the critical concepts commonly associated with the International Baccalaureate "Design Cycle" through the integration of the arts in grades K-3. In their weekly sessions, students learn about other artists in history and create art using the principles and elements of art they observe in these artists' work, such as learning about color through artist Alma Thomas, exploring texture through artist Romare Bearden, and creating patterns through artist Kehinde Wiley. Email Bethany at Bethany@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

AMBER ZIMMERMAN instructs the YAI program at Alpine Lakes Elementary in the Cascade School District. Art is a way of life for Amber and her family. A fourth-generation artist, Amber earned her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Art from Evergreen State College. Amber has taught art extensively in the Cascade School District, developing and delivering both the KArt and LEAAP (Leavenworth Elementary Art Appreciation Project) programs in K-2 and K-5



respectively. She is active in the Leavenworth arts community, participates in gallery exhibits, and teaches community art classes for students and adults. She has participated in Washington State's Teaching Artist Training Lab (TAT Lab) and Icicle Fund's Conservation, History, and Art (CHA) residency. A mother of two, Amber refers to art as "the great problem-solver" and looks forward to helping students explore visual arts in

a strategic, sequential way. Email Amber at Amber@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

CHRISTA CULBERT instructs grades 4-6 in the YAI expansion at Methow Valley Elementary School. Christa



loves animals, sailboats, trail runs, mountain bikes, ice cream, artwork, and her dog, Uisce ("Ish-ca"). She got her BFA in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and first came to the Methow Valley to work for Northwest Outward Bound School in Mazama. As a teaching artist with Methow Arts' Artist-in-Residence program, Christa

taught art extensively throughout Okanogan County elementary schools, including Omak, Okanogan, Brewster, and the Methow Valley. When she's not teaching art, Christa works as a horse trainer and professional artist. Email Christa at Christa@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

LORE SMART instructs the YAI program at Peshastin-Dryden Elementary in the Cascade School District. Lore earned her bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in interior design. She is currently attending Central Washington University, earning her master's degree in Teaching. Lore has a deep passion for art and educating others on the importance of creative thinking. A strong believer of original expression, Lore is drawn



YOUTH ARTS INITIATIVE CONTINUED

to the beauty and uniqueness of animals and earths landscapes, providing the perfect springboard for her diverse paintings. Her love for children drives her passion for teaching. With four children of her own, Lore and her husband love taking their family on many outdoor adventures including: skiing, paddleboarding, hiking and surfing (we need a lot of garage space for all our gear). Residing in Wenatchee, WA, Lore finds her greatest joy in creating memories with her loved ones. Email Lore at Lore@MethowArtsAlliance.org.

Implementation of the YAI program utilizes Okanogan County data from the 2017 Youth Arts Opportunities Study, which identified gaps and opportunities, as well as barriers and supporter of youth arts education in Okanogan County. Additional data emphasizing need for this grant is derived from Methow Arts Alliance's evaluation, which collects quantitative and qualitative data annually from school districts across Okanogan County.

CONTACT/INFO: Methow Arts Alliance, info@methowartsalliance.org.



10 X 10: A RIOT OF COLOR

This Open Call exhibit will feature color. After isolation, does color play a more important role in our lives? Do different colors bring about different reactions? What things, places, scenes, emotions, feelings, thoughts, assumptions, and surprises are evoked with each color of the rainbow? We invited artists to explore and play with any color in our world in small works for our holiday gift show. We challenged them to work in predominantly monochromatic hues, shades, and tones to explore one color at a time.

Collectively, let's start a riot...of color!

Curator, Joanne Marracci

DATES: Nov 17 to Jan 8. INFO/CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.



(Steve Jensen's Blue Water Canoe sculpture.)

METHOW: IMAGE & WORD, THE WORK OF GREG WRIGHT



"My first introduction to the Methow arts community upon relocating to Twisp was a reading of the Confluence Poets at Confluence Gallery, coordinated with the theme of the exhibit, "Reflections on Water." The event spoke to my soul, and within not many weeks I was myself a participating member of the Poets and on the board of the Gallery," says Greg Wright.

