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WINTER 2022-23

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ADULT ONLY - 21 YRS AND OVER.

It's love at first laugh with The Second City! Bring your partner, lover, significant other, spouse, friend with benefits, friend with EXTRA benefits, platonic BFF, or your spectacularly single self to The Second City Swipes Right: An Incomplete Guide to The Ultimate Date Night, the brand-new experience you've been aching for. Spend a naughty 90 minutes with our caliente cast of

comedians as they (consensually) annihilate everything that turns us on—and off—about love, dating, relationships, and everything else in-between the sheets!

Rooted in the groundbreaking improvisational games of Viola Spolin, The Second City opened its doors in December of 1959, and a comedy revolution began. The small cabaret theater has grown to become the most influential and prolific comedy empire in the world, developing an entirely unique way of creating art and fostering generation after generation of superstars.



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Today, The Second City is home to a world-class entertainment company, continuing to produce premier talent in all three of its locations--Chicago, Toronto, and Hollywood--and entertaining more than one million audience members a year. From Steve Carell to Keegan-Michael Key, Stephen Colbert to Tina Fey,

ADULT ONLY! DATE: Sat, Feb 11, 7:30pm. **TICKETS:** Eventbrite.com. We will sell out. Gold Premier Table (\$250/4 seats), Gold Table (\$200/4 seats), Individual (\$40) seats. Purchase at Methow Arts, Twisp, WA. methowarts.org/second-city-swipes-right. **LOCATION:** Winthrop Barn, Winthrop, WA. methowartsalliance@gmail.com. **LOCATION:** Winthrop Barn, Winthrop, WA.

2022 ARTS PARTNERS

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www.winthropgallery.com

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509.997.4601
www.cascadiamusic.org

Twisp, WA 98856
509.997.9029
twispwashington@gmail.com

Winthrop Music Association
509.997.3837
winthropbluesfestival.com

204 N. Glover St/PO Box 723, Twisp, WA
www.methowarts.org

Methow Gallery
316B 5th Ave,
Twisp, WA 98856
509.997.0255
www.twispinfo.com

509-925-2670
www.gallery-one.org

Methow Valley Chamber Festival
509.996.6000
www.methowmusicfestival.org

METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE is a non profit organization founded in 1983 that enriches the lives of our community through a variety of diverse art programs throughout NCW.

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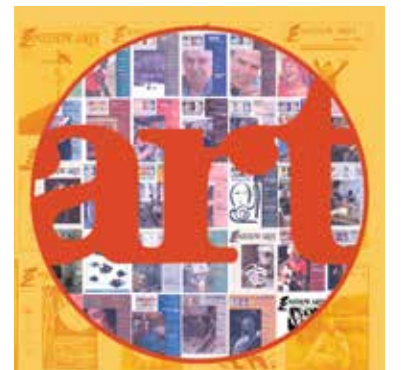
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WINTER ART CALENDAR

DEC

The Nutcracker Play at the Merc
Dec 2-11
Great community theatre from 8yrs and up. See article pg. 12 for details. The Merc Playhouse. 509-997-7529, info@mercplayhouse.org

Twisp Christmas Bazaar
Dec 3, 9-3pm
The Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp, WA. Methowvalleycommunitycenter.org

Gangstagrass
Sat, Dec 3, 7pm
18 yrs + only! Bluegrass, Hip-Hop Blast. 90 minutes of pure, positive, party music celebrating diversity and common ground. #1 Bluegrass Record on Billboard 2020. Article pg. 20. Tickets and info, methowarts.org, info@methowartsalliance.org

The Things We Love
Open through Dec and early Jan
Exhibit at Winthrop Gallery. See article pg. 19. info@winthropgallery.com, Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA.

Auditions! Beauty and the Beast
The Tommy Zbyszewski Children's Theater
Auditions are Dec 5 and 6, 4-5:30pm
Ages 8-18 may audition. See article pg. 19. info@mercplayhouse.org, 509-997-7529.www.mercplayhouse.org

Mistletoe Madness in Twisp
Sat, Dec 9, 4-7pm
Jingle Yourself all the way down to the heart of the Methow Valley for Twisp's Annual Holiday Shopping Celebration. All over Twisp. twispwashington@gmail.com, twispwa.com

Perspectives: Holiday Gift Show & The Sky Calls: Gale Tucker
Through Jan 7
Article pg. 17. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

The Coats at the Omak PAC
Dec 8, 7pm
Acapella at the Omak PAC, Omak, WA. Adults \$25, Student \$10. omakpac.org

Twisp's premiere holiday shopping night: Sip and Shop in the Confluence Gallery
Dec 9, 4-8pm
During Mistletoe Madness
At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Cascadia Music
Fri, Dec 9
Mistletoe Madness Caroling Opportunity- outdoors with the Cascadia Chorale. Meet at 2:30 pm at the Cascadia Office in the Methow Valley Community Center Room#3 Please dress to be outside from 3-5pm, caroling books provided.

Cascadia Music Holiday Concert
Tues, Dec 13, 7pm & Dec 13, 7pm, Wed, Dec 14, 7pm
Methow Valley Community Center
Admission by donation, reserved seating for accommodation only. Doors open at 6:30pm. Article pg. 6. cascadiamv@gmail.com

Poetry Out Loud
Dec 14, 6pm
Liberty Bell High School and ILC students compete. A national memorization and recitation contest. At the Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. Methowarts.org/poetry-out-loud-2022, methowartsalliance@gmail.com

Cascadia Music Caroling Opportunity
Dec 23, 5-6:30pm
Sun Mountain Lodge caroling opportunity. cascadiamv@gmail.com

JAN

Winthrop Gallery: The Things We Love
Open through Dec and early Jan
Exhibit at Winthrop Gallery. See article pg. 19. info@winthropgallery.com, Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA.

Merc: Readers' Theatre: The Book of Liz
Written by Amy and David Sedaris
Jan 6-15, Fri & Sat, 7pm, Sun, Jan 15, 2pm
Directed by Phil Quevillon. See article pg. 19. At the Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. Mercplayhouse.org

Bill Evans Tribute
Jan 7, 7pm
Lynette Westendorf-Piano, Dave Nolet-Bass, Kirk Schumacher-Drums.
Article pg. 13. Methow Valley Community Center. Doors open at 6:30pm. To reserve Tickets or Tables of six, visit cascadiamusic.org

Winthrop Gallery: Chiaroscuro
Opens Jan 13
The Winthrop Gallery explores "Chiaroscuro", an Italian term which literally means "light-dark". See article pg. 5. info@winthropgallery.com, Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA.

Perspectives: Holiday Gift Show & The Sky Calls: Gale Tucker
Through Jan 7
Article pg. 17. At The Confluence, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Hiraeth & Abbie Birmingham Exhibits
Jan 14-Feb 25, Opening reception, Jan 14, 5pm
Article pg. 9. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Methow Arts: Never Come Down
Sat, Jan 14, 7pm
Renowned Bluegrass & Americana with unreal harmonies. Article pg. 16. At the Winthrop Barn. Tickets Eventbrite.com/e/never-come-down-tickets methowartsalliance@gmail.com

FEB

Methow Arts: The Second City Swipes Right: An Incomplete Guide to The Ultimate Date Night
Sat, Feb 11, 7:30pm
ADULT ONLY - 18 YRS AND OVER. It's love at first laugh with The Second City! Bring your partner, lover, significant other, spouse, friend with benefits, friend with EXTRA benefits, platonic BFF, or your spectacularly single self. Article pg. 3. At the Winthrop Barn. Tickets Eventbrite.com and Methow Arts HQ, Twisp, WA. methowartsalliance@gmail.com

Hiraeth & Abbie Birmingham Exhibits
Through Feb 25
Article pg. 9. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Cherrington Merit Scholarship Competition
Wed, Mar 1: scholarship application deadline
Wed, Mar 22: Competition
For musicians under 18. Prizes \$100-\$300. Article pg. 8. Info/application, cascadiamusic.org.

