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# 2022 METHOW ARTS FESTIVAL

**MONDAY THE 4TH OF JULY - TWISP RIVER PARK**

Calling all superheroes! Methow Arts Fest returns for its 35th-annual Arts Festival after a two-year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The stage will feature The Dusty 45s, the well-loved Pie Eating Contest and Hula Hoop Contest, performance artists, and some surprising super-hero inspired stage acts that will be sure to bring a smile to your face.

Hands-on ART-making booths line the park and will include superhero capes, watercolor ribbon sticks, Tie-Dye t-shirts, Upcycled Fashion, a community bottlecap mosaic, superhero action figures, and many more!

Save the date! **MONDAY THE 4TH OF JULY** – in the Twisp River Park following the Twisp Parade.

Arts Fest will offer food vendors galore, hands-on Arts Booths, the ever-popular Pie-Eating Contest, a Beer Garden and many community booths.

DATE: Mon, July 4, 11:30-4:30. TICKETS: Available in March via eventbrite and at Methow Arts in Twisp. We are looking for volunteers and business sponsors to support this community tradition! INFO: info@methowartsalliance.org

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# SPRING ART CALENDAR

## MARCH

**Winthrop Balloon Roundup**  
Mar 4-6  
The balloons are returning to Winthrop March 4-6. See article pg. 6. [winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup](http://winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup)

**Exhibits: My Ancestors Taught Me & Resilient**  
Mar 12-Apr 23  
Main gallery: exhibit about origin stories. Community Gallery: Paige Reyes of Knotted Pines Studio. See article pg. 6. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787.

**The Fantastic Mr. Fox**  
Fri-Sun, Mar 18-20; & Thurs-Sun, Mar 24-27  
A Tom Zbyszewski Children's Theater at The Merc Playhouse. See article pg. 18. for details. Check [themercplayhouse.org](http://themercplayhouse.org) for tickets, covid guidelines and requirements.

**Methow Recycles' Repair Café**  
Mar 19, 10am-noon  
Bring items that need to be repaired. Free. Outdoors at the Cove, Twisp. [aspn@methowrecycles.org](http://aspn@methowrecycles.org)

**Going Wild**  
Mar 25  
Creativity unleashed, unrestrained, uninhibited. A Winthrop Gallery Exhibit. Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA. [info@winthropgallery.com](mailto:info@winthropgallery.com)

## APRIL

**Methow Valley Community Center: Tool Sale**  
Apr 2, 9-2pm  
Tools, antiques, vintage and collectibles. MVCommunity Center, Twisp, WA

**Celebrate National Poetry Month**  
Fri, Apr 15, 7-8:30pm  
With the Confluence Poets. At Confluence in Twisp, WA. Proof of vaccination/masks required. [confluencepoets.bpt.me](http://confluencepoets.bpt.me)

**Exhibits: My Ancestors Taught Me & Resilient**  
Through Apr 23  
See article pg. 6 At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787.

**Methow Recycles' Repair Café**  
Apr 23, 4-6pm  
Bring items that need to be repaired. At Methow Recycles Earth Day event, John Doran Ranch. [aspn@methowrecycles.org](mailto:aspn@methowrecycles.org)

**Methow Recycles Earth Day Event**  
Sat, Apr 23, 3pm  
\$25/adults. Kids 12 and under, free. Music, up-cycled art and more. John Doran Ranch, Twisp. Proof of vaccine/masks required. [info@methowrecycles.org](mailto:info@methowrecycles.org), 509-997-0520.

**Our Methow Home: The Town of Methow**  
Fri, Apr 29, 7-8:30pm, In Methow at the Community Center  
Sat, Apr 30, 2-3:30pm, Twisp Grange, Twisp  
A history of a particular location in the Methow Valley. Free. 509-380-9911, [staff@shafermuseum.org](mailto:staff@shafermuseum.org).

**Exhibit: Biophilia: A Love Story**  
Apr 30-June 11  
Curators Janet Fagan and Jennifer Molesworth. See article pg. 9. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787.

**Exhibit: Forest Dreams**  
Apr 30-June 11  
The mixed media work of Janet Fagan and Chris Pope. See article pg. 9. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787. See article pg. 19, Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787.

## MAY

**Exhibit: Forest Dreams**  
Through June 11  
The mixed media work of Janet Fagan and Chris Pope. See article pg. 9. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. [info@confluencegallery.org](mailto:info@confluencegallery.org), 509-997-2787.

**Opening Weekend of the Shafer Museum**  
Fri, May 6  
The Shafer Museum opens to the public annually with the 49'ers weekend. Shafer Museum, 285 Castle Avenue, Winthrop, 10am-5pm. Free, donations welcome. [www.shafermuseum.org](http://www.shafermuseum.org)

**Twisp Art Walk**  
Sat, May 14  
50+ local artists, makers and farmers will line Glover Street [methowarts.org/twisp-art-walk-may-22](http://methowarts.org/twisp-art-walk-may-22)

**Liberty Bell Drama & Methow Arts Present: Twelfth Night**  
Wed, May 18-Sat, May 21, 7pm. Sun, May 22, 3pm  
The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. Free. Seats must be reserved in advance. See article pg. 18. [kgrayum@methow.org](mailto:kgrayum@methow.org), [methowarts.org](http://methowarts.org)

**Methow Recycles' Repair Café**  
May 21, 10am-noon  
Bring items that need to be repaired. Free. Outdoors at the Cove, Twisp. [aspn@methowrecycles.org](http://aspn@methowrecycles.org)

**Winthrop Gallery Exhibit: Quote Me**  
opens May 24  
Works inspired by the artist's favorite quote. A Winthrop Gallery Exhibit. See article pg. 19. Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA. [info@winthropgallery.com](mailto:info@winthropgallery.com)

## JUNE

**Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival**  
June 16-25  
\$40. At the Twisp Terrace Lodge. See article pg. 5. [Methowmusicfestival.org](http://Methowmusicfestival.org)

**Methow Arts: Summer Boat-In Concert**  
Fri, June 23, 6-8pm  
Join Methow Arts on Patterson Lake for a boat-in concert series. The audience will remain in their kayak, paddleboards, and other water vessels, while the band plays on the shore. Free. [methowarts.org](http://methowarts.org), [info@methowartsalliance.org](mailto:info@methowartsalliance.org)

## CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH IMPECCABLE MUSIC IN NEW VENUE

The Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival is back, with inspiring live music and exhilarating changes after a two-year break because of the pandemic

Festival Artistic Director Kevin Krentz is thrilled to be assembling musicians and programming for six concerts in June. "We're really, really looking forward to returning to the celebratory feeling of everyone being together after two years off," Festival Executive Director Rebecca Lundquist said.

Audiences will see familiar faces on stage, including Krentz on cello, but will also enjoy new experiences. This year, concerts will be in a different venue, the Twisp Terrace Lodge, which provides a beautiful space, with high ceilings, a dramatic wall of windows, and great acoustics, Krentz said.

Krentz and the Festival board considered about 20 new Festival venues, and Krentz and his wife, cellist Haeyoon Shin Krentz, played their instruments to test sound quality and ambience at half a dozen finalists, Krentz said.

"A single note must be beautiful," Krentz said. "The acoustics at Twisp Terrace Lodge were beautiful from the start." The more intimate space lends exquisite detail to the sound, he said.

In addition to the change in venue, the Festival has revamped the concert schedule. This year, they're offering a total of six concerts for two consecutive weeks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each week, the Thursday and Saturday concerts will be completely different, offering four unique programs. Each Friday concert will combine selections from the other two nights that week, Krentz said.

The change in schedule will give people more opportunities to experience varied selections of music. It will also accommodate concert-goers in the new venue, which has a smaller capacity than the previous location, Krentz said.

Krentz is still assembling the roster of musicians. He's planning strings and piano, plus a "flavor instrument" like a woodwind or percussion. Returning musicians include Mikhail Shmidt on violin, Zhenni Li on piano, and Christine Grossman on viola.



Krentz is programming great chamber music masterworks that allow the musicians to shine in soloistic roles. There will also be more contemporary takes on repertoire, such as arrangements of Scandinavian folk tunes by the Danish String Quartet, which captivated Festival audiences several years ago. Krentz promises programs bursting with romance and excitement that all audience members will find stimulating and compelling.