"I have been working with the camera for 40 years now, including a brief stint in the 1990s as an "expedition photographer," but I have never previously exhibited my work. I am not fond of self-promotion, and given that my primary mode of artistic expression is via the

written word (as poet, novelist, playwright, sports journalist, news editor, essayist, and film critic) I have been completely content to promote others' visual art. For instance, I curated the photography of my late wife, Jennifer Leone, for 10 years and managed her sales and slate of group and solo exhibits.

When presented with the opportunity to curate my own debut solo exhibit for The Confluence, I decided to honor the wisdom of my poetic tribute, "After Mary Oliver." Every poem "is a camel laden with straw," I have written, in part learning that lesson from Oliver; the artist must be continually conscious of how much each work of art may legitimately bear, neither asking too little of the piece nor too much.

The aims of "Image and Word" are simplicity and directness. I present to you photographs and poems which to me distill my artistic, and perhaps spiritual, experience of the Methow."

DATES: Nov 17-Jan 8. INFO: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

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MUSIC AFLOAT WITH METHOW ARTS

The funky, eclectic sounds of the fun-loving Bitterroot Beets were the perfect launch to Methow Arts' summer concert series. Held on Patterson Lake, the free, float-in/boat-in concert drew several hundred concertgoers, lake users, and guests of Sun Mountain Lodge's Patterson Lake Cabins. It was the first lakeside collaboration between Methow Arts and Sun Mountain Lodge, but based on the audience's enthusiastic response, it certainly won't be the last.

The audience arrived afloat in and on a range of watercraft. They were on stand-up paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, and rafts. They were in motorboats, houseboats, pedal boats, and pontoon boats. They were on inner tubes, air mattresses, water wings, pool floaties, and air-filled vinyl unicorns. One party enjoyed the concert from the comfort of their inflatable couch.

The temperature was above 105°C and the Bitterroot Beets were (metaphorically) on fire, in one of their first public concerts since the pandemic began, but the cool lake water, light breeze, and shade trees kept the concert environment not just comfortable, but downright pleasant.

After grooving to the Beets' tunes—on boats, on the floating docks, and standing in the water along the shoreline—the concertgoers lingered on the lake long after the final strains of music drifted across the water, enjoying each other's company, watching the gathering dusk, and savoring the sensations of a perfect summer evening.

Stay tuned for 2022's line up @ methowarts.org.



(Thanks to Sun Mountain Lodge, Methow Arts was able to put on its first Lake Concert at Patterson Lake Cabins in June with the audience afloat! Photos by Steve Mitchell Photography.)

METHOW ARTS PRESENTS: MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE, THE SNOW QUEEN

Methow Valley 1st-12th grade students invited to audition for Missoula Children's Theatre's production of THE SNOW QUEEN.

THE SNOW QUEEN is set in a land of colored ice, but this classic tale will warm your heart in its illustrative retelling by a group of fun-loving, imaginative hobgoblins. As the gremlins depict the journey of a young girl and her quest to find her best friend, you may just find yourself believing in malevolent mirrors, yetis, talking reindeer, and snow chickens! Blizzards can come at any moment, so strap on some snowshoes and get ready to discover what it takes to overcome chilling obstacles, keep resilience alive, and melt down the Snow Queen's icy walls.

AUDITIONS: Mon, Nov 8, from 12:40-2:40pm, at the Methow Valley Elementary School. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition. All students, grades 1-12 are encouraged to audition. No advance

preparation or experience is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to assist with the technical aspects of the production.

MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct rehearsals at Methow Valley Elementary throughout the week from 12:40-5pm each day. Not all actors will need to rehearse every day; the youngest children typically start rehearsal on Wednesday. For older actors, rehearsals take up much of each afternoon all week.

DATE: Performance, Sat, Nov 13, 2pm & 7pm. LOCATION: Methow Valley Elementary School Commons. TICKETS: At the door. Students/\$5, adults/\$8, under 5/free. Masks will be required for all audience members for the duration of the performance and other relevant Covid-19 requirements will be required during that time and updated. AUDITIONS: Mon, Nov 8, 12:40-2:40pm



at Methow Valley Elementary School. CONTACT: info@methowartsalliance.org, methowarts.org, 509.997.4004. For potential updates to performance information, visit www.methowarts.org/missoula-childrens-theatre-the-snow-queen

STREET DANCE STYLE

Street dance may have evolved in an urban setting, but b-boy Miguel Renteria is showing that it can thrive in rural communities as well.