MAR

The Cherrington Merit Scholarship Competition
Wed, Mar 1 scholarship application deadline
Wed, Mar 22, Competition
For musicians under 18. Prizes \$100-\$300. Article pg. 8. Info/application, cascadiamusic.org.

Confluence Gallery: Art for the Anthropocene & Inspired Exhibits
Mar 4-Apr 15, Opening Reception, Mar 4, 5-7pm
Claire Sianna Seaman and regional artists.
Article pg. 9. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.

Beauty and the Beast
The Tommy Zbyszewski Children's Theater
Mar 10-26, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7pm, Sundays, 2pm.
See article pg. 19. www.mercplayhouse.org

Methow Arts: TAIKOPROJECT
Sat, Mar 11, 7pm
World-renowned Taiko from Los Angeles. Article pg. 16 At the Winthrop Barn. Tickets Eventbrite.com and Methow Arts HQ, Twisp, WA. methowartsalliance@gmail.com

Winthrop Gallery: Texture
Opens Mar 17
The Gallery explores what texture means for the artist. See article pg. 5. info@winthropgallery.com, Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Avenue, Winthrop, WA.

The Cherrington Merit Scholarship Competition
Wed, Mar 22, Competition
For musicians under 18. Prizes \$100-\$300. Article pg. 8. Info/application, cascadiamusic.org.

SHOPPING LOCAL MAKES CENTS (AND DOLLARS!) FOR METHOW VALLEY ARTISTS

Methow Valley Goods, a one-stop shop for all things local, celebrated its second anniversary over the Thanksgiving weekend. The store, located in Building O on the TwispWorks campus, sells goods—everything from fine art to beer and wine—from over 80 artists, makers, producers, and creatives in the Methow Valley and Okanogan County. If you're the kind of shopper who enjoys knowing where your purchases come from and what kind of impact they have in the world, Methow Valley Goods is place for you!

Shopping at Methow Valley Goods can, quite literally, change the career trajectory of local artists. Take, for example, Marcia Ives. When Marcia moved to the Methow she was ready to retire from her career in caregiving, but she knew her family still needed some revenue. At first, she went back to caregiving. She found joy in being a hands-on caregiver—rather than the business manager. She loved her new pottery hobby, but said, "You can only give so much pottery away to your friends." Marcia needed "something to do" with all the beautiful things she was making.

With support and encouragement from Methow Made and the aforementioned Methow Valley Goods—two TwispWorks programs that support local artists and makers with marketing expertise and retail space—Marcia soon found herself in business as a potter. She said, "I'm a new artist. I didn't do anything artistic in my life before. I was shy about it and didn't know how to price things or this or that." Methow Valley Goods provided Marcia a learning experience and a revenue stream as an artist. Now she says, "I actually call myself an artist."

Today Marcia is known for her daily use pottery: bowls, mugs, plates and more, often decorated with the Methow's iconic aspen trees. She says it's "just the cat's meow" to have people buy the items she's lovingly made and use them every day to eat their cereal or drink their coffee.

Other popular items at Methow Valley Goods include brightly patterned, hand-thrown bowls from Emily Post, watercolors by Anne Peck, and pepper mills, bottle stoppers, and vases from woodworker Duane Kikendall. Every purchase you make at Methow Valley

Goods supports local makers like Marcia!

As a thank you to customers new and old, Methow Valley Goods will celebrate its second anniversary—as well as all the winter holidays—with a special gift drawing. From Thanksgiving until the end of the year, anyone who makes a purchase in the store can enter to win a raffle prize. A winner will be drawn each week!

INFO: Regular hours at Methow Valley Goods are Monday – Saturday, 11am – 4pm.



WINTHROP GALLERY EXHIBITS



WINTHROP GALLERY: CHIAROSCURO

In the snow landscape of with its dark skies, Winthrop Gallery explores "Chiaroscuro", an Italian term which literally means "light-dark". Think art focused on opposites, black and white, dappled forests, a side-lit still life, and good against evil. The Chiaroscuro exhibit

DATES: Opens Jan13. LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery is located on 237 Riverside Avenue and open 10am-5pm daily. CONTACT/INFO: Shop the gallery store at www.winthropgallery.com, 509-995-3925.

WINTHROP GALLERY: TEXTURE

If you are writer, there is a thesaurus overflowing with words to describe texture; rough, silky, shiny and dull, are just a few you can easily use. How about the artist? What tool or technique is at their disposal to describe those same terms, either tactile or visual? Texture exhibit opens March 17, LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery is located on 237 Riverside Avenue and open 10am-5pm daily. CONTACT/INFO: Shop the gallery store at www.winthropgallery.com, 509-995-3925.

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SHOW INFO, @ METHOWARTS.ORG
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CASCADIA MUSIC'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

Cascadia Music is proud to present the Holiday Concert this year in person! We are excited to be back in our Community Center home performing for you once again. Featuring the Pipestone Youth Orchestra, Cascadia Chorale, The Pipestone Orchestra and 2022 Cherrington Scholarship Competition Winner, Ilo Curtis.



Holiday classics and traditional carols join your new favorites in a celebration of winter and the Holidays. Enjoy the Vivaldi Concerto in D for Guitar and Strings, Flute trio and Brass choir, selections by the Cascadia Chorale including Ding Dong Merrily on High, a traditional French Carol set to Four Hand Piano accompaniment performed by Lynette Westendorf and Marcus Duke. Old and new favorites combine in

celebration. Come share the joy of music with us this Holiday Season!

DATES: Tues, Dec 13, 7pm & Dec 13, 7pm, Wed, Dec 14, 7pm. **TICKETS:** Admission by donation, reserved seating for accommodation only. Doors open at 6:30pm. **LOCATION:** Methow Valley Community Center. **CONTACT/INFO:** cascadiamv@gmail.com. Volunteer opportunities through volunteermethow.org.



(On Dec 12th and 13th, join Cascadia for their annual Holiday Concert at the MV Community Center in Twisp. Photos above, left, Pipestone Youth Orchestra, right, Cascadia Chorale and MV Orchestra.)

WINTER ART SHOW DEBUTS AT SUN MOUNTAIN LODGE GALLERY

A kaleidoscope of fresh winter scenes opened at the Sun Mountain Lodge gallery in concert with a heavy snowfall in the Methow valley. As if on cue, the doors open wide as the snow fell.

Curated by Laura Karcher and Donna Keyser, the new show focuses on autumn and winter landscapes as suits the season. Some of the most talented artists in



the area are showcased which results in a high level of visual excitement.

The addition of new gallery lighting and an expanded number of works provides additional impact making the show one of the largest in Okanogan County. New resort owners, Erich Guenther and Collin Madden have expressed a desire to improve the gallery facility and increase its presence in the local art scene. The first show, designed by Karcher and Keyser, achieves that goal.

Featured artists offer a wonderful and diverse assortment of winter paintings by: Rod Weagant, landscape paintings from the Methow; Julie Devine, impressionistic landscapes from the North Cascades; Kathy Meyers, paintings of horses; Steve Mitchell, photographs of Winthrop at night; Laura Karcher, wood assemblages; Donna Kaiser, paintings and prints on wood; Jackie Iddings, landscape paintings; and Peter Nawrot, rare and exotic wood tableaus.