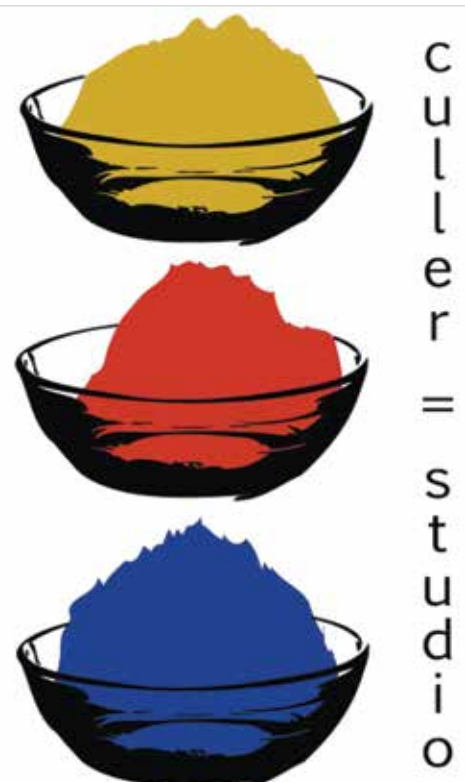


The Festival has long provided food and beverages so concert-goers can relax and socialize before the event, and Twisp Terrace Lodge proprietors Eric and Beth Blank will be offering a delectable dinner that people can order for a pre-concert picnic, Krentz said. Another attraction of the space is its climate-controlled environment, Lundquist said.

**DATES:** This year's festival will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 16, 17 and 18, and June 23, 24 and 25. **TICKETS:** \$40. Available at [methowmusicfestival.org](http://methowmusicfestival.org) in early April. **LOCATION:** Twisp Terrace Lodge.

The Festival also hopes to host informal concerts at different locations throughout the valley, Lundquist said.

(Photographs courtesy of Twisp Terrace Lodge.)



cullerstudio@gmail.com = twispworks campus, twisp, wa

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THE CONFLUENCE MARCH EXHIBITS  
MARCH 12-APRIL 23

MY ANCESTORS TAUGHT ME

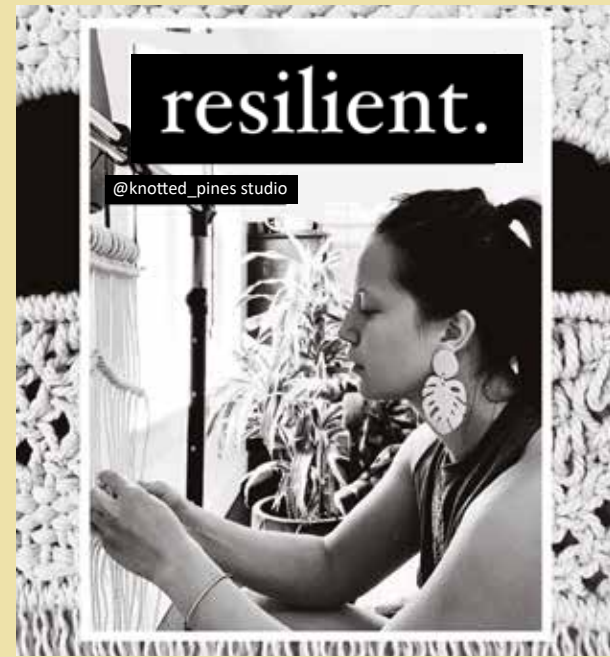
CURATORS: ROXANNE BEST & JOANNE MARRACCI

This is an exhibit about origin stories. In this case, our ancestry. We all have a beginning reverberating in our art. Sometimes this influence makes itself clear, sometimes it is only a hint. Our past, and that of our ancestors, comes through in the materials we use, the colors we combine, the scale of our work, and the techniques taught and utilized. *My Ancestors Taught Me* is your challenge to look back — to take time to create from the lens of your history, your people, your ancestors.

Artists were asked to show us how who they are today has been inspired by their history. To share their origin story with an element, an influence, or a form of art that comes from your family, tribe, community, or country.

We create from a place that isn't often shared. Let's celebrate what our ancestors have taught us.

DATES: Mar 12-Apr 23. LOCATION: The Confluence, 104 S. Glover St., Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-2787, [confluencegallery.org](http://confluencegallery.org)



resilient.  
IN THE COMMUNITY GALLERY

In this collection, Paige Reyes of Knotted Pines Studio, a Mestiza CHamoru artist, mother and advocate, gleans lessons from the cyclical resilience of the Land after a wildfire burn. Utilizing mixed methods of macrame and weaving, Paige mimics the textures and lines of the Lands that hold us, nurture us, and encourage us to remember our own resilience.

DATES: Mar 12-Apr 23. LOCATION: The Confluence, 104 S. Glover St., Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-2787, [confluencegallery.org](http://confluencegallery.org)

(The mixed method weaving and macrame of Paige Reyes is featured in The Confluence Community Gallery.)



WINTHROP BALLOON ROUNDUP

MARCH 4-6

Up in the sky, over the snow it's Winthrop Washington's Hot Air Balloon Roundup.

The skies over Winthrop brighten with the brilliant colors of over a dozen hot air balloons. This 3-day Balloon Roundup is a photographer's dream. An incredible visual display as the balloons fly over the old western town of Winthrop and with the snow-capped mountains of the North Cascades.

VIEWING THE BALLOONS: The balloons are scheduled to launch during each of the three mornings of this event, but the weather will determine if the balloons will actually be able to launch. Consider extending your stay to ensure being able to see the balloons. Check back here to learn if the balloons will launch each morning.

DATES: MAR 4-6. INFO/CONTACT: [winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup](http://winthropwashington.com/events/balloon-roundup)

UPFASHIONED: TERESA MITCHELL GETS THE MOST OUT OF DISCARDED GARMENTS



Teresa Mitchell has always loved 'stuff' with a story, particularly those items that are used every day. In many ways it is a mindfulness practice. She has also been a clothes horse for as long as she can remember. Her business, upfashioned, evolved by combining these two interests with her love of sewing and her commitment to fostering sustainable living practices.

Teresa's sewing skills have been honed over time, but started with her grandmother, Hazel, who first taught Teresa the fundamentals of pattern making, using a machine, hand stitching, alterations and finishing seams. Her grandmother sewed out of necessity—she made everything by hand, including clothes, undergarments, linens, curtains and even her grandfather's suit coats. She passed on to Teresa her 'can do' attitude and an appreciation for self-sufficiency.

As for the upcycling element of Teresa's work, she has always tended towards using items beyond their intended purpose. It is easy for her to see the potential in a thing and in the case of used clothing

and outerwear, the quality of the fabric and the craftsmanship of the original garment are at the root of her inspiration.

Teresa is a proponent of buying for quality rather than trendiness, but a way of thinking that is unusual in the fashion industry. She strives to create beautiful, unique, functional art and to draw attention to the devastating impacts of fast fashion on the environment and on working conditions for garment workers around the world.

You can see (and purchase!) Teresa's upfashioned products—like handbags, dog jackets, pillows, satchels, totes, wallets, and more—at Methow Valley Goods on the TwispWorks campus.

LOCATION: Methow Valley Goods, TwispWorks campus. 502 S. Glover St, Twisp, WA. 509-997-2053.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR ART

When she was in elementary school, Lily Colin remembers entering the Methow Valley Elementary School (MVES) art room and racing to secure her favorite stool, which was painted with a vibrant flower in the style of iconic American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. A gift from the departing 6th graders in 2015, the painted stools were intended to enhance the aesthetic of the art room while also providing a teaching tool to help future students learn about O'Keeffe's work and her role in the American Modernist movement.



Seven years later, those stools are still employed in the art room, but there aren't enough of them to accommodate some of the larger classes at MVES.

In the serendipitous way that the Methow Valley community often provides exactly what is needed, however, a seating solution presented itself in the form of stools donated by Copper Glance in Winthrop and a student artist—Colin—craving a creative project.

Copper Glance was updating its furniture and wanted to re-home the stools. Colin, meanwhile, had responded to a volunteer need that Methow Arts had posted on Volunteer Methow, seeking help prepping materials for an elementary school project. That particular volunteer need had already been filled, but Colin was tapped to give the old stools new life.