Renteria, who is a teaching artist for Methow Arts, moved to the Methow Valley from Olympia in the fall of 2020, bringing with him a decade of experience breaking and competing in street dance "battles," as well as several years of experience teaching breaking to youth at places like Boys and Girls Clubs.

Renteria began dancing because he grew up in a musical family and was surrounded by dancers, but kept with it because, he says, "I found that it was a good outlet for me to express my emotions—to release anger without violence."

As a child raised in the foster system, Renteria needed street dance's ethic of inclusion and community as sources of strength and stability. Because of street dance's vernacular nature, its unchoreographed, improvisational form, and its socially inclusive vibe, Renteria was able to immerse himself in it and find the acceptance he craved.



A few months into his new life in the Methow Valley, Renteria was recruited by Methow Arts to make breakdance lesson videos as part of Methow Arts' remote learning art instruction videos program. Subsequently, Renteria taught breaking at Methow Valley Elementary School's afterschool enrichment program. Response from students was so enthusiastic that Renteria launched a 9-week summer breakdance series, which filled quickly with 40 students from

throughout Okanogan County, some of whom showcased their moves in two public street dance demonstrations in Twisp during the summer.

In his lessons, Renteria encourages students to express themselves through movement, creating a safe environment for kids to dance in a way that reflects how they feel. "It's fun, authentic, and therapeutic," he says. "There's endless creativity. Breaking allows you to do as you feel."

Renteria is active in the breaking battle scene on Washington State's west side, but as a working single father, he is tied to a work and school schedule. Teaching breaking and watching his student blossom on the dance floor feeds him as much as competing does. "I'm trying to spread breakdancing culture in a positive way," he says. "I'm creating opportunities for the next generation of dancers. I'm always going to be learning, passing it on, and hope that someday these kids will pass it on too."

For full article and links to Renteria's breaking instruction videos, visit www.methowarts.org/street-dance-style/

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METHOW VALLEY GOODS – ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: DRAGONFISH ARTS

Methow Valley Goods, the valley's one-stop-shop for all things local, features the work of over eighty artists from the Methow Valley and Okanogan County. Store manager, Lindsey Bryson, sat down with one of those artists, Chris Duke of Dragonfish Arts, to learn more about the artist and her process.

Duke, one of Methow Valley Goods' best-selling artists, has spent over 40 years honing her artistic talents. A jewelry and metal design major and in college, Duke got interested in glass when a spike in metal prices made work in that medium too expensive.

When most folks think of glass artists, they think of glass blowing, but Duke uses a lesser-known technique in which glass is fused in a kiln – a process known as warm glass. As Dragonfish Arts, Chris creates a diverse product line including decorative plates, bright, eye-catching yard art, and a line of jewelry. Her best-selling product at Methow Valley Goods are her colorful soap dishes that come with fun mix and match inserts and make a great gift for any occasion.

You can find a wide range of Dragonfish Arts products at Methow Valley Goods on the TwispWorks campus. Open Monday through Saturday, 11am-4pm.



LOCATION: Methow Valley Goods on the TwispWorks Campus, Building O, The South Warehouse, Unit 1. CONTACT: methowvalleygoods.com, 509-997-2053

Pause for Poetry
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Join Confluence Poets and special guests as you stroll through Twisp for this year's Art Walk! From 1 to 5pm on September 25, stop by The Treehouse at 214 S. Glover Street for a rest under the giant oak, and some light refreshment to go with a dose of poetry and music. Free.



CASCADIA: FLORA & FAUNA OF THE NORTH CASCADES

Cascadia is a bioregion stretching from the Copper River in southern Alaska to Cape Mendocino in northern California and eastward to the Yellowstone Caldera and the Continental Divide. The heart of this bioregion is Washington state's Cascade mountain range, with its foothills, rivers and streams, brought to life by its fascinating wealth of flora and fauna.