Many of these artists have open studios or are represented by our other local galleries such as the Winthrop Gallery, confluence gallery, and Twisp Works studios.

INFO: The Gallery at Sun Mountain Lodge is open to the public from 9am to 7pm daily. 509-996-2211. **LOCATION:** Sun Mountain Lodge Gallery, 604 Patterson Lake Rd., Winthrop, WA.

(Visit Sun Mountain's Gallery for an array of local artwork. Left, artwork by Twisp artist, Donna Keyser.)



WINTER NEWS FROM THE TWISP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AMAZON SHMAMAZON: The Twisp Chamber invites you to buy local during Mistletoe Madness, its annual holiday shopping event taking place on Friday, 12/9 from 3-7pm. Browse discounts, specials, raffles and more from store to store around downtown Twisp and TwispWorks. Extra treats from businesses in past years include free warm cookies, yummy adult beverages, and surprise artists taking on a one-night, in-store residence.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: the outdoor Holiday Market returns! Stroll past artists, makers and producers outside on Glover Street to find jewelry, soap, ceramics, toys, and even vacuum-sealed sockeye salmon.

NEW IN 2022: Santa's Palace comes to the Cove! Get your family photo taken with Santa (and maybe even Mrs. Claus) inside of a winter wonderland right in the heart of downtown Twisp.

PLUS: Ride around Twisp in a real one-horse sleigh, enjoy hearing merry carolers sing as they make their way in and out of stores, and warm up at any nearby hotspot firepit.

Full details: www.twispwa.com

ARE YOU READING THIS MAGAZINE WHE MISTLETOE MADNESS IS OVER? Fear not! Here's a few ways you can support businesses, organizations and artists this entire winter:

1. SET A MONTHLY "TWISP BUSINESS BUDGET." Committing to just one local meal a week or \$50 in services a month goes a long way.

2. SHOP LOCAL.

Before checking out of your online cart, check out our local artists and makers on Etsy or via the Methow Made, Methow Arts, or Twisp Washington websites.

3. CONTRIBUTE YOUR TIME. "Like" a business on social

media (might we suggest @TwispWA!), sign up for a non-profit's e-Newsletter, write a 5-star review on TripAdvisor, Yelp or Google Maps. The more you stay connected with your local artists, businesses and organizations, the more you'll know how to support them directly.

4. SAY HELLO. Take a weekly walk or drive down a different part of Twisp to introduce yourself to business owners both seasoned and new. Swing inside to warm up, and to warm the hearts of owners, staff, and maybe even fellow shoppers with a smile.

Are you an artist or business/organization that would like to stay connected to the Methow Valley business community, while also receiving marketing and economic support? Consider joining the Twisp Chamber of Commerce! Visit TwispWA.com/Chamber to learn more.



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NOM NOM NOM: FORK AND TWISP EATS PROVIDE NEW FOOD OPTIONS AT TWISPPWORKS

When Sanjaya "Lal" Warnakulasuriyage moved to the Methow in 2016, the first thing he noticed (after the Methow's natural beauty and abundant recreational activities, of course) was "not enough food!" Now Twisp is about to see two new food options.

Lal recently purchased the food truck Fork, putting a new spin on the menu. Lal is Sri Lankan, and he's passionate about sharing his country's healthy and flavorful food with the Methow. Lal's menu includes dahl, a delicious lentil and coconut milk dish, curries, and samosas, as well as a few updated Fork classics like the chicken sandwich and fries.

Lal's food is whole heartedly authentic—he learned to cook from his mother, "the best cook he knows." When asked what the phrase "food is art" means to him, he said, "Food is art. Food is love. Love and art, feeling. I'm always cooking to make the people happy."

Fork has a new location on the TwispWorks campus next to the OSB Taproom and while Lal's winter schedule is still being finalized, he anticipates being open for most of the winter.

Nancy Pfeiffer and Steve Morse, Fork's original owners, will also be opening a new venture on the TwispWorks campus. Nancy and Steve will open Twisp Eats this winter in the space formerly known as Kathy's Kitchen. They are currently completing their build out and anticipate serving their famous fries, cookies, custom cakes, and other food options.

Future food entrepreneurs in our midst take note: like Kathy's Kitchen, Twisp Eats will also be available for commercial kitchen rentals.

To whet your appetite for the Methow's growing food scene, Lal generously shared his dahl recipe with us.

Lal's Dahl Recipe

Place in medium saucepan (2 or 3 quart)

1 cup red lentils (muysoor) rinsed thoroughly until no foamy water runs

1 T. turmeric powder

1/2 to 1 t. chili powder (depending on the heat of the spice)

1/2 sliced small onion

2-4 cloves garlic

Enough water to cover all to the depth of about half an inch

Bring to a boil, then simmer until most of the water is absorbed. Lentils and aromatics should be soft. When all water is absorbed and ingredients are soft, add:

2 cups coconut milk (we use the Thai Kitchen brand at home)

Heat through, then add salt to taste. Adding salt at the end ensures lentils do not become tough.



(Fork Food Truck at TwispWorks gets a new owner and a new spin on the menu. The new owner, Lal, anticipates being open for most of the winter.)

HIRAETH & ABBIE BIRMINGHAM EXHIBITS

HIRAETH. n. (Welsh) A spiritual longing for a home which maybe never was. Nostalgia for ancient places to which we cannot return. It is the echo of the lost places of our soul's past and our grief for them. It is in the wind, and the rocks, and the waves. It is nowhere and it is everywhere.

ABBIE BIRMINGHAM is a printmaker and book artist with a love of all things paper. My work is deeply place based and much of my imagery addresses my fascination with patterns, both visible and invisible. With a background in architecture and construction I often create imagery exploring the built environment, structures and street grids.

The pieces at Confluence are explorations of basalt, bridges and birds. All of the pieces, including most of the collage elements, began as original, hand pulled prints, using a variety of printmaking techniques, and then adding multiple layers of mixed media such as pastel, watercolor and pen and ink. "I love the eastern Washington landscape, its huge skies and fascinating geology and as metaphor for change over time. The basalt cliffs remind me of urban towers and the Columbia River and its drainage basin is the powerful Big River that unites the entire state and region."

DATE: Jan 14-Feb 25, Opening Reception Sat, Jan 14, 5-7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. CONTACT/INFO: info@confluencegallery.org, 509-997-2787.



(Abbie Birmingham's artwork will be at Confluence Gallery from Jan 14-Feb 25 with an opening reception on Sat, Jan 14, 5-7pm. Artwork above, by Birmingham, Fire & Flood, 19.5Hx34W.)

ART FOR THE ANTHROPOCENE & INSPIRED

ANTHROPOCENE. In the face of immense social and environmental change, where do we stand? Claire Sianna Seaman strives to make work to help us understand our relationship to the environment and process our changing world. From Climate Strikes to road signs to the salmon in the rivers, everything is connected, and we get to decide where we see the beauty.

INSPIRED. What inspires creativity? For some it starts with a poem, verse or some other inspirational words, followed by a beautiful photo or place perhaps. Poets may be inspired by a work of art, while a visual artist may be inspired by the written word.

Poets will be invited to provide work that may be used by visual artists to create work. Visual artists will be asked to create work that poets will interpret during the exhibit.

It is hoped this will create a call and response to visual and written sources of inspiration: the translation of words to the visual realm



(Exhibits, Anthropocene and Inspired, launch on Mar 4th at the Confluence. Artwork left, Trillium by Merry Maxwell; above, Climate Strike emerge by Claire Seaman.)

and translation of the visual back to words. Artists will create work inspired by local poets – the visual and written work may be shown together. Poetry created that responds to work during the exhibit will be recited at reading event(s) during the show.