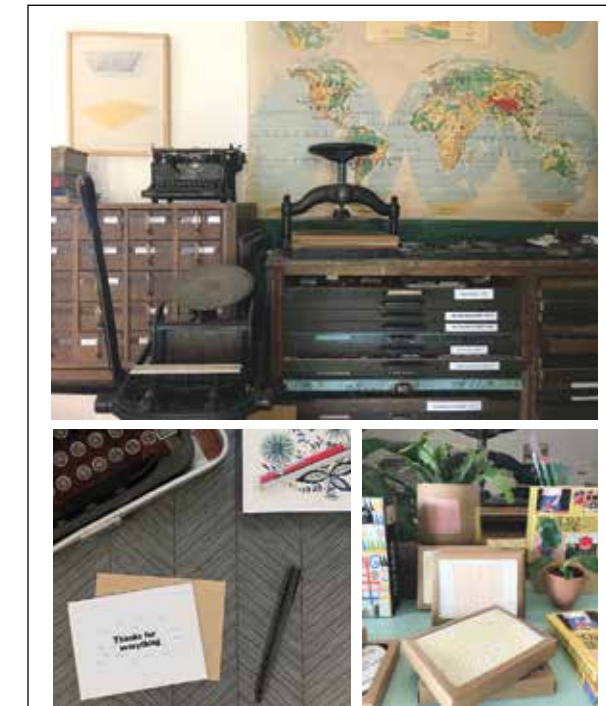
"We are proud that our stools found a new life and purpose with our local students," says Copper Glance co-owner Chris Hoffer. "Art can be delightfully transformative, turning a simple stool into beautiful expression fostered by Methow Arts."

In addition to meeting the academic demands of a high school junior, Colin is also a member of Liberty Bell High School's National Honor Society, president of her

class, and an employee at East 20 Pizza. "I painted whenever I had a free moment," Colin says. "I am so glad to have had this opportunity. I had so much fun with it."



(Read more about Liberty Bell High School junior Lily Colin's art project online at [www.methowarts.org/a-seat-at-the-table-for-art](http://www.methowarts.org/a-seat-at-the-table-for-art).)



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## THE IMPACT OF A GRANT

It can be hard to make a living as an artist. Grants help. What, though, is the impact of a single grant for a single artist? A few recent examples from artists on the TwispWorks campus might help us understand more about grants for artists.

Donna Keyser received a Partner Opportunity Fund grant from TwispWorks. She used the funds to make upgrades to her studio on the TwispWorks campus including a display wall and lights. This project will make her studio more inviting to visitors and should help her sell more of her stunning plein air paintings.

Perri Howard received a McMillen Foundation grant. She used the funds to secure an exhibition space with Ocean Alliance, a nonprofit on the East Coast. Her exhibit will feature the visual output of Great Whale song recordings going back to 1952 and including both the COVID pause and 9/11—times when the noise

pollution from ships were greatly reduced.

Mandy Shoger, the potter behind Foxtail Pottery, received a small business grant from Okanogan County. She used the funds to purchase a shredding machine that turns recycled cardboard into packing materials for shipping her fragile goods around the country. The machine reduces Shoger's business expenses and makes her business eco-friendlier.

What's the impact of a grant? It's not just about money—each of these examples shows how grants create a ripple effect. Artists use grants to make their livelihoods more sustainable, reach bigger and different audiences, and deepen their practices.

CONTACT/INFO: TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover St, Twisp, WA. [www.TwispWorks.org](http://www.TwispWorks.org), 509-997-3300.



(Perri Howard with whale song recording.)

## ZEKE GRUBB, HOW MAKING ART HAS HELPED HIM SUCCEED



Senior Zeke Grubb says that making art has helped him succeed as a student. Grubb attends the Independent Learning Center on the TwispWorks campus. The ILC, as it's fondly known, is the innovative choice high school for the Methow Valley School District and

uses Big Picture Learning, a model in which students are "challenged to pursue their interests by a supportive community of educators, professionals, and family members."

One interest Grubb pursued with obvious talent? Painting. Grubb is the artist behind three murals inside the ILC building known as The Treehouse. Grubb first completed a "Dr. Seuss landscape" in the basement that features big mountains, lush green pastures, and a whimsical hot air balloon. A small sign in the foreground shares a Dr. Seuss quote: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

With graduation rapidly approaching, Grubb is trying to see his high school experience in that same light.

Grubb went on to complete a geometric design in an upstairs hallway and to lead more than ten students

as they completed a puzzle mural. Participating students each got to paint a piece with the design of their choice, either individually or as teams. Grubb said he chose the puzzle layout because it gave all the disparate pieces a cohesive theme.

When asked what art adds to his life, Grubb said, "I did them [the murals] as what I would do if I was stressed or didn't want to do math or something like that... it was a vent or an escape to go somewhere and have just me and the wall and the paint... Some days, I was like, I really don't want to paint, I would rather do math!" It seems Grubb has struck a good balance—one where art motivates his schoolwork and his schoolwork motivates his art.

LOCATION: Independent Learning Center, TwispWorks, 502 S. Glover St, Twisp, WA. [twispworks.org/on-campus/twispworks-partners/independent-learning-center](http://twispworks.org/on-campus/twispworks-partners/independent-learning-center)

(Senior Zeke Grubb showcases his mountain mural.)

## THE CONFLUENCE APRIL EXHIBITS

APRIL 30-JUNE 11

### BIOPHILIA: A LOVE STORY

CURATORS: JANET FAGAN & JENNIFER MOLESWORTH

Biophilia: a hypothetical human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in nature: a desire or tendency to commune with nature. ~ Merriam Webster

"Do human beings have within them an innate sense of connection to other forms of life? If so, can this natural feeling, this "biophilia," both enhance our respect for ourselves as human and reinforce our sense of obligation to treat other forms of life with loving care?" ~ T. H. Watkins

Biophilia focuses on the connections between all living beings, and the fading, but innately human instinct to connect with nature. We ask you to consider the connections between yourself and your fellow creatures and environs that support the breath, skin, and heart of the world. We challenge you to visually depict the harmony or disruption of these connections that define us as Earthlings. What do you see? What do you want to see? Is what we share greater than what separates us?

DATES: Apr 30-June 11. LOCATION: The Confluence, 104 S. Glover St., Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-2787, [confluencegallery.org](http://confluencegallery.org)



(Cheryl Quintana, Lookout, wall hanging stoneware sculpture.)



(Lance Burke, Untitled, water based paint on recycled high solid oak cabinet doors.)

### FOREST DREAMS

IN THE COMMUNITY GALLERY

Janet Fagan and Chris Pope collaboratively explore the dreams of wild places through carving, painting and printmaking. This mixed-media exhibit will highlight a shared, imaginative vision through Chris's carving of forms and Janet's mixed media surface embellishments. These dream-masks will be interspersed with Janet's forest inspired woodblock prints and mixed media paintings.

DATES: Apr 30-June 11. LOCATION: The Confluence, 104 S. Glover St., Twisp, WA. INFO: 509-997-2787, [confluencegallery.org](http://confluencegallery.org)



(Janet Fagan and Chris Pope, Dreaming. The collaborative work of Janet Fagan & Chris Pope will be featured in The Confluence Community Gallery. Forest Dreams is on display from April 30 to June 11, 2022.



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# JERRY MERZ: METALWORKING MAGIC

BY MARCY STAMPER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN MITCHELL

Jerry Merz turns steel into delicate florets, elegant vines, and geometrically precise latticework with a deftness that seems almost magical, given that this refinement emerges from an atmosphere of fire, hammering, and ear-splitting noise.



Merz first discovered metalwork 22 years ago, when he dropped into an open-forge night held by Methow Valley blacksmith Roger Olsen. He was immediately captivated. "Sometimes, something in life goes beyond grabbing your attention. I knew nothing about it – I just saw a candlestick someone had made at an open-forge night. I was amazed."

Soon, he was a regular at the open forge. He'd arrive early and have to be sent home because he stayed so late. "It was awe-inspiring. I had never contemplated the concept of cutting, twisting, bending, and drilling steel with other forms of steel," he said.