The Confluence is partnering with Methow Valley Citizens Council to celebrate our majestic region. A portion of the gallery's profits from the show will be donated to MVCC, one of the oldest nonprofits in the Methow Valley. Founded in 1976, MVCC is a membership organization that raises a strong community voice for the protection of the valley's rural character and natural environment. MVCC played a major role in a two-decade battle to avert the development of a large downhill ski area; lead a successful fight to protect the Methow headwaters from an open-pit copper mine last year; and engages politically to protect our watershed and clean mountain air from unsound development.

Artists will fathom the land, waters, plants, and animals that have endeared this region to them, with the aim

of instilling an appreciation of our region's very special place in the natural world.

Curator, Penelope Varn

DATES: Through Sept 25. LOCATION/CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, 104 S Glover St., Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

(Artwork left, Victoria Weber, Grove, Charcoal on paper.)

Regional Highlights from Ellensburg's Gallery One

ALMOST HOME

NINA VICHAYAPAI & NATALIE DOTZAUER

This October, Gallery One welcomes two artists whose works explore the themes of domesticity and home. Nina Vichayapai uses fabric as a language to reveal how surroundings embody personal and social histories. From the intimate privacy of homes to the ambiguity of wild landscapes, she explores physical spaces as

expressions of the people who have shaped them. Using textiles associated with domestic interiors her work addresses the important role of homemaking in establishing belonging within the American landscape for the many underrepresented who have been part of it.



Natalie Dotzauer creates sculptural objects, or fragments of them, which trigger the senses and thoughts of nostalgia. A recipe, a smell, a sound, or a roof line can act as relics, or talismans of memories, triggering the senses and conjuring the delight of play. Some of the strongest moments in her life are not just pure joy or sadness; they are a wild combination of bliss and fear, sweetness, and sorrow. Her works aim to hold onto the places of these moments, visit them like monuments and hold them like relics.



(Left, Natalie Dotzauer installation view at MAC Gallery in Wenatchee; Above, encaustic work by Patty Bury.)

Also on display in October are the whimsical wooden sculptures of Darwin Davis, and encaustic works by Patty Bury.

DATES: Oct 1-30. LOCATION: Ellensburg's Gallery One, Ellensburg, WA. INFO: gallery-one.org, director@gallery-one.org.

IN THE COMMUNITY GALLERY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE, THE WORK OF MARK EASTON

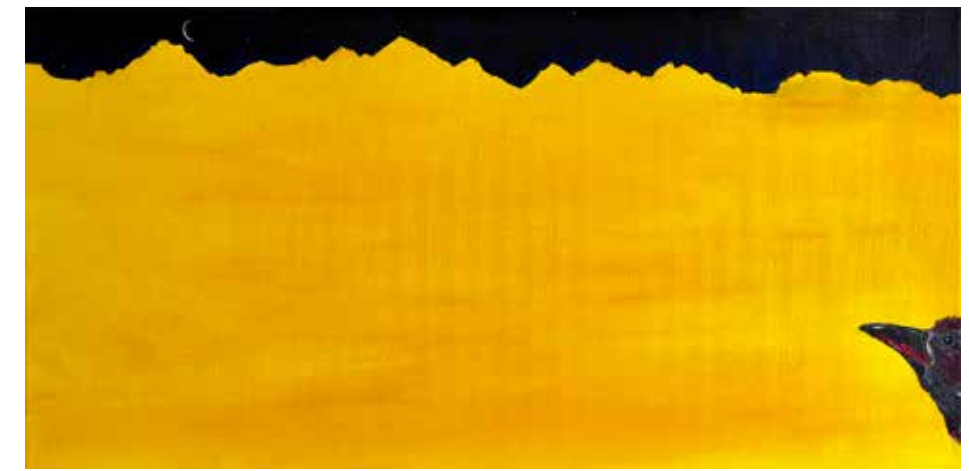
"When I was asked for a title to my upcoming solo show, I knew whatever I came up with would be 'subject to change'. Upon reflection, I realized that everything I do and am is subject to change, especially in these times and especially with my art," says Mark Easton.