DATES: Mar 4-Apr 15, Opening Reception Sat, Mar 4, 5-7pm. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, info@confluencegallery.org

CHRISTINE CHERRINGTON MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



Attention music teachers and students! The Cherrington Merit Scholarship Competition is coming up in March. So now is the time to prepare or polish your piece.

The competition is open to any music student, for any instrument, under the age of 18. The first step is to fill out an application from Cascadiamusic.org on the scholarships page to secure

your place in the competition. (Or ask your teacher to help you fill out your application). Then arrive at least 15 minutes before your competition time, to warm up and be ready to perform at your scheduled time.

Prepare a piece to share with judges who will be scoring on your knowledge of the piece, your demonstrated musicality and tone, your technical correctness, your expression and the joy you have playing.

First Prize is \$300, Second Prize is \$150 and Third Prize is \$100. They look forward to receiving your application.

DATES: Wed, Mar 1 scholarship application deadline, Wed, Mar 22, Competition. CONTACT & INFO: cascadiamusic.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed, Mar 1 - Scholarship Applications deadline

Wed, Mar 22 - Competition by scheduled appointment



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JANET FAGAN: NATURAL OPTIMIST

BY MARCY STAMPER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN MITCHELL

“On a painting day, I’m so excited when I wake up, because every painting is this real adventure,” said Janet Fagan, a painter, printmaker, and mixed-media artist who embeds her experience of the natural world in her art.

When creating art, Fagan is so immersed in the moment that it’s completely satisfying, she said. Although she takes a variety of approaches to artmaking, she always trusts that the process will lead to an expression of her aesthetic ideas and her reflections on the natural world.

When making art in her studio, Fagan relies on her memory and uses words, images or photos to trigger her feelings of being in nature. Although she looks at photos or sketches she’s made while running, skiing, or hiking, they aren’t studies for a painting, but instead a way to help her tap into the way she felt. “I just work with the emotional memory of it,” she said.

Rather than planning out a painting, Fagan works intuitively, allowing the materials and her feelings to guide the creative process. Often the meaning

emerges in hindsight, she said. Listening to music as she creates helps her draw on emotional cues and resonance.

Fagan employs a variety of approaches when she starts a new work of art. Sometimes, she’ll close her eyes while she paints, draws, or cuts out paper shapes with scissors. “The more random I can be, the more interesting and unexpected things will come to the surface,” she said. Sometimes she puts the paper on the ground and pours liquid acrylic paint on it, letting the paint run all over the place.

Fagan blends oils, acrylics, and ink in her art. She’ll mix oils with cold wax to achieve a milky, foggy glaze. She also uses a resist technique, where she adheres shapes she’s cut out of paper to the canvas to block the paint, and then peels it off, revealing the paper underneath. She often incorporates a woodblock print and then layers it with collage or gold leaf.

Fagan always uses multiple layers to achieve the desired complexity of her final image. It takes three or four layers before a painting even starts to take shape, and often 10 layers before a painting is complete.

In fact, when a painting doesn’t come easily, Fagan finds she likes the painting more, because the multiple layers make it more interesting and meaningful in the end. “I just have to work harder if I can’t relate to it,” she said. “I keep layering. Something will change and shift.”

REVEALING THE IMAGE

After the initial creative process, Fagan will sit and stare at her painting, contemplating the colors and forms, and figuring out her next steps as she searches for representational elements that emerge from the abstractions. Rotating the paper can reveal trees or mountains in the layers of paint. “I may like it better upside-down,” she said.

Creating art involves taking and giving up control, Fagan said. “I love that juxtaposition of opposites – drawing versus abstraction, layers versus transparency, texture versus washes, control versus lack of control,” she said. “Just looking at the horizon line or the sky can open your head.”

Once Fagan finds the anchor for the landscape, she’ll add a path or wildlife. In many works, a lone deer, wolf, or bear walks along the horizon.

Some paintings feature owls, quail, or chickadees, either solitary or in social groupings. Hummingbirds sip nectar from flowers against the rich hues of sky. Animals may take refuge under a tree, in the shelter of its soft, watery contours.

These are usually creatures Fagan has encountered, and her art captures the power and majesty she’s experienced. Some paintings are more abstract, where the creatures hover above a complex, layered background of vertical forms that evoke the mystery of a forest. In other paintings, rays of sunlight, delicate blossoms, and leaves emerge in gorgeous, vibrant colors.

Some paintings depict the vastness of the landscape, the deer or bears mere specks on the horizon. But in others, it’s the birds, horses, or butterflies and their personalities that take prominence.

There are also domesticated animals in Fagan’s art. Cats – Fagan shares her home with two of them – make regular appearances.

Occasionally, Fagan’s paintings include human figures. One theme that cropped up during the pandemic was a lone violinist, often playing for an audience of a cat or a bird. Fagan sees these paintings as a kind of self-portrait, capturing the absence of music in her life during the pandemic, when the band she plays in (they play bluegrass, Americana, and folk music) couldn’t meet.

Fagan tends to work on half a dozen paintings and woodblock prints at a time. Although the



paintings usually have a similar theme, they all have different color palettes and moods. One may be blue and green, while another has deep reds, oranges, and browns.

“When I experiment, I try to create randomness,” she said. Still, she said, “I’m very old-school. I love drawing and will never give it up, because I just love it so much.”

WOODBLOCK PRINTS

In addition to her mixed-media paintings, Fagan creates woodblock prints, which necessitate more planning – she draws the image on wood and then carves it into the block. Fagan still does all her printing by hand, savoring the

physicality of it.

Rather than producing an edition of identical prints, Fagan uses the woodblock to make several works of art, all different. Some are straightforward blockprints. But then, she might paint on top of her wood carving, or make a monoprint, applying paint to glass and

transferring the image to paper. And the blockprints regularly migrate into her paintings.

A recent carving of a great blue heron started as a traditional black-and-white print. Then Fagan printed it on tissue paper, which she’ll incorporate as a transparent layer in a painting. “It’s different ways of looking at the same image. It’s really fun to use the same woodblock to do different things,” she said.

In Fagan’s woodblock prints, the bold, graphic strokes capture the texture of fur or feather. Sometimes there are owls, cats, and rabbits anchored by a simple background; at other times, they’re superimposed on trees, flowers, or sky.

Fagan finds it stimulating to have these two completely different ways of working, to balance the serendipity of her paintings with the more meticulous planning for the blockprints.

Fagan also loves circles. That passion is expressed through recurring suns and moons in her mixed-media work, and also in delicate black-and-white Japanese sumi-e ink paintings she makes on round canvases.

“The reason I make work is to communicate something to the people who buy it,” Fagan said. “I need it to find a home and be with people.”

DRAWING ENERGY FROM NATURE

Fagan has spent virtually all her life in intimacy with the natural world. She grew up in Florida before the state was built up, where she inhabited a wild landscape of saltwater, wetlands, dune lakes, and forests, and where hammerhead sharks were a daily presence. Nature and weather were omnipresent. Twice, her

family home was flattened by hurricanes.

To this day, Fagan loves being by herself in nature, where she feels grounded and at peace. She backpacks and takes long-distance runs in the mountains. “Running, for me, is like a kinetic form of meditation,” she said.

“My art practice... is where my imagination communes with memory and optimism,” Fagan said.

After being based in Seattle for decades, Fagan has been splitting her time between Seattle and Mazama for the past five years. When her home studio in the valley is completed (expected by the end of 2022) and she brings her cats to Mazama, the transition will be complete.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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JANET FAGAN: NATURAL OPTIMIST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11.

