

AN ARTIST'S *bounty*

Oswego Heritage Council features local talent at art sale

Paintings, pottery and puppets are just some of the many unique items on sale at the Annual Oswego Heritage Council Holiday Art Show on Nov. 29-30 at the Lake Oswego Heritage House.

Fifteen Lake Oswego artists will offer a vast array of holiday gifts including jewelry, watercolors, hand made note cards, books, hand made boxes, Christmas CDs and antique Christmas ornaments.

The list of local artists include such well-known talent at Kay Allenbaugh, Bath Sautter, Barbara Vance and Sonja Donnelly.

The Lake Oswego Heritage House will be all dressed up for the holidays with lights and festive décor.

The members-only preview sale is Nov. 29 from 10 to 11 a.m. The show is open to the public on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Black(smith) Friday coming to Mount Hood

By Garth Guibord

The Sandy Post, Nov 25, 2008

The day after Thanksgiving is a tradition for shopping and getting an early start on the Christmas season.

This year, the Arts Cabins Project – former Forest Service cabins turned into an arts center – will turn Black Friday, Nov. 28, into Blacksmith Friday with the third annual Blacksmith and Artisan Holiday Sale.

A bounty of handcrafted arts and crafts will be available, including jewelry, forged iron, stained glass, silkscreen printing, stick dolls and more, plus cider and treats for guests. Partial proceeds will help support the project.

“It’s nothing you’re going to find at Wal-Mart,” said Darryl Nelson, a blacksmith at the Arts Cabins. “It’s unique heirloom type of stuff. It will outlast several generations, and in this day and age, that’s hard to come by.”

Nelson, who will offer forged coat racks, fireplace accessories, plant hooks, barbecue tools and more, noted that despite the sales location in the woods, he’s had more success there than many large Christmas shows in other spots.

“We’ve been really encouraged by the response from the public,” Nelson said. “We do a surprising amount of sales from the basement of the arts cabins.”

Local artist Sue Allen will bring a variety of art with Mount Hood themes, including her series “Around Mount Hood: 12 months – 12 directions,” which will be featured in a 2009 desktop calendar. Allen noted the sale is a friendly event that brings together many from the surrounding area.

“For me it’s also a way to visit with friends,” she said. “(And) we want to support the project itself.”

A number of pieces for sale will be the result of collaboration between the project’s blacksmiths and warm glass artists, including glass and iron sconces. Project Director Betsy Valian noted that a large fusing kiln was added to the cabins with the collaboration in mind, and the artists have enjoyed the opportunity to work together.

“It’s always fun to do,” Nelson said. “It’s inspiring, and you play off of each other’s ideas and come up with new ones.”

Valian also celebrated the success of the Arts Cabins, now entering their fourth year. The director noted that the project’s survival to this point bodes well for the future.

“Everyone always says it takes about four years to know if you’re going to make it,” she said. “This is our fourth year; we’ve made it.”

The project is likely to expand in the near future, with updates to the lower cabin expected to be finished in approximately a year and a half. That will allow an artist to stay at the cabin while working, offering classes and holding a show at the end of the residency.

CONTINUED

Valian also hopes to add two outdoor kiosks to offer outdoor activities.

“When it’s summer, we’ll create bigger studio space by using the forest,” she said.

The Blacksmith and Artisan Holiday Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 28, and Saturday, Nov. 29, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30, at the Arts Cabins. Visit the Mount Hood Cultural Center and Museum, 88900 Highway 26 Business Loop in Government Camp, for a map to the location.

Visitors should not park on the right-hand side of the road at the Arts Cabins. For more information, visit www.artscabins.org or call 503-272-3301.

Spiral Gallery featured at Central Justice Center

By Vanessa Van Voorhis

The Estacada News, Nov 26, 2008

For the entire month of November, and for the second year in a row, the Sidewalk Gallery of the Central Justice Center has been showcasing works of art from Estacada's Spiral Gallery cooperative.

"Each of the Spiral Gallery artists, about 30 in all, has two pieces on display," Spiral Gallery treasurer Jamie Berry said. "We participated last year and were asked back again by the Oregon Potters Association. We are thrilled to participate."

For Estacada-area artists, the OPA Sidewalk Gallery program offers the grand stage of a busy city street in the heart of downtown Portland to display their art, and it expands their opportunities to sell their work. Last year, several pieces sold, Berry said.

Oregon Potters Association is a volunteer-based art organization that manages the Justice Center's lighted display windows. The Sidewalk Gallery spans half a city block where Southwest Madison Street meets Southwest Second Avenue.

"It's wonderful to show your art in Portland to a wider audience," Spiral Gallery painter and collage artist Nina Bradford said. She has an acrylic painting of a yucca tree and a small abstract collage on display. "It's good exposure for the gallery. We did get a couple of people coming up to Spiral Gallery in Estacada specifically to see our gallery. It was surprising."

Bradford and a small committee of co-op members chose the works that were sent to Portland for display. "We were looking for variety," she said. "The artists in our gallery, their work is so varied... Marlene [an OPA representative] said we put more in Sidewalk Gallery display windows than anyone she's ever seen. There's a lot in there."

For additional information about the co-op artists, their work and upcoming Spiral Gallery events, go to their web site at www.thespiralgallery.com.