Eventually, Merz acquired some tools and gave himself a year to learn and experiment with metal. He made a lot of stuff – and threw most of it away. But a year later, he launched Methow Metalworks. "Even now, 24 years later, I just can't wait to come to my shop. I love it," he said.

Merz has always been interested in art but, until he discovered metal, it was just a hobby. As a kid, he would cover his notebooks with doodles and, in college, he made and sold macramé necklaces for the pure enjoyment of it. He's also done some chip carving, creating intricate and decorative surface designs.

The introduction to metalwork came at the perfect time in Merz's life, although he wasn't looking to change direction. "What's driving my metalwork – designs, connecting with people – has nothing to do with money and success," he said. And that's a luxury that allows him to be more creative, he said.

Initially, Merz specialized in custom lighting, from ornate chandeliers to Craftsman-style sconces. But as he started

to get commissions for drawer pulls, towel racks, and railings, he branched out.

Today, he makes small, decorative pieces like ornamental hardware for cabinets, and large items like chairs and architectural ironwork. He gets a lot of demand for gates. Some are geometric, but many incorporate elements from nature, including lacy vines and tendrils, flowers, and craggy mountains. In one challenging project, he bent metal railing to follow the contours of two sinuous branches for a banister.

## COMPLEX PROCESS

Transforming a steel rod into a work of art requires a complex process of heating, hammering, manipulating, and cooling. Merz typically draws his designs on the computer, and then modifies them while working.

Merz starts by heating a one end of a rod in the forge until it glows orange hot. For smaller pieces, he may use an acetylene torch.

The initial shaping is often done with a power hammer to flatten and contour the rod. Holding and turning the rod with heavy gloves or tongs, he strikes it with the power hammer. After the initial manipulation, Merz switches to a sledgehammer, pounding the piece against an anvil.

The anvil isn't merely a surface to support the steel while he whacks it. A good anvil performs a surprising range of functions. Anvils offer many contours – there are right angles for making well-defined corners, and tapered, rounded edges on the horn for an infinite variety of curves. As he works, Merz shifts the piece to different parts of the anvil, coaxing it into gentle bends or complex spirals. The anvil also has slots that will hold a rod in place so Merz can manipulate it.

With well-placed blows with the sledgehammer, Merz can flatten and elongate a piece of steel, make it round, or coil it. He can create spirals and braids, and punch square or round holes. A quick dip in a barrel of ice water cools the steel enough for him to handle it.

For larger projects like gates, Merz welds individual pieces together. He typically finishes a piece by sandblasting it, and often applies a final chemical treatment to add a patina, such as rust, antique bronze, or blackened steel.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Metalworking is an ancient art, and some of Merz's most prized tools are more than a century old. The power hammer dates to 1910 and is activated with a foot pedal that engages a clutch. "It's really a cool machine – it's the best tool I have," Merz said.

Merz built his own forge from an old pipe he got from a local well driller, which he reinforced with refractory cement. Olsen helped him refine the design, even incorporating an old hair dryer for additional oxygen so that the forge burns hotter.

He has two anvils, one made from forged and tempered steel, and the other made from cast steel. When Merz whacks the tempered anvil with his hammer, the hammer springs back up with a lively recoil and the room fills with a ringing sound. "It puts more energy into the bounce of the hammer," he said. On the other anvil, the hammer lands with a dull thud. The responsiveness of the tempered anvil is key when Merz wants more subtle control.

Merz has dozens of hammers with heads in a range of sizes and shapes, from pointy to rounded. He has punches that make round and square holes, and tongs with different ends. There are round and straight chisels and a large collection of vice-grips.

Merz also uses more contemporary tools, like a plasma cutter that enables him to cut any shape he desires, which he does freehand.

An advantage to being a metalworker is that he can make any tool he needs. If he needs a certain type of chisel, he simply grinds an edge on a piece of steel and attaches a handle.

Merz also appreciates the forgiving nature of metalwork. If he wants to change or correct something, it's easy to cut it out and weld in a new piece. "I really like that about steel – you can always fix it – unlike wood, where you only get one chance," he said.

## MENTORING

In 2010, with his business slow during the recession, Merz took a break from metalwork and volunteered in Zambia for two years. His assignment was to provide an economic path for graduates of a private high school during the transition from their formal education to their return to their villages.

Merz didn't expect to use his metalworking skills in Zambia, but it turned out the village had a need for objects like trusses, security gates, and bed frames.

Merz managed to acquire a welder and some basic tools and started a metal shop for the graduates. He taught metalworking to three young men whose previous job had been maintaining the grounds at the school. He taught one of the graduate women to manage the business.

More than a decade later, the Pestalozzi metalwork shop is still going strong, run by the same three men. They've developed a specialty in decorative security gates for doors and windows, and also make tables and other practical items. Although many people in Zambia can't afford elaborate ornamentation, the Pestalozzi artisans will find a way of incorporating a small adornment that adds a touch of beauty, Merz said.



Merz loves mentoring people who share his fascination with metalwork, especially when they're kids. "I'll normally drop what I'm doing to work with a kid," he said. Merz remembers a 10-year-old girl who stopped to watch at his TwispWorks shop. It was clear she didn't want to leave, and she ultimately convinced her parents to bring her back.

Merz offered to show the girl how to make a small item out of metal. "She could barely swing the hammer," he said. But an hour and a half later, she'd made a hook. "After the final coat of finish, she walked out like she was carrying a baby in her hand," he said.

Merz has also worked with a student from the Independent Learning Center, teaching him about metalwork. "It's like a magnet when a younger person shows an interest in the metalwork," he said. The steel ends up being a connection that builds mutual interest, he said.

While Merz loves the work, he concedes that the noise and physicality can be overpowering. Working around a burning forge in the summer is uncomfortable, but he becomes so absorbed in what he's doing that he doesn't even notice the heat. "When you're at the forge, it's kind of intense work anyway," he said.

"The heat, noise, and physicality – my arms get tired, I'm sweating like crazy, it's noisy. There's a lot of energy in it that I like being around," Merz said.



Find Jerry's work on the TwispWorks Campus at his studio, METHOW METALWORKS, Building P – The South Shed – Unit 2. 509-341-4810, jerry.merz@gmail.com

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## JUSTICE & THE AMERICAN DREAM: STUDENT VOICES 2022

In a project presented by Methow Arts and the Methow Valley School District with funding support by from the Public School Funding Alliance, 9th graders at Liberty Bell High School in the Methow Valley explored the meaning of justice and how it could be enhanced in their lives, school, community, and country.

Activist Darcy Ottey helped freshman English teacher Dani Golden launch the unit, in which students explore identity in society and how that relates to social justice. Next, working with Methow Arts teaching poet Cindy Williams Gutiérrez, students examined the American Dream from multiple perspectives: the Founding Fathers, Chief Joseph, Martin Luther King Jr., the DACA Dreamers, and their own. Using Langston Hughes' poem "Let America Be America Again" as a springboard, students wrote their own poems of a "just" America. Students read their poems aloud during two free virtual events presented by Methow Arts and the Methow Valley School District in January 2022.

In this poetry residency, students learned how to write a poem of witness, how to translate their ideas into imagery as well as what anaphora is (the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of consecutive lines) and how to use it in a poem. Additional residency goals included: nurturing empathy, curiosity, and connection across difference; increasing students' capacity for self-reflection and the ability to hold tension and contradiction as they apply moral reasoning; and developing a deeper understanding of the social fabric of the United States, and some of the history that has led to some of the unrest and division we see now.

The following pages, 12-14, include a selection of students' poems from the "Justice & the American Dream" project written in January 2022. Additional poems can be found online at [methowarts.org/justice-the-american-dream-student-voices-2022](http://methowarts.org/justice-the-american-dream-student-voices-2022)

Additionally, poetry books will be available for purchase and will include all student poems. Find them at Methow Arts in late March or place your order now by emailing [info@methowartsalliance.org](mailto:info@methowartsalliance.org) to order your copy.