For all the randomness of her artmaking, Fagan is exceptionally focused and disciplined. She maps out each day before she goes to bed. In fact, Fagan sets goals for the week, for six months, and for the year, and then reverse-engineers her schedule and focus to achieve them. "I can't just stay in the moment – I assess and see what's worked," she said.

Fagan makes sure she devotes her best energies not only to creating art, but also to all the aspects of her career as an artist. One day, she'll paint, while other days are devoted to administrative or marketing tasks, or to packing art for shipping.

TEACHING ART

In addition to creating art, Fagan has taught art throughout her career. She has often taught marginalized people or those whose voices may be suppressed, helping them use art as an outlet for self-expression and creativity.

Fagan has taught at-risk teens, people dealing with addiction, and children and adults in transitional situations such as homeless shelters. She finds it especially gratifying to see her students flourish, both through this outlet for communication and via the responses they get to their art.

Among the most meaningful jobs she's had is teaching art to adults with dementia. Creating art enables these people to express themselves, tell stories, and to experience beauty and energy, at a time when they may no longer be able to do so in other ways, Fagan said.

Fagan thinks back to her childhood and her precious access to the world of wildness and nature, and the gift of her parents' support for her passion for art. She remembers the box of random items she carried around to spur her imagination. She drew all the time, obsessively sketching horses and studying their anatomy, and was simply expected to entertain herself through her explorations of nature and of art.

"I'm still exactly that person, the same as at age 7," Fagan said. "I was taught to be alone and be creative. That was so important – it fosters creativity."

She's committed to passing on that gift to others. "With my paintings, I want to encourage people to see the landscape from their heart, to remember the poignant times they felt outside," she said.

Janet Fagan is a member of the Winthrop Gallery. She has a solo exhibit at Methow Arts and is featured in the "Perspectives" exhibit at Confluence Gallery in Twisp through Jan. 7, 2023. Her website is www.janetfagan.com.



2023 METHOW VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BE HELD AT COMMUNITY CENTER IN TWISP



Fifty years ago, in what is now the Methow Valley Community Center, students sat before blackboards

new space. Being right in town where folks can stop

struggling with equations and diagramming sentences. For two weeks next June, that iconic building will be home to the 2023 Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival.

The Music Festival, which began in 2003 and features world class musicians from all parts of the globe, was previously held at Signal Hill Ranch and Twisp Terrace Lodge.

"I'm beyond thrilled about the history and beauty of the

in to hear rehearsals and musicians can more easily connect with valley folk as they explore the town between rehearsals. The gorgeous sound the hall reflects, the gleaming historical maple floors, and the best sightlines to the stage that we've had will add up to a wonderful experience for our audiences," says Festival Artistic Director Kevin Krentz.

The 2023 Festival will consist of six concerts featuring well-loved classics as well as more cutting-edge pieces guaranteed to bring delighted concertgoers to their feet.

Concertgoers will be able to dine at one of our fine Valley restaurants or picnic in the Center's newly landscaped and tented garden area. Local beer, wine, cider, and desserts will be available for purchase.

The 2023 concert schedule is as follows: June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24. Be sure to note those dates and be prepared for the best concert series since the Festival's inception!

CONTACT/INFO: methowmusicfestival.org

BILL EVANS TRIBUTE

The late Bill Evans (1929-1980) is the mid-20th century's pre-eminent lyrical jazz pianist. More than any other artist of his generation, he is known for complex extended harmony, subtle rhythmic nuance, and most of all, his superb depth of tone at the piano. His compositions are some of the most complicated in the standard jazz canon and are beloved across the spectrum of jazz styles. One critic suggested that Bill Evans's influence on other jazz pianists is eclipsed only by that of McCoy Tyner.

This project—with Lynette Westendorf on piano, Dave Nolet on bass and Kirk Schumacher on drums—has been in rehearsal for several months. After one of Cascadia's jazz jam sessions earlier this year, it was Dave who suggested the Evans tribute project. This trio—Westendorf, Nolet and Schumacher—hit it right off with the compositions of Bill Evans.

Lynette's approach to playing Bill Evans is not to try to imitate him, but rather to use his compositions to explore their rich complexity with her fellow players, as well as to pay tribute to his contribution to the art of jazz. Evans's well known works such as Waltz for Debby, Turn Out the Stars, Very Early, and many others will comprise the two-set event, sponsored by Cascadia Music.

DATE: Sat, Jan 7, 7pm. Doors open at 6pm. TICKETS: Advance tickets \$20 or \$140, table of six. At the door-tickets \$25. Tickets or tables available to reserve at cascadiamusic.org. LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp, WA. CONTACT/INFO: cascadiamusic.org.



THE MERC PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS: THE NUTCRACKER - A CHRISTMAS PLAY WRITTEN BY JUNE WALKER ROGERS



Directed by Jane Orme and Missi Smith

This classic holiday story that many of us know from the ballet is reimagined with familiar characters in this spoken adaptation. Don't worry, there will still be dancing! And beautiful costumes. Celebrate the holidays with your family and enjoy our Silent Auction before the show and at intermission!

Doors will open one hour prior to performances to allow ample time for browsing Silent Auction items.

DATES: Dec 2-11, Fridays and Saturdays, 7pm, Sundays, 2pm. TICKETS: \$18 in advance | \$20 at the door | \$5 youth. Admission by Donation on Thurs, Dec 8, 7pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. CONTACT/INFO/TICKETS: www.mercplayhouse.org

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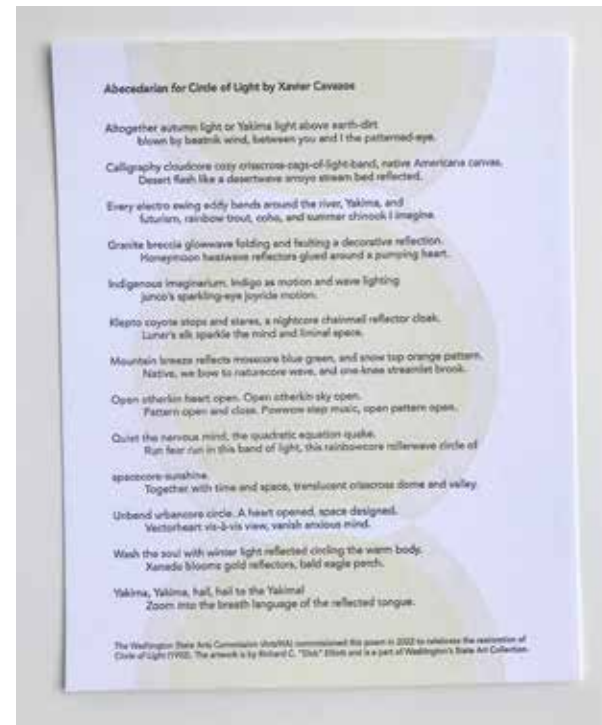
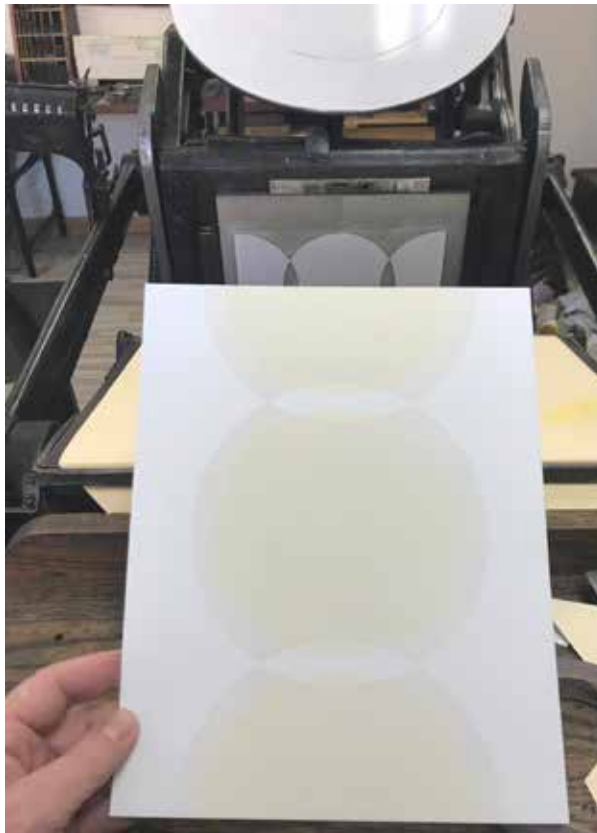
COLLABORATIVE PRINT HONORS HISTORIC RESTORATION OF PUBLIC ART BY RICHARD C. "DICK" ELLIOTT