"Change is the only constant in my art. I start with an idea, color, or vibe, which then becomes a conversation, which then ends up a journey long after the last brush stroke. These days, climate catastrophe, pandemic, family, humanity, space, peace, and love are informing my art. I am also finding it harder to create art in these times - that it is a more difficult journey requiring more of my soul. But, hopefully, each painting becomes a portal, a space to breathe, for myself and you.

What you see is yours and yours alone.

If I could write eloquently to explain my art, the reasons I paint, what I am attempting to capture, then I would be a writer, not a painter."

DATES: Aug 14-Sept 25. LOCATION/CONTACT: Confluence Gallery, 104 S Glover St., Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.



(Detail of a work in progress by Mark Easton.)

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GOING BIGGER TO SURVIVE

Paula Christen, artist member Winthrop Gallery

With the pandemic shutdown, the Winthrop Gallery doors were closed for 2 ½ months in 2020. Many galleries, along with other businesses, large and small, shuttered their doors for good. The members of the Winthrop Gallery decided to survive by going bigger.

Bigger for the gallery meant establishing a state-of-the-art website and point of sale site (POS), allowing 24/7/365 viewer access to all the art available. The site would also supply information on each work, artist, as well as purchase and shipping. For a business use to keeping records with receipt book and pen, this was going to take lots of time and funds. Time we had. With closed doors, funds were the challenge.

TwispWorks was the first step. The gallery secured \$1,500 from its Small Business Emergency Grant – established precisely to help individuals and businesses through the pandemic. An anonymous donor then gave \$500 and with that, we had a start. It would take considerably more to establish the website with POS

system envisioned; one that could be operated completely in-house by the artists.

Gallery members Susan Donahue and Don McIvor, with Methow Arts as fiscal sponsor, successfully applied for a \$10,000 CARES Act Washington Grant. This and the other funding would be enough to build a site that could help sustain the gallery in event of other disasters.

It was a long process sifting through the different offerings available to host the site. The platform Shopify was chosen. In addition to Susan and Don, artists Teri Pieper, Tamera Abate, Sherry Malotte and Gloria Spiwak stepped up to assist with inventory and input into the database. Every artist wanting to be included on the site provided photos of their work, descriptions, bios and statements with photos of themselves. Launch of the new site was



June 2021. On that first day, two paintings sold and we have continued to sell and ship from our new big site www.winthropgallery.com. Check them out online or in person at the gallery. Their doors are open.

THE LAST SALMON: A RECORDING 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING



(Find the newly released recording at www.thelastsalmon.com or by searching "Phil Davis The Last Salmon" on SoundCloud. The book is available on Amazon.)

"I don't consider myself a story teller," Phil Davis says, "but I have a story to tell."

This story, The Last Salmon, began as a book written over nearly a decade. Since its completion in 2016, The Last Salmon has grown into a variety of artistic, collaborative projects. The story is set along the banks of the Chuketna River where people have come together to celebrate the season's first returning Chinook salmon. The children gather to hear a remarkable tale of how this mighty run was nearly extinct years before, giving us the story of Buck, Spring and their fellow

creatures as they journey to and from the ocean. It is now available as an audiobook with an accompanying website launching in September 2021.

Davis's story moved beyond the page when he mentioned the book to Ki Gottberg, the former Artistic Director of The Merc Playhouse in Twisp. "She wanted to do more local stuff. She read it, and had the idea of turning it into a chamber musical," Davis says. "I let her go for it."

Gottberg and collaborator Casey James wrote seven original songs to accompany the narration, and the show ran twice at The Merc, in 2016 and 2017, to much acclaim.

Although The Last Salmon is told from a child-like perspective, Davis "never envisioned that this would be a story exclusively for kids." Rather, through the story, he engages the imaginations of humans of all ages by zeroing in on one simple idea: what if we as people only took what abundance could spare? "If you just put that message out there," he says, "it might resonate more with people than just the science. When speaking

CASCADIA SPOTLIGHT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REBECCA GALLIVAN



From a young age, Cascadia Executive Director Rebecca Gallivan, wanted to be the one with the mic. "I loved performing," she says, "I loved being on stage singing." No drama program at her middle school? No problem.