### Let America Read Again

By Dexter Delaney

*Make empty minds dream  
Let words flutter in your soul  
America, read*

Let America read again  
Let brimming minds be our entertainment  
Let us peck at the seeds of curiosity  
And know the joy of literacy

(For the joy is mine)

Let us see the world through others' eyes  
To ride the rolling waves of their lives' surprise  
The highs and lows, the peaks and valleys  
A death of a father  
A birth of a daughter

(For the sorrow and delight become mine)

Let curiosity prompt our quest  
Through the adept detective's photographs  
The inquisitive scientist's charts  
The courageous explorer's treasure  
And the secretive politician's confessions

(For the curiosity is mine)

Let us perceive the past  
Recognize history in the present  
To change to a brighter future  
Let us see the fantasy of fact  
The triumph of truth  
The ludicrous of logic  
And the pitfall of power

(For the love of knowledge is mine)

Let our imaginations fill our minds  
As words spring from the page  
Alighting in the depths of our souls  
Fueling the fire of our hearts  
And show us the tales  
Of stormy seas and sky-high waves  
Of jewels as big as fists  
Of charming traitors with hearts of stone  
Of spiring castles jutting from cliffs

(For the image I see is mine)

Let America read again  
Let brimming minds be our entertainment  
Let us peck at the seeds of curiosity  
And know the joy of literacy

*America, read  
Let words flutter in your soul  
Make empty minds dream*

### Will America Be?

By Zoe Kaltenbach

*Doomsday, they say,  
The end is near.  
Billboards proclaim apocalypse.  
The threats mount and mount  
The earth slowly heating  
Wars waged with the power of a thousand suns  
The people enraged  
Everything comes crashing down*

Sometimes I believe  
We are destined to fall;  
Sometimes I wish  
We would fall faster.

I fear the future  
Of what we let America become.  
What will happen to us?

Will America be kind?  
Or will we push away our loved ones,  
Even our own children?  
Will the nature of our love  
Mark us as a target for hate?

Will America be rational?  
Will the courts see the crime  
Or be blinded by black and white?  
Must we still take to the streets  
Just to see justice served?

Will America be safe?  
Balancing science and liberty  
Can we conquer COVID  
Putting aside petty problems  
To protect us all?

Will America be educated?  
Facts prevailing over fiery Facebook rants  
Schools a place of safety, not slaughter,  
Will my classmates shoot firearms or free throws?  
Will we have the pride of roosters  
The pride preceding the fall  
Full of fight and feathers  
Or the pride of lions?  
Strong together, united as we should be  
Leading the world by example

Will America be united  
As our name commands?  
Will we put aside partisan troubles  
Claim our common ground at last  
Or divide along invisible battle lines?

How will this tangled mess unravel into a close-knit  
country?  
How can we mend the rifts between us?

The future lies with the youth

Strong in voice and spirit,

We could be the ones

To turn the world upside down.

### Let America Be Beautiful

By Rio Lott

Let America be beautiful again

Let us feel proud of the environment  
Let us not cringe at the dark smoke sticking our lungs and filling the air  
Where we care about all the animals inching towards extinction

(America used to be beautiful.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed  
Let us show our beauty from our actions, not what we say,  
Let it be a place where neighbors check in on one another  
Where we are not greedy but caring and loving towards each other like a pod of  
wales swimming through the ocean as one.

(America could be beautiful again.)

O, let my land be a land where we don't create a toxic wasteland  
Where we live in an emerald fairytale that everyone wants to be a part of,  
Where our people aren't afraid to let their children play outside  
Where the air we breathe is translucent and free of chemicals  
Where our precious lives are not shortened by plastic and pollution

(America was once beautiful.)

I am the waste-wise worker who has to see the constant trash of the American  
people day after day  
I am the school janitor picking up up every little kids food bits and garbage  
dropped  
I am the homeless person who lives in the dumpsters of our country

I am the beautiful teenage girl told what to wear:  
Crop tops, booty shorts, skinny jeans, push-up bras  
When all I want to wear are sweatpants and a sweatshirt

I'm told to wear more makeup, so I do, wear less makeup, and so I do.  
I'm told, pluck your eyebrows, shave your legs, straighten  
Your hair, smile more, stand up straight.

And so I do

(What do you want from me?)

I can't be too short or too tall, I'm supposed to have a certain color  
Of hair and eyes, bigger boobs, bigger ass, smaller waist.

I'm trying, spending hundreds of dollars on my beauty.

You don't understand. Because this is not me, the girl  
I'm told to look like and act like, that's not me.

(Why can't I just be beautiful as I am?)

Let America be beautiful again  
And let me.

### Let America Be Open Minded

By Lucien Paz

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live  
in a nation where they will not be judged by the color  
of their skin but by the content of their character."  
--Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let America be a place where a fist in the air means power to all. Not just black or white power.

Let America be the dream that the dreamers dreamed.  
Let it be that my life is no greater than the brother or sister next to me.  
Let it be a place where I can close my eyes and see  
hands interlocked like a complex spider web,  
people side by side, equal.

O, let my land be where difference drives change and change  
drives love into the hearts of all.  
Let America be the place seeking change  
like a chameleon

I am the voice of the weak  
I am the adaptation of my kind  
I am the dog eating the dog  
I am the child who feels forgotten and finds  
that no matter height, weight, race, and like-mindedness  
We are all the same. What's the difference really?

Yet I'm the one stuck in the middle  
while grandparents and parents argue  
over nothing and everything.

Yet I'm the one who has no ballot, no voice and no keys.  
I'm the one who dusts off my clothes and continues  
the drag of trying to be grown--  
to get to the ballot box, to find my voice, and secure my keys.  
I am 15 years young feeling the weight of the world..  
weighing me down from my young greatness.

I'm the one left to pick up the pieces  
I'm the one who is living out the dream  
I'm the one who has to be the change  
I'm the one who is swimming in confusion

I'm the one looking for the right answers to an answerless quiz  
I'm the one who is a revolving door  
Not judging the book by its cover  
I'm the one who is trying to be open-minded  
What about you?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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**Let America be Human**  
By Nora Bosco

Goodnight America. Let us watch our glimmering star set into a calming moon.  
Let us stare while radiant passion soars through our veins, and rest as dusk turns to dawn.  
Our thoughts roam free in a land of playful colors, fearful terrors, bittersweet endings, and relaxing murmurs;  
once daylight rears its head, we'll forget.  
Dreams. They can free us from problems in a made-up reality or pollute our minds with the smog of insecurities and anxieties.

In dreams we let go of grudges, feuds, fights.  
When we open our hearts to love, we see clearly in an unclouded way.

We live in a homeland that's not ours and we treat others like gum on a sidewalk, a nuisance, as if some were gods and those different from them are less than human.

For what?  
What makes me less than you? Is it whom I love? Is it my Gender? Is it how I live? Is it me?

What makes me not human?

What makes her not human? Or him? Or them? Or all of us, What makes us different from you?

Inside we are the same. Blood cells run through my body the same way they run through yours. What makes us "unnatural"?

Truth is, nothing does. I'm as human as those around me, as human as any other. We are valid, we are worth it, and yes! We are different! But we are perfect anyway.

**Let America Change For Once**  
By Sage Schragger

Let America be a safe haven  
The calm after a storm  
Winds mellowing, earthy rain wafting through the air  
Seeking a home for the young to speak freely, to be heard

Let America be the place where women can love women, men can love men  
Let it be the place where love is not illegal again  
Where fires of hatred refuse to ignite  
And the queer have finished their fight

(America never let me be me)

Let it be the dream the dreamers dreamed  
Let it be the eye of the storm  
Where safety lies and shots aren't rung out in surprise  
Where the beaten and bruised have a chance to thrive

(America never was right for me)

Let my land be a land where equal rights  
Are crowned on not just white, but black and brown  
Where their futures are bright  
The moon shining in a darkened night

(There's never been a noise in my throat  
Given power like those who garner the vote)

I am the pawn in the President's game  
I am the marionette, a slave to your fame  
I am the poor, born to remain  
I am the young, told "it's just a phase"  
I am the beaten, the bruised with no chance to rise  
I am the manipulated, pummeled by lies  
I am the woman, oppressed, thoughts not shown  
I am the curious, seeking the unknown  
And finding, thankfully, that none of us are alone

**"Let America Be United Again"**  
by Baker Smith

Let America be united again.  
Let it be the place where everyone strives to uplift, everyone helping each other to climb the same mountain.  
Let it be the rest for the weary, the light in the dark, two hands entwined.  
Seeking a solution together, pulling on the same rope, running towards the same finish line.

