

Gallery Prepared for Gift Giving

Thanks to Carole Hiatt for the Christmas atmosphere. We hope for an active sales month. The month of November was a winner. Sales for the month was just over \$2000. We received two gallery Gift Certificates of \$100 each. Marie Alice Hurst recently sold 7 of her stained glass artworks plus 2 encaustic works.



Notes Of Interest:

- Thank you to the Wenatchee Rotary Foundation for a \$2000 check to help sustain Two Rivers Gallery during our uncertain financial times that has been created by the pandemic.

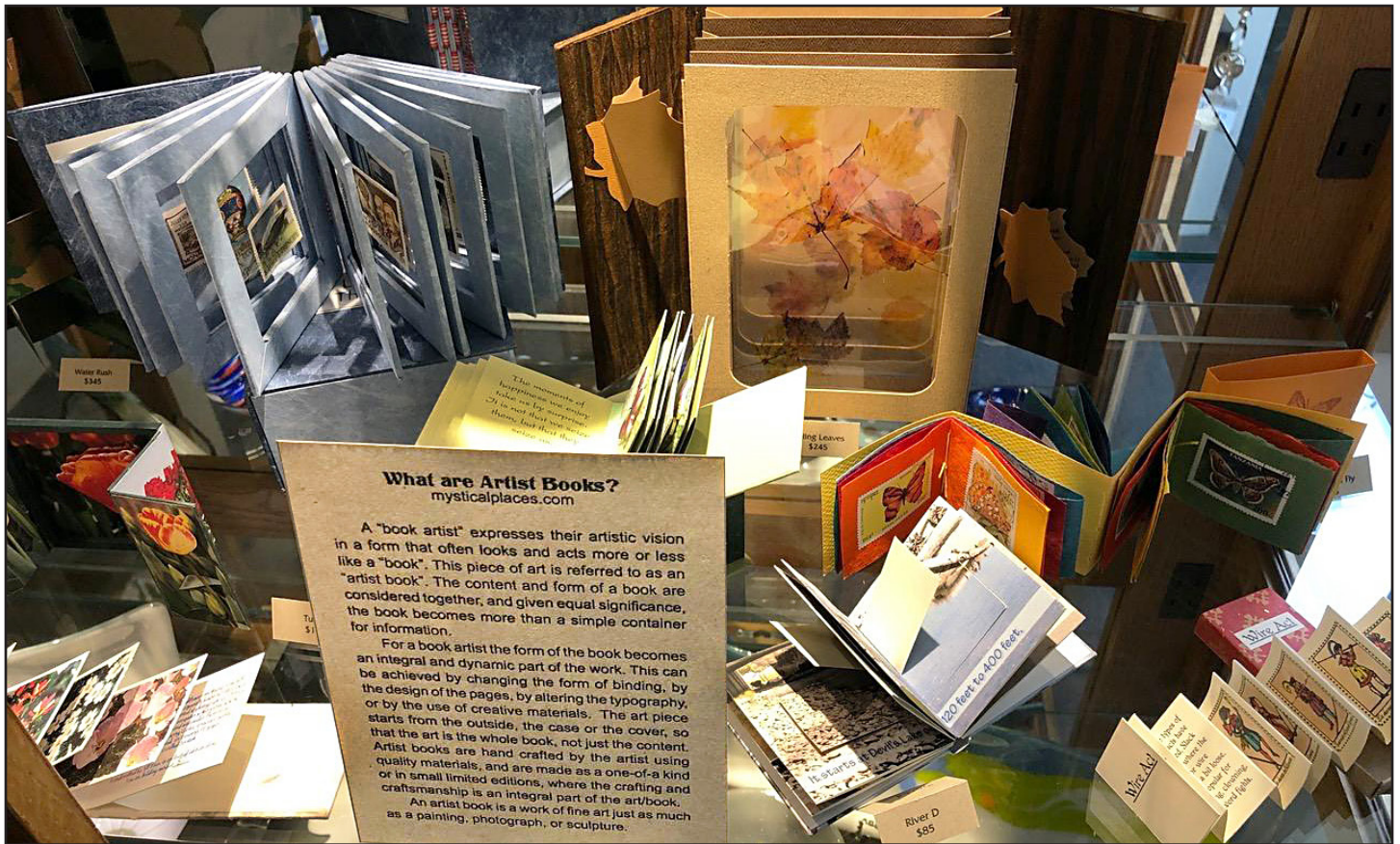
- The December issue of The Good Life Magazine interviewed our newest member Jerry Goroski. Jerry is an art appraiser who is a supporting member of Two Rivers. In this issue we also find an article and wonderful photos by Brad Brisbine and "Then and Now" contributions by cartoonist Dan McConnell as well as monthly health columnist Dr. Jim Brown MD, Lynn Brown's husband.

- Thanks to The Good Life for supporting our gallery. Writers Susan Lagsdin and Mike Irwin

have supported the visual arts with many stories and artist interviews since we started 12 years ago. Thanks as well to the magazines owners/editors Mike and Donna Cassidy.