She and her friends created their own club, putting on the musical Oliver! with cardboard box sets and homemade costumes. Encouraged by her parents, she continued to carve her own path in music as the sole singer in high school Jazz Band. Fast forward to 2016, when she performed in the Merc's production of The Last Salmon. Based on the book of the same name by the Methow's own Phil Davis, the chamber musical engaged a cast of local musicians, including George Schneider, who asked her to join Cascadia's Board. She agreed, and took over as Executive Director in 2018.

Now she gets to work and dream and collaborate with the Valley's musicians and beyond. "One of the things a rural community can lack is activities that bring people together," she says when asked why Cascadia's work is important. "That's the same for young people, adults and the elderly. It's important to create opportunities to come together and learn, like our community chorale and orchestra. You see intergenerational

comradery of creating music together, from helping elders avoid isolation to teens connecting with peers."

The economic impacts of COVID devastated many sectors, but the arts and music took an especially hard hit. Performances were canceled, ensembles couldn't perform, and the light at the end of the tunnel keeps flickering. What keeps her motivated? "People reaching out," she says. "Cascadia adapted. We sponsored digital classes & performances, but even these can feel isolating because we're not sure how they're received. I am grateful for the generosity of our community. Every time someone reached out with their appreciation for what we're doing, it keeps me going until we can gather again."

Learn more about Cascadia's community ensembles, private lessons, and events at www.cascadiamusic.org

THE LAST SALMON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

of the head and the heart, it's the heart."

The genesis of The Last Salmon continues with the recent release of the audiobook, with narration by Davis and music by local musicians, many of whom were in the original cast. Davis wants to continue to expand the audience and impact of his story by writing elementary school curriculum to accompany the book, building on the early childhood learning about salmon already present in Washington State. He also imagines animation to go along with the audio.

And beyond that? Who knows. "Just like salmon," Davis says, "it keeps spawning new generations."

Find the newly released recording at www.thelastsalmon.com or by searching "Phil Davis The Last Salmon" on SoundCloud. The book is available on Amazon.

Read full article online @ methowarts.org/thelastsalmon2021

TWISPWORCS WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR SIERRA GOLDEN

TwispWorks is pleased to welcome Sierra Golden as its new (and first!) Associate Director. Sierra completed her training and joined the team August 2 and will be responsible for all aspects of marketing, communications, and fundraising.

Most recently, Sierra was the Director of Communications at Agros International and served in a similar role at Casa Latina in Seattle. Sierra is a fluent Spanish speaker and brings a wealth of experience using writing, design, fundraising and strategic communication to advance the mission of diverse organizations.

A freelance poet and former deckhand on a fishing boat in Alaska, Sierra comes with plenty of adventure stories and is ready to roll up her sleeves to help meet a variety of needs of our small organization. Her most recent, book The Slow Art was a finalist for the 2019 Washington State Book Award! Sierra and her husband Brian live outside Carlton and welcomed their new baby boy Ralph to the family in May of this year.



Please join us in welcoming Sierra to TwispWorks. If you'd like to send a message or share an idea, her email is sgolden@twispworks.org.

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METHOW ARTS WELCOMES BACK

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Originally hailing from the sultry swamps of New Orleans, The Atomic Bombshells have taken the international burlesque scene by storm. As original members of the illustrious Shim Sham Revue in the historic French Quarter, these ladies were taught their bumps n' grinds by the original stars of burlesque's Golden Age. Now the girls bring a little Southern sizzle to the Pacific Northwest and abroad with their inspired combination of vintage Bourbon St. striptease, show-stopping choreography, and MGM-era glamour.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

DATE: Sat, Nov 20, 7pm. TICKETS: Adult only! 21 years+. **Proof of vaccination required for audience attendance.** All tickets will be pre-purchased and all seats assigned. \$45/seat. At Methow Arts, Twisp and online @ eventbrite. **Requests and group seating accommodated if you email us.** We will adhere to all WA State Covid-19 regulations and distancing requirements. We expect to sell out. Tickets can be purchased online at AtomicBombshellsWinthrop.BrownPaperTickets.com, and at Methow Arts in Twisp. LOCATION: The Winthrop Barn. CONTACT: info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004, 204 E. 2nd St, Twisp, WA. [Thank you to Blue Star Coffee Roasters for support our reopening of events!](#)