(America is divided -- I don't know why).

Let it be that place of sanctuary for those who need it, the warm fireplace for the freezing.  
Where everyone is on the same team, helping each other score the same goal.

(It never has been the amalgamated place for everyone).

O let my land be the land where everyone supports everyone, leaving racism and sexism in the dust. Dropping dumb, deadly ideas delegating with death.  
Is crowned with no more wreckers tearing down, but builders supporting, framing.  
Constructing the same sanctuary for everyone to dwell in.

I am the lone wolf, left alone, the solitary creature in a vast animal kingdom full of life.  
I am the one in need of a friend, on the run, nowhere to run.  
I am the confused one, the follower, in need of an example, stuck plodding along in an endless maze.  
I am the odd one out, the last picked in the elementary school dodgeball lineup.  
And finding unity scarce.

Yet I'm the one who tries so hard to fit in, a modified version of myself in the midst of confusion, feeling around in the dark for a light switch.

The glue, uniting the friction.

**Let America Be a Leader**  
By Tristan Hover

Let America be a leader again  
Let it be the Statue of Liberty holding a beacon of hope within her grasp  
Let it be the GPS that reroutes the world onto a revolutionary road  
Seeking a peaceful path for generations to come

(America used to be a leader)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed  
Let it be that monumental mountain looming high above the mingling marsh  
Where wolves roam free foraging through the evergreens

(It was never a free plain for all)

O, let my land be land where wind turbines whirl and highways hum  
Is crowned with serene cities, energetic economies, and freedoms flourishing

(There's never been eye-catching infrastructure all across America)

I am the fast approaching future of America  
I am the beauty shining through the surface of America's rough edges  
I am the cornerstone of America's new foundation  
And finding a productive place for America in this wonderfully weaved web of a world

**POETRY, POETRY, POETRY**

OKANOGAN COUNTY STUDENTS BELA MOORE AND MALINA WIEGAL ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS IN POETRY OUT LOUD



(Bela Moore, Methow Valley ILC student.)

Bela Moore, a freshman at the Methow Valley School District's Independent Learning Center, and Malina Wiegel from Okanogan High School, emerged from Poetry Out Loud's Feb. 3 Eastern Regional competition as the two reciters who will advance to the state finals on March 12, which will similarly be held in a "live-remote" format.

Both finalists were supported by Methow Arts which hired teaching artist Thome George to work with students from Okanogan High School, Liberty Bell High School and the Independent Learning Center.

The competition, presented in partnership with the Washington State Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Public School Funding Alliance, Winthrop Kiwanis, the Association of Parents and Teachers and Methow Arts, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.



(Malina Wiegel of Okanogan High School.)

More information about the March event will be available on [methowarts.org/Poetry-Out-Loud-State-22](http://methowarts.org/Poetry-Out-Loud-State-22) soon.



**CELEBRATE POETRY MONTH IN APRIL**  
**ORDER YOUR "JUSTICE & THE AMERICAN DREAM" POETRY BOOK TODAY**

Pages 12-14 include a selection of students' poems from the "Justice & the American Dream" project presented by Methow Arts and the Methow Valley School District. Using Langston Hughes' poem "Let America Be America Again" as a springboard, students wrote their own poems of a "just" America. Students read their poems aloud during two free virtual events presented by Methow Arts and the Methow Valley School District in January 2022. All student poems can be found online at [methowarts.org/justice-the-american-dream-student-voices-2022](http://methowarts.org/justice-the-american-dream-student-voices-2022)

Additionally, poetry books including all poems from two school years will be available for purchase by Methow Arts in mid March. Email [info@methowartsalliance.org](mailto:info@methowartsalliance.org) to order your copy.

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# CULINARY ARTS

## SAM'S GAZPACHO

Serves 6

- 4 red bell peppers
- 2 pounds tomatoes (roughly 6 medium)
- 1 bunch green onions, sliced
- 1 cup parsley, roughly chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- 1 large cucumber, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon pickled jalapenos (or more to taste), diced
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Sliced avocado to garnish (optional)

Preheat your broiler or barbecue on high. If using the broiler, place the peppers on a baking sheet and pop them under. If using the barbecue, place the peppers on the grill, lower the heat a bit and close the cover. Check on the peppers every few minutes, and turn them so that they blacken and soften evenly. When they are quite soft, remove from the heat and let cool.

Open the peppers (careful for all the liquid that will pour out) and remove the seeds and stem. Place them in the bowl of a food processor. Roughly chop half of the tomatoes and add them to the peppers. Puree until smooth. Pour into a large mixing bowl. Add the parsley, garlic, cucumber and pickled jalapenos to the food processor and pulse a few times until chunky. Add to the bowl of puree.

Dice the remaining tomatoes and add them to the soup. Stir in the lemon and lime juices, salt and pepper and taste for seasoning. Cover and chill the soup for at least 2 hours or for up to one day. Taste again for seasoning before serving with sliced avocado, if desired.

Named after Hannah's son Sam. This is still his favorite soup!

This issue's recipe is brought to you by Hannah Cordes, co-owner of Aspen Grove store in Winthrop, author of Blue Kale Road cooking blog and Methow Arts board member. Find more recipes @ [bluekaleroad.com](http://bluekaleroad.com)

Spring is tip-toeing in and I'm delighted. Despite some snowflakes last week, a family of chickadees moved into our birdhouse and the air is now warm and filled with the scent of freshly cut grass. Long-simmering stews are fading from memory and being replaced by spring's bounty.



Gazpacho is a refreshingly chilled soup that is full of flavor and texture. With the hot summer days to come, it's also a wonderful choice as the only cooking involves roasting some red peppers, which can easily be done on the barbecue while you're hanging out in the backyard. I like little flecks of charred pepper in my soup, so after roasting them I remove the seeds but leave much of the blackened skin on. The peppers are pureed and then chopped tomatoes, cucumbers, green onions and parsley are added for a chunky texture. I've added some pickled jalapenos for a spicy kick, too, along with lemon and lime juice for a bright finish.



## LIFE IN THE METHOW

A LIMITED EDITION PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK BY DAVID MOSKOWITZ

David Moskowitz was a recipient of the 2021 Mary Kiesau Fellowship through Twispworks for his project Life in the Methow, a photographic exploration of the diversity of the natural world and how people interact with it in the Methow River watershed.

*"I am honored and humbled to have the chance to live, observe and photograph in the Methow River watershed. This landscape is awash with beauty and scars on many levels. Being a part of its ongoing story is a privilege I hold dear."*

*Funding and inspiration for the creation of this collection came from the Mary Kiesau Grant through Twispworks. Mary was a friend and colleague of mine. One of the photos in this collection was taken the evening of her death, and this collection is, in part, my attempt to honor her legacy in the valley."*

- David Moskowitz, excerpt from Life in the Methow

Hardcover, 60 Limited Edition Signed Copies, 49 full color images on premium photo paper ~ \$175 Available at [davidmoskowitz.net/life-in-the-methow](http://davidmoskowitz.net/life-in-the-methow)

Life in the Methow is a compilation of 49 photographs that offer an intimate and compelling window into the natural world of the Methow Valley. It includes landscapes, wildlife, and people interacting with the watershed. Images include carefully planned and



executed frames as well as spontaneous captures inspired by the moment—a collection of images that can only be made through years of careful observation and fascination with a place one calls home.

