

Newsletter - JULY 2020

Gallery Reopens



The gallery reopens with 16 members of the Wenatchee Watercolor Society showing their watercolors. The group was formed about 25 years ago and has been a popular place for those who enjoy painting with the magic that watercolors does to paper. Their meetings often have a member demonstrate skills learned from a recent class or a technique they want to share. They have been sharing

their artworks with the Clinic's Oncology/Radiology Department and trade out artworks every two or three months. Many members also meet to paint with the Water-Media Group at Ridgeline graphics each Tuesday.

Their membership is open to all who enjoy the pleasure and magic created by watercolor paint on paper.



The Wenatchee Watercolor Society has a group membership at Two Rivers Gallery. Their annual show will run through July.

Results of the Plein Air Paint-Out

On exhibit through July is the four winners in our 2020 Plein Air Paint-Out:

- First place is an Acrylic painting by Willie Kunkel. This is his first time competing in our contest.
- Sasha Syssoeva picked up a second place.

• Third was Brad Brisbine who started the gallery painting in the environment with our first contest in 2009.

• Terry Johnson's painting was awarded Honorary Mention.



Pybus Market Poster Winner

Congrats to Sasha Syssoeva who came in First Place in the 2020 annual Pybus Market poster contest. The unveiling will be Saturday, July 18 at 10am at the Market. You are invited to attend and support another of our fine award winning artists.

Notes Of Interest:

- Governor Jay Inslee has required all state citizens to wear face masks when entering any business. Two Rivers has a protocol for you to follow as far as cleaning. We have the sanitation supplies and follow the state guidelines to keep a safe environment for ourselves and our guests. Masks are required by everyone and are provided at the door for \$1 donation if one is needed. Cloth masks for docents are provided also for your protection.
- Our next First Friday with crowds of one to two hundred visitors is now far in the future.
- When we play music during business hours we must now set the volume to #25 as the other businesses in the building have clients who require a

quiet experience for their visit.

- The Good Life Magazine has asked us to write a story about the winners of our Plein Air event. They will show the three winning paintings on their Opening Shot page for the August Issue. The magazine has become a great community asset showcasing the local people that make up Chelan and Douglas Counties. Help support them with your subscription. ncwgoodlife.com