Late artist Richard C. "Dick" Elliott's colorful outdoor art installations can be seen throughout Washington, including his artfully adorned home in Ellensburg and a public work in nearby Pateros. Thirty years ago this year the artist installed one of Washington State's largest works of public art featuring his signature medium – round, industrial grade highway reflectors. Titled Circle of Light, the work comprises more than 48,000 reflectors surrounding the exterior of the Yakima Valley SunDome in Yakima, WA.

Letterpress to design and produce a commemorative print featuring the poem.

An Abecedarian for Circle of Light is a 26-line poem; each line begins with a letter of the alphabet. It echoes the landscape of Eastern Washington and its inhabitants and pays tribute to the patterns that influenced Elliott's work.

For more information about the artist and Circle of Light visit www.arts.wa.gov/circle-of-light. The commemorative print of Cavazos' poem is currently on view at True North Letterpress, 109 Glover Street North in Twisp. INFO: robin@truenorthletterpress.com



(Local artist Robin Doggett of True North Letterpress received a commission to design and produce a commemorative print featuring the poem An Abecedarian for Circle of Light. The public art piece, Circle of Light, was created by late artist Richard C. "Dick" Elliott. It comprises more than 48,000 reflectors surrounding the exterior of the Yakima Valley SunDome in Yakima, WA.)

METHOW ARTS: HOW THE ARTS PROVIDE DEVELOPMENTAL BENEFITS FOR OUR STUDENTS

BY AMANDA JACKSON MOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – METHOW ARTS ALLIANCE

Although some might consider arts education as a luxury, the Arts are some of the most important building blocks of child development and are more important than ever in the development of the next generation of children as they grow up. For children in the Methow Valley, Methow Arts' education programs are providing benefits that go beyond learning to paint. We believe that access to the Arts is not an optional extra, it is essential - not simply because of the worlds it opens up, but because of the developmental impact it has for our children.

Recent research emphasizes how the arts are instrumental in providing important developmental skills for our students. Cultivating these skills is essential to a well-rounded education—the kind of education we seek for our Methow Valley students.

Here's how your kids are getting developmental benefits through artist residencies in their school:

1. MOTOR SKILLS: Many of the motions involved in making art, such as holding a paintbrush, cutting paper masks, or binding handmade books are essential to the growth of fine motor skills in young children. According to the National Institutes of Health, at the age of three developmental milestones are recommended to include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors.

2. DECISION MAKING: Americans for the Arts recently reported that art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. If students are exploring, thinking, experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to develop.

3. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNICATION: Making art-or just talking about it-provides opportunities to learn words, color and shapes at a young age. By elementary school, students use descriptive words to discuss what feelings are evoked when they make or see different artwork. We often hear from parents after an arts education residency about how an art lesson helped their child to open up and talk them about their day at school.

4. CULTURAL AWARENESS: As we live in an increasingly diverse society, the images of different groups in the media may also present mixed messages. Students in the Methow Valley get a chance to experience performers from around the globe such as Nobuntu from Zimbabwe, throat singers from the country of Tuva, TaikoProject from Japan and Los Angeles. Providing these opportunities helps our children understand and respect diverse cultures and talk about difference.



5. VISUAL LEARNING: Painting, sculpting with clay, and block printing all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever. Students receive information from cues that they get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and the internet. Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it. Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

6. INVENTIVENESS: When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives.

7. IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: There is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to graduate from school, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.



(Photos top right, Methow Valley students celebrate their performance of Missoula Children's Theatre's "The Little Mermaid". Bottom right, through Methow Arts' Youth Arts Initiative second graders learn about forces of motion and gravity with a painting technique utilizing a swinging pendulum.)

To learn more about Methow Arts' Education Programs contact us @ methowartsalliance@gmail.com, 509.997.4004.

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METHOW ARTS: NEVER COME DOWN

Weaving together modern and traditional styles of bluegrass and americana, Never Come Down is a Portland, Oregon based 5-piece composed of Joe Suskind (guitar), Crystal Lariza (vocals), Brian Alley (banjo), Kaden Hurst (mandolin), and Ben Ticknor (bass). Their dedication to thoughtful songwriting and dynamic arrangements highlight polished technical skills and a commitment to listening to each other. Formed in 2018, the band released their self-titled

debut that year and their second album "Better Late Than Never" followed in 2021. They've toured internationally and have found acclaim at festivals and venues such as Iceland Airwaves, John Hartford Memorial Fest, Americanafest, FreshGrass and RockyGrass.

DATE: Sat, Jan 14, 7pm.
LOCATION: Winthrop Barn, Winthrop, WA. TICKETS: Eventbrite.com/e/never-come-down-tickets, \$18/advance adults, \$22/door, \$5/kids ages 5-15 years old. \$30/Reserved seating first 5 rows and balcony – all ages. Online and at Methow Arts in Twisp, WA. CONCESSIONS: Beer, wine and sodas available for purchase. CONTACT: methowartsalliance@gmail.com, 509-997-4004.



METHOW ARTS: TAIKOPROJECT TRAVELS TO THE BARN ON MAR 11

TAIKOPROJECT has performed and recorded with Stevie Wonder, Usher, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend, Kanye West and many more. They have performed on the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's "The Voice" and many more.

The TAIKOPROJECT team is made up of the best and brightest young taiko performers in the U.S. Since its founding, the group has been fiercely gender-balanced and has embraced the multi-cultural openness that has allowed the art form to thrive in America.

From Los Angeles, California they were seeking to create a truly American style of taiko, blending traditional forms in which they were raised, with an innovative and fresh approach to the Japanese drum.

TAIKOPROJECT first made waves when they became the first American taiko group to win the prestigious Tokyo International Taiko Contest, besting all of the Japanese taiko groups in the competition. That year, they were cast in the Mitsubishi Eclipse commercial, the first and

still only national advertising campaign to prominently feature taiko.

large-drum-webTAIKOPROJECT has performed and recorded with Stevie Wonder, Usher, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend and many more.

They have performed on the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's "The Voice," Syfy's Face/Off, The X-Factor, rock band 30 Seconds to Mars' "Up in the Air" music video, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, the iHeartRadio Music Festival, and were honored with the prestigious Visionary Award from East West Players.



DATE: Sat, Mar 11, 7pm. LOCATION: Winthrop Barn, Winthrop, WA. TICKETS: Eventbrite.com, \$18/advance adults, \$22/door, \$7/kids ages 5-15years old. \$30/ Reserved seating, floor and balcony – all ages. Online and at Methow Arts in Twisp, WA. CONCESSIONS: Beer, wine and sodas available for purchase. CONTACT:methowartsalliance@gmail.com, 509-997-4004.