- Our condolences to Victor Detering for the death of his brother Mike. Mike Detering was a gallery member for many years, as well as featured artist twice and has suffered from cancer that took his life. His obituary was in the World and we have a copy in our artist bio book.

- Do you you have a bio in our Artist Bio Book? If you do and need to update it, keep it up to date. The book is a way for letting our members know who you are.



The Unusual and Creative: Artist Books

Another take on the talents of artist Jill Timm is on display in our glass case. Jill has designed books that require writing, designing, photography and binding. And on top of that some are miniature and some one of a kind works of art. You can read her bio in the Bio Book. Jill also shows her talent as our Newsletter editor.

Our Featured Artist for December

Final Show of the Year features art teacher in retirement, Thom Blaylock. Thom's show runs through December 23. Our next entry for the first show in 2021 will be Saturday, December 26 & Sunday the 27th.



What's it worth?

The question is easy to ask, but for art appraiser Jerry Goroski, the answer takes some work

BY SUSAN LAGSDIN

Not all "old stuff" stories turn out this well (if they did, Antiques Road Show would lack suspense). But Wenatchee art appraiser Jerry Goroski told this good luck story:

A Chicago woman inherits from her mother an unopened box of her grandmother's belongings. She sends a few nice pencil sketches, with scribbling on the back, to Jerry. "Are these really worth anything?"

They're odd drawings: one is a cowboy standing on a train car, watching cattle pour out; one is cattle milling around the train car. The initials at the bottom of both were "CMR."

Jerry does his work: due diligence means deep research. He's helped by the notes on the back, written in grandmother's hand. They describe her visit as a child to her dad's work at the train yard where she spotted a young cowboy named Charlie, who was transporting cattle to market and journaling the scene. He handed the sketches to the girl (grandma), who tucked them away and saved them.

The Chicago woman is pleased. Much later, those two original drawings by the early 20th Century's preeminent



Jerry's walls are covered in his favorite paintings in several media, not all of them landscapes and western scenes like these that are his specialty. His home serves as his gallery, archive, library and office. Photo by Mike Irwin

celebrity western artist Charles Marion Russell sell at auction for \$15,000.

Yeah, they're worth something.

Counter that with the emailed photo of a supposed Frederick Remington painting. "How can you tell it's a forgery?" asked the disappointed owner. "Because I know exactly where the original is hanging," Jerry replied.

Not all appraisal adventures are as thrilling, or as simple. On his office desk is a plastic folder, ready to mail, an example of his bread-and-butter work.

It's a detailed, bulleted explanation augmented with copies of declarations, photos, notarized documents, lists and letters, deeds and checks and handwritten journal pages. It's 37 pages long and cost the client \$350. The upshot? Yes, the bronzes you showed me are worth owning.

Jerry's office contains an

extensive library of art books, which he uses, with the help of the internet, to pinpoint information about any notable artist you'd find in a museum or gallery. He loves to talk about art and has made a gallery of his home, where the walls are covered in carefully curated, framed works, mostly western scenes or landscapes.

He owns "about 200" original artworks but said he rarely rotates them. "I know what I like — and these have always been my favorites." He's pan-generic in his tastes, with Remington and Russell his best-known career specialties.

The American West is in Jerry's blood. He was born, raised (and educated in a one-room schoolhouse) near a far eastern Montana junction so small that its closest towns are probably unfamiliar to you.

He learned construction from his dad, and Montana State

University in Bozeman brought him close to an engineering career until he switched to an art major. Ironically, he delved into an antique form that fascinated him — stone lithography — while garnering then cutting-edge graphics skills that would support a soon-to-be family.

For six years at the Buttrey Foods home office in Great Falls, Jerry laid out grocery store ads ("Not just prices," he said wryly. "At holidays I did bunny rabbits and Santa Clauses.") He also landed a part-time building job, which included long conversations about art, for the director of the Charles M. Russell Museums. The gentleman was looking for an assistant and a curator.

It was superb timing, superb networking. That relationship landed the young artist a life-changing position at the museum, sparking a varied, decades-long career based in Great Falls

that never veered far from his appreciation of Western art. Always studying, fine-tuning his knowledge of Russell and many other artists, Jerry also branched into advertising, printing and tourism promotion. He owned a gallery, coordinated major art auctions and exhibits, and eventually became known nationwide as an expert to be trusted with art appraisals and consultations.

After 40 years, Jerry has the confidence of art collectors, both private or institutional, who trust his knowledge and his ethics. Museums and galleries have him on speed dial. He also realizes many of the people who contact him can't distinguish a print from a painting, especially a watercolor, and they don't recognize major artists. (Though this seems obvious, couldn't be just, well... when

asked if he's ever been tempted...? "Never. It's a cardinal rule of appraisal," Jerry said. "I would never dream of undervaluing a piece and offering to buy it. It just won't happen.") Packing up his own extensive art collection, he and his wife moved closer to family in Wenatchee last year, and in quasi-retirement at 71 Jerry keeps current with his professional organizations, corresponds with

other experts in the field and hones his own skills. His firm, Open Range Art, is still open, and he's pleased to handle about three requests a week for consultation, on-line consignments, or the answer to that familiar age-old question, "What's this worth?"

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