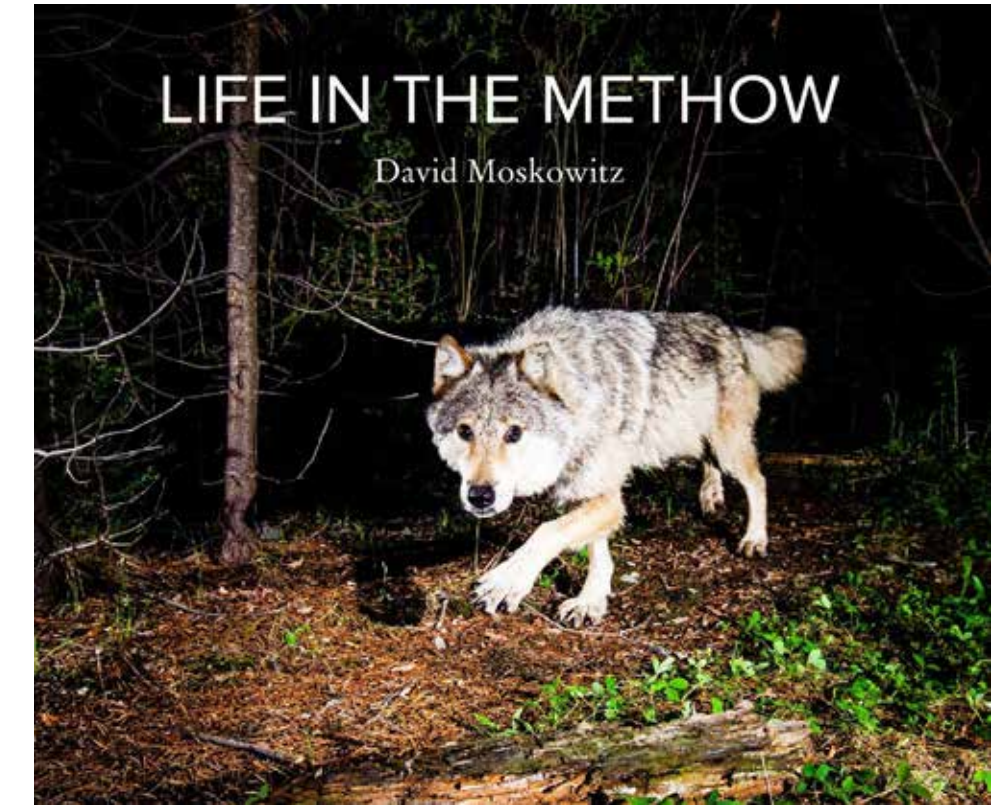
David's passion for photographing the Methow is driven by curiosity, a love of place, a fascination with light and shadow, and a desire to understand the world and our place in it as humans. Wildlife images include intimate camera trap portraits of some of the rarest and most iconic species in the watershed.

Landscape images capture every season of the year, and everything from arid grasslands to the snow-covered alpine environment. Photos of people and the impacts we have on the landscape reflect David's perspective that humans are just another animal, a complicated and adaptable species with the capacity to create beauty through their interactions with the world around them.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Moskowitz is a local photographer, author, and documentary film producer. He has been a resident of the Methow Valley for most of the past 20 years. Find out more about his work at [davidmoskowitz.net/about](http://davidmoskowitz.net/about) and follow him on Instagram at [@moskowitz\\_david](https://www.instagram.com/moskowitz_david)

*(Photography by David Moskowitz, clockwise from top right; A wolf from the Loup Loup Pack in the Chewuch watershed; Skiers Drew Lovell and Stephanie Williams and the trail of a Pacific marten during field work for the Cascades Wolverine Project in the Sawtooth range; Sunset and cottonwood leaves just opening in spring at the confluence of the Twisp and Methow Rivers.)*



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LIBERTY BELL DRAMA COMPANY & METHOW ARTS PRESENT  
TWELFTH NIGHT

In May 2022, the Liberty Bell Drama Company (LBDC), in partnership with Methow Arts and the Merc Playhouse, will deliver an ambitious production of "Twelfth Night": a rousing contemporary musical adaptation of Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy about mistaken identity and self-discovery.

This lively, contemporary version of "Twelfth Night" features an original jazz-funk-pop score and allows the players and the audience to explore the themes of friendship, love, gender identity, gender politics, and women's studies, all while learning classic Shakespearean language in the format of a musical dramatic comedy.

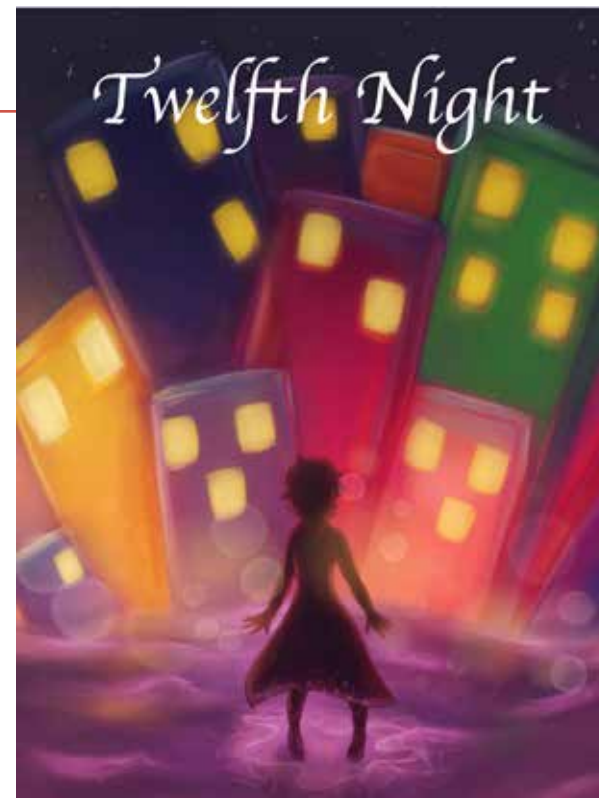
Through its Artist in Residence program, Methow Arts is supporting voice and instrument coaching, set design, and construction support. The Public School Funding Alliance and Confluence Health are also supporting technical aspects of the show through grant funding. The Merc Playhouse has adopted

"Twelfth Night" as part of their season offerings, giving the students extra time in the theater, light and sound design help from Stephen Kish, ticketing and promotion support. In addition, executive director Missi Smith is helping the students with choreography for the show. All of this highlights the true community nature of this event.

Formed in early 2014, the LBDC is a Liberty Bell High School class designed to allow students to become an active part of interpreting the human condition.

Read full article at: [methowarts.org/twelfth-night-with-the-liberty-bell-drama-company](http://methowarts.org/twelfth-night-with-the-liberty-bell-drama-company)

DATES: Wed, May 18-Sat, May 21, 7pm. Sun, May 22, 3pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse. TICKETS: Free but must be reserved in advance. MORE INFO: [kgrayum@methow.org](mailto:kgrayum@methow.org), [methowarts.org](http://methowarts.org)



FANTASTIC MR. FOX

A TOM ZBYSZEWSKI CHILDREN'S THEATER AT THE MERC PLAYHOUSE

Based on the book by Roald Dahl  
Dramatized by Sally Reid  
Directed by Jane Orme

**Boggis and Bunce and Bean**  
**One fat, one short, one lean**

**These horrible crooks**  
**So different in looks**

**Were nonetheless equally mean**

And so begins another enchanting Roald Dahl tale concerning the extraordinary adventures of three nasty farmers, two curious creatures, a family of foxes, and our hero—a most fantastic fellow! Come cheer on Mr. Fox and his friends, the Badgers, Moles, Rabbits and Weasels, as they refuse to be thwarted by Boggis,

Bunce, and Bean. Mr. Fox will serve up a feast perfectly fitting for Mrs. Fox's proclamation, "My husband is one fantastic fox!"

DATES: Fri-Sun, Mar 18-20 & Thurs-Sun, Mar 24-27, Thur-Sat, 7pm, Sun, 2pm. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Thurs, Mar 24, admission by donation. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. CONTACT/ INFO: [MercPlayhouse.org](http://MercPlayhouse.org)

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.



QUOTE ME

A Winthrop Gallery Exhibit - May 27 – July 19

"A picture is worth a thousand words"...but in this case, the artist members of the Winthrop Gallery will spin that quote to show how written words can spin off physical art.



(Applause by Patty Yates.)

Quote Me is about taking a favorite saying and letting it be the spring board for a work of art. Each one of us has experienced reading or hearing a message that touches our core, gets us focused again, gives back the energy we've lost, or just confirm that someone else has been down our current path.

At this exhibit, not only the newly crafted works but also those quotes inspiring each artist will be displayed. Maybe you and an artist share the same positive stanzas.

DATES: Opens May 27. LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA. HOURS/ /INFO: The Winthrop Gallery is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. [info@winthropgallery.com](mailto:info@winthropgallery.com)



METHOW RECYCLES' REPAIR CAFÉ

Bring your broken stuff like lamps, clothing, gardening tools, and radios to the repair café and have our team of expert fixers and sewers give your items a new life. Repair cafes are open to everyone and will feature all kinds of repairs from sewing and darning to electrical and mechanical fixes to tool sharpening.