CONFLUENCE EXHIBITS

PERSPECTIVES: HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW

The Confluence: Art in Twisp celebrates the holiday season from a multitude of vantage points with its new exhibit, "Perspectives."

A set of tracks vanishing in the distance. The view of the canopy from the forest floor. The isolating focus on an undisturbed alpine tarn. Sometimes all we need to appreciate the world around us is a fresh view.

The more than 40 local, regional, and national artists featured in the exhibit present their own unique view of the world, these works are thought-provoking, funny, surprising, imaginative, and beautiful, a kaleidoscopic array of perspectives!

Often reflecting personal ideological and cultural perspectives; the works range from literal depictions of everyday landscapes and objects to abstract geometric shapes. Given the current juncture in history, this exhibit makes the case how art can bring us together, and help bridge diverse experiences and perspectives.



All these works of art, on some level, embrace and illuminate our shared humanity from a variety of perspectives. Curators Joanne Marracci and Marcy Stamper invite you to contemplate and experience that theme as

you celebrate the holiday season. "Perspectives" will brighten the short days and long nights of winter with art that is stimulating, inspiring, and beautiful.

DATE: Nov 19- Jan 7. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, confluencegallery.org



(Artwork left, FjordBucket by Carmi Weingrod; right, Winter Solitude by Bethany Wray.)

THE SKY CALLS

GALE TUCKER IN THE OMMUNITY GALLERY



Tucker's recurring dream of flying has taken her on a whimsical and irreverent journey of flight expressed in her mixed media exhibit The Sky Calls. The swooping, gliding and soaring of birds and fanciful fantasy creatures invites us into the heart of Tucker's dream world to experience its wonder, awe and delight.

DATE: Nov 19-Jan 7, LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. INFO/CONTACT: 509-997-2787, info@confluencegallery.org.

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EXPERIENCE GALLERY ONE IN ELLENSBURG THIS WINTER

ANNUAL GIFT SHOW

NOV 4-DEC 30

Join Gallery One as the Gallery One Gift Shop expands into the Main Gallery. Come browse the expanded selection of gifts for all ages during this annual show. You'll find a variety of unique finds, handmade goods, fair trade gifts, stocking stuffers and a hand-picked selection of Northwest art for everyone on your shopping list. You can also shop online from the comfort of your couch by visiting www.galleryonegiftshop.com.

Plus, more amazing art will be on display throughout the rest of the gallery!

LOCATION: Gallery One. CONTACT: www.gallery-one.org, john@gallery-one.org



ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW
Now through December 26
SHOP IN PERSON OR ONLINE

MCMILLEN FELLOWS



**ROBERT B
MCMILLEN
FOUNDATION**

MAR 3-APR 1

Gallery One, in partnership with The Robert B. McMillen Foundation, celebrates the McMillen Fellows Jessica Ghyvoronsky, Jean Bradbury, Eilaichi Kimaro, Chandler O'Leary, Frank Casey & Priscilla Dobler for an exhibition of their work.

Designed to provide support directly to artists, the fellowship program helps to ensure that artists not only survive but thrive. The program also deepens the personal, one-on-one relationships with artists through networking, show opportunities, skill building and education.

MAC Fellows' work will be on display at Gallery One in downtown Ellensburg, Washington beginning March 3.

DATES: Mar 3-Apr 1, 2023. LOCATION: Gallery One. CONTACT: www.gallery-one.org, john@gallery-one.org

OUR ART OUR STORY

JAN 20

With the many incredible artists in the Kittitas valley who have shaped and captured in their work the story of their community, the weight of responsibility to preserve, honor and care for their artworks has grown. The Kittitas County Historical Museum, together with Gallery One, is putting together a set of work from Kittitas County artists to become a part of the museum's permanent collection. These artists, Jane Orleman (Dick and Jane's House), Richard Denner, Molly Morrow, Sam Albright, and others, have enriched the fabric of their community and are integral to its identity.

An exhibition of the collection will begin January 20 at Gallery One in downtown Ellensburg, Washington.

DATES: Starts Jan 20. LOCATION: Gallery One. CONTACT: www.gallery-one.org, john@gallery-one.org



(IMAGE: Jane Orleman - Self Revealed, 42" x 48" 1999.)

WINTHROP GALLERY: THE THINGS WE LOVE

On November 18th, dressed in holiday sparkle, Winthrop Gallery welcomes you in to its new show "Things We Love". Over 20 local member artists and selected guest creatives will be sharing their finest offerings – all things they love. Unique handmade gifts – from stocking stuffers to furniture are sure to delight both the giver and the receiver. Celebrate your love of the valley and its artists. They look forward to seeing you soon!

DATE: Starts Nov 18 and continues through early Jan. LOCATION: Winthrop Gallery is located on 237 Riverside Avenue and open 10am-5pm daily. CONTACT/INFO: Shop the gallery store at www.winthropgallery.com, 509-995-3925.



AT THE MERC PLAYHOUSE

THE TOMMY ZBYSZEWSKI CHILDREN'S THEATER PRESENTS
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



WRITTEN BY VERA MORRIS
DIRECTED BY JANE ORME
AUDITIONS!!

AUDITION DATES: Monday, December 5th and Tuesday, December 6th 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

WHERE: The Merc Playhouse

WHO: Ages 8 – 18

WHAT TO KNOW: An adaptation of a classic fairy tale telling a heartfelt story with familiar characters and dancing. Bring clothes that are comfortable to move around in, your water bottle and schedule of potential conflicts. (Rehearsals begin in early January on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.) No prepared readings necessary. You will be given pages to read at the audition. CONTACT/INFO: info@mercplayhouse.org or call 509-997-7529.

PERFORMANCE DATES: Mar 10-26, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7pm, Sundays, 2pm. TICKETS: \$18 in advance | \$20 at the door | \$5 youth. Admission by Donation on Thurs, Mar 16 & 23, 7pm. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to performances. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp.

READERS' THEATER: THE BOOK OF LIZ



Written by Amy and David Sedaris

Directed by Phil Quevillon

Sister Elizabeth Donderstock is feeling unappreciated in her Squeamish community and decides to try her luck in the outside

world. She abandons her fellow brethren to their own devices in making her famous cheese balls. They quickly discover that her cheese ball recipe cannot be recreated and panic that she has sabotaged their recipe. Can the Squeamish be saved? Will the cheese balls ever taste the same again?

Doors will open 30 minutes prior to performances.

DATES: Jan 6-15, Friday and Saturday, 7pm, Sunday, Jan 15, 2pm. TICKETS: \$10 at the door, no advance tickets. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. CONTACT/INFO/TICKETS: www.mercplayhouse.org

The Coats
Vocal Band

December 8, 2022 7:00 pm
at the Omak Performing Arts Center

TICKETS: ADULT: \$25, STUDENT: \$10, AGE 4 & UNDER FREE!

(You won't want to miss first-class acapella at the Omak PAC on Dec 8th with The Coats. Info at omakpac.org.)



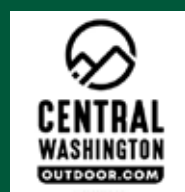
ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW

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METHOW ARTS: GANGSTAGRASS

THIS SHOW IS 18 YEARS OF AGE AND UP ONLY!
BRING ID TO SHOW.

“Gangstagrass fuses string instruments with hip-hop artists, resulting in arguably the best argument yet for a rap and country music marriage.” – Rolling Stone Magazine

Gangstagrass’ music takes so much of what’s amazing about this country — ingenuity, creativity, freedom, unity across differences, people’s individual strengths and struggles — and distills it into a message of common ground in the form of original songs that will have everyone up & dancing!