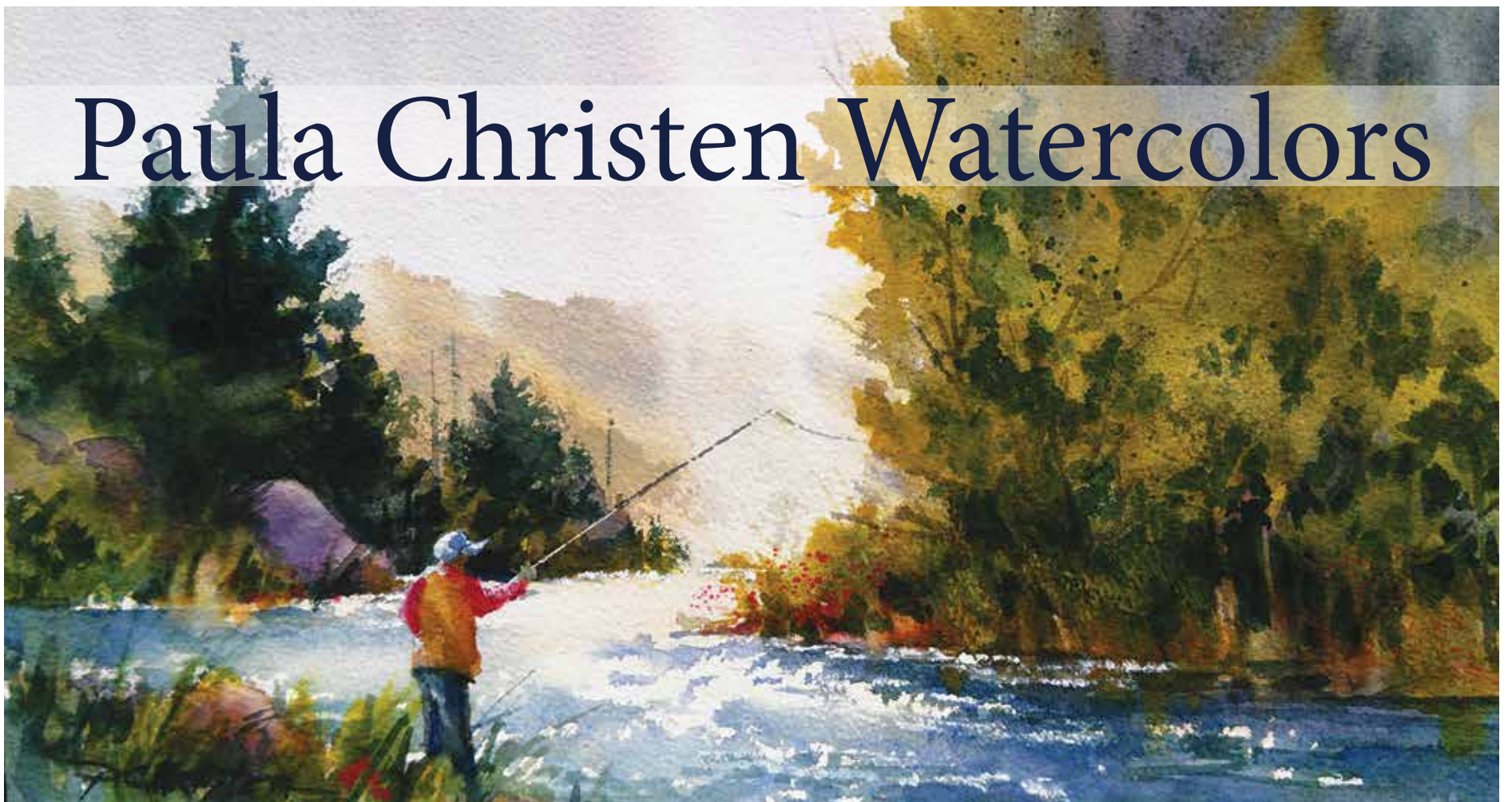
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