DATES: 3rd Saturday of the month from Mar-Nov (Mar 19, Apr 23, May 21), 10am-NOON. Free. LOCATION: Outside at The Cove, Twisp. With the exception of Apr 23, which will be at the Earth Day Event at the Doran Ranch, 4-6pm. CONTACT: [aspen@methowrecycles.org](mailto:aspen@methowrecycles.org)

THREE REASONS TO VISIT GALLERY ONE IN ELLENSBURG THIS SPRING

In addition to fantastic exhibits like Undomesticated, a national exhibit of animal-themed art, and the Annual Kittitas County Open Show, Gallery One offers you more reasons to visit this spring including their Kittitas County Studio Tour, Guitar in the Gallery Series, and Annual Planter Auction.



Organized by Tamara and Neil Caulkins, the Guitar in the Gallery Series features acclaimed classical performers. After a hiatus of two years, concerts resume March 27 with John Paul Shields and Elizabeth C. D. Brown on April 24. Tickets are not required, but donations are encouraged. Each concert begins at 2pm in Gallery One's top floor atrium.

The Gallery One Planter Auction has become a favorite anticipated event over the past few years. Artist-made ceramic planters filled with gorgeous plants can be viewed in person May 1-6. Bidding takes place online and all proceeds support Gallery One's thriving youth education program.



Kittitas County Studio Tours resume this year on June 4. Get a map and list of participating artists, then spend the day touring their homes, gardens, and studios. Meet the artists and other art enthusiasts, get inspired, and maybe even purchase some art for your own home. This event is free.



LOCATION: Downtown Ellensburg-including Gallery One. CONTACT: [sarah@gallery-one.org](mailto:sarah@gallery-one.org). [www.gallery-one.org](http://www.gallery-one.org)

(Photographs clockwise from top left: JP Shields featured guitar performer in March; Maria Cristalli's blacksmithing studio in Cle Elum; Tom Saffle with his steel sculpture; Sarah Haven ceramic planter.)



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ONLINE PLANTER SALE



## METHOW ARTS SUMMER BOAT-IN CONCERT

### SAVE THE DATE! THURS, JUNE 23, 6PM-8PM

Methow Arts is bringing back its popular boat-in concert series this summer with a launch on Thursday, June 23rd. Held on Patterson Lake, the free, float-in/boat-in concert returns. The "Under the Methow Sky" event is offered as a celebration of Methow Arts' community and summer Solstice. A big thank you to Sun Mountain Lodge for hosting this event.

The band is yet to be announced. Check the [methowarts.org](http://methowarts.org) website for updates. The concert is designed to be viewed from the lake only. The audience gets to enjoy the show from their kayaks, paddle boards or other water vessels.

The shore will be designated for performers and Sun Mountain's Patterson Lake Cabin guests only. Stay tuned for more summer concert offerings.

Be safe! Know your limit and wear a life jacket/PFD. Methow Arts thanks you for your cooperation.

TICKETS: FREE! DATE: Thurs, June 23, 6-8pm.  
LOCATION: At Patterson Lake. Access at main public boat launch only (Discover Pass required for parking). Load in times from 5-6pm or earlier. Patterson Lake Cabins entry is for guests only. INFO: Information will be announced soon. Visit [methowarts.org](http://methowarts.org) for more information or email @ [info@methowartsalliance.org](mailto:info@methowartsalliance.org)



## WINTHROP RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS JULY



Located at the Blues Ranch on the Methow River in the resort town of Winthrop, Washington, the Winthrop Rhythm & Blues Festival is a three-day event packed full of exciting national and regional entertainment

for all ages. There is on-site camping, food and craft vendors, portable showers, and a beer garden. The Blues Ranch is the perfect setting for one of Washington's finest music festivals. They look forward to another great year at the 35th Annual Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival!!

This year's event includes the following artists: JJ Grey & Mofrom, Charlie Musselwhite, Dumpstaphunk, Eric Gales, Too Slim & The Taildraggers, Vanessa Collier, GA-20 and more TBA.

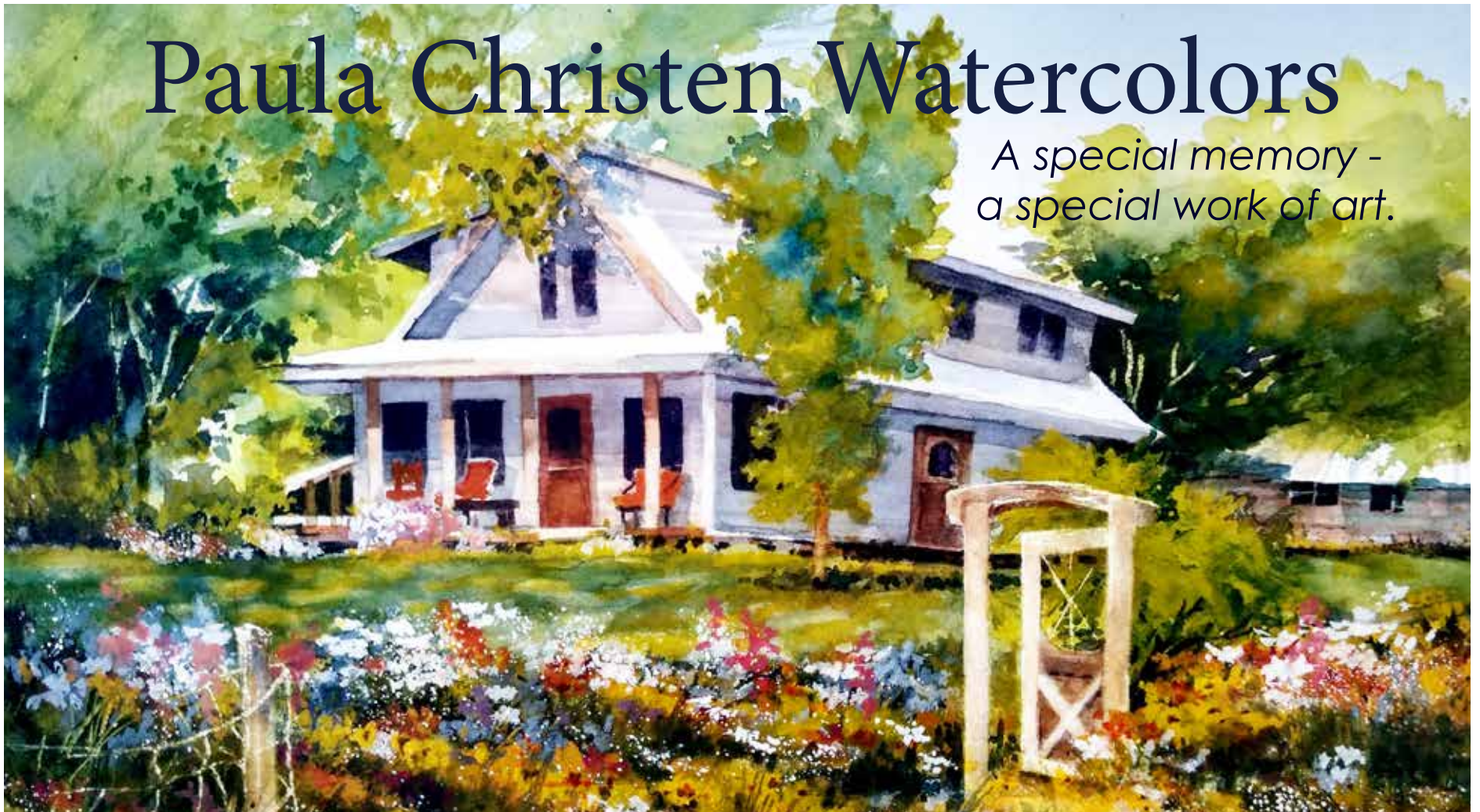


DATES: July 15-17. LOCATION: Blues Ranch, Winthrop, WA. TICKETS: [winthropbluesfestival.com/tickets](http://winthropbluesfestival.com/tickets). INFO: [winthropbluesfestival.com](http://winthropbluesfestival.com).



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