Making beats for local NYC rappers and hosting country music nights in popular NYC venues, Rench had a musical itch that needed to be scratched — he was listening to the 1970s recordings of Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys and couldn’t help imagining what classic bluegrass would sound like with rap vocals and beats. The result was a genre-demolishing blitz called Rench Presents: Gangstagrass. He put it up for free download and people took notice. Hundreds of thousands of downloads followed creating an intense underground buzz. When FX Network came to Rench looking for the Gangstagrass sound for the theme song to their new series Justified, he had bluegrass players lay down an original track with rapper T.O.N.E-z, the younger brother of early hip-hop legends Special K and T-LaRoc.

The result was “Long Hard Times to Come,” the song that opened every episode of six seasons of the hit series. “Long Hard Times to Come” was nominated for an Emmy Award in 2010, contending for best theme song after critical praise and massive fan response.

The same live-bluegrass-band approach was used to make Lightning On The Strings, Thunder On The Mic, a full-length album with T.O.N.E-z, the MC featured on the Justified theme song. Two years later the Gangstagrass sound expanded with the release of Rappalachia, a 15-song album featuring a variety of rappers, including Kool Keith, Dead Prez, Nitty Scott MC, T.O.N.E-z, BROOKLYN35, R-SON the Voice of Reason, and Dolio the Sleuth. Country singers Brandi Hart and

Jen Larson contributed gritty harmonies to Rench’s choruses. Broken Hearts and Stolen Money — featuring performances by legendary rap team Smif-N-Wessun, Juno award-winning rapper Liquid (of BranVan 3000), Brandi Hart of the Dixie Bee-Liners and Alexa Dirks of Chic Gamine, in addition to the now regular crew of MCs and pickers — was released in 2014 to critical acclaim, with the Boston Globe labeling raucous single Two Yards “Essential.” A fourth official album, titled American Music, was released in April 2015, debuting at #5 on the Billboard bluegrass charts. With American Music’s collection of standout original cuts and traditional folk anthems the band once again broke new ground, while also paying tribute to their cast of American songwriting heroes. The 2019 live album Pocket Full of Fire spent 20 weeks in the top 10 Billboard bluegrass charts, making it to the #2 spot.

Gangstagrass has toured internationally, blowing minds on main stages from SXSW to Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, with a live act taking full advantage of the improvisational aspects of both hip-hop and bluegrass. With MCs R-SON and Dolio the Sleuth trading verses, Dan Whitener on banjo, Brian Farrow on fiddle, Rench on guitar and beats, and frequent three-part harmonies, the Gangstagrass stage show has garnered a reputation among fans for its dynamism and spontaneity. Through touring across the United States and abroad, Gangstagrass uses live performances to organically develop new material to further explode the boundaries between genres generally thought to be incompatible.

Their 2020 offering, No Time for Enemies — which features “Nickel and Dime Blues,” the inspirational “Freedom,” the jump-starting “Aint No Crime,” and the hugely popular “Ride With You” — has more than a million streams/views so far. It quickly hit #1 on the Billboard bluegrass charts. No Time for Enemies takes you for a ride through the hoods and hollers while having a sweat of a good time.

SAT, DEC 3, 7PM
AT THE BARN

18 YRS AND UP ONLY!

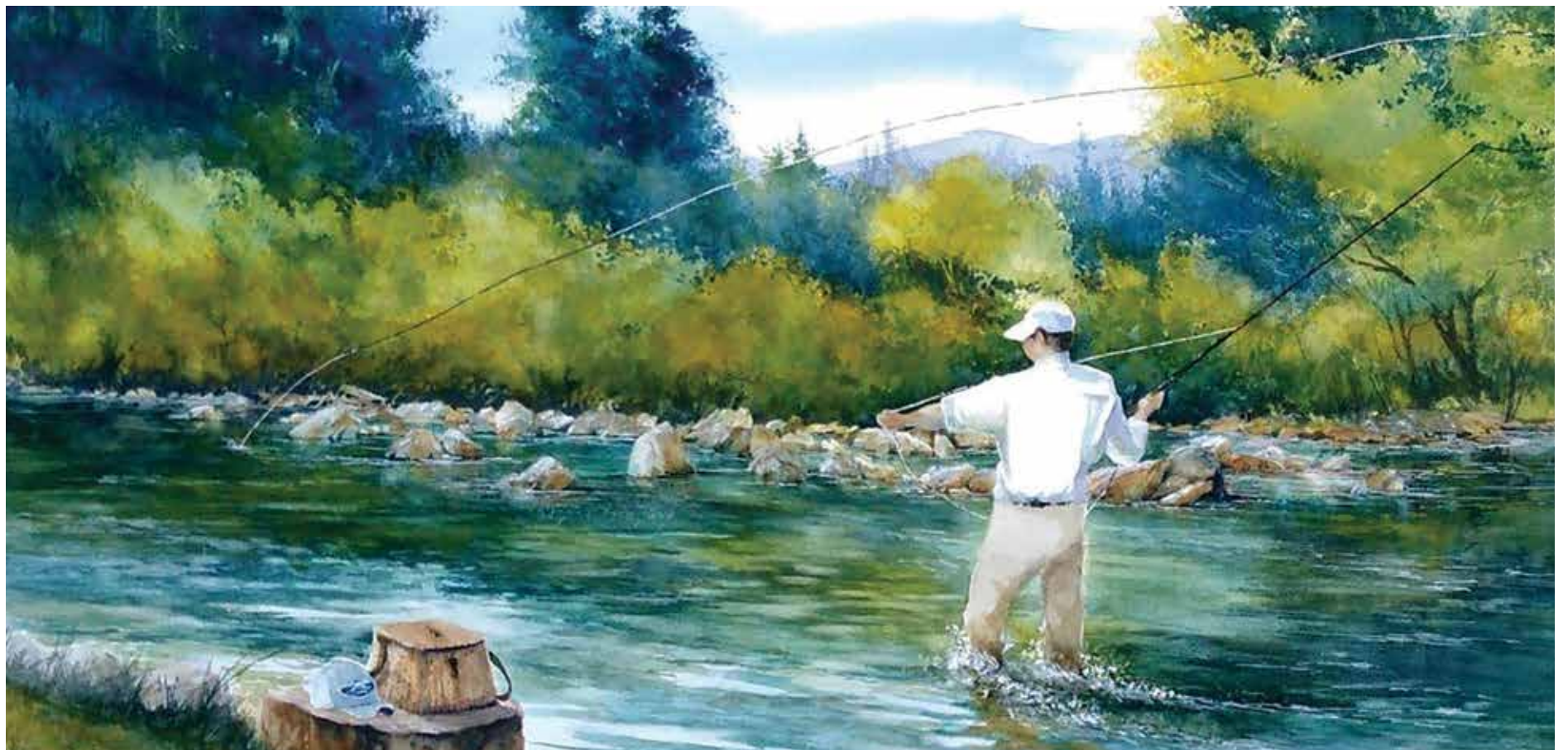
METHOW ARTS PRESENTS:

GANGSTAGRASS
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SAT, DEC 3, 7PM @ THE BARN IN WINTHROP.
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TICKETS: Online at Evenbrite, or buy physical tickets with cash/check at Methow Arts in downtown Twisp. This show is 18 years and up only! Bring ID. Cash/Check bar only. Tickets, \$18/ADVANCE for gen admin adults (18yrs and older), \$22/DOOR and \$30 for limited reserved seating. Reserved seating will be placed a little farther from stage to ensure we have space for folks to dance. We also have balcony reserved seating, \$30. At the Barn, Winthrop, WA. info@methowartsalliance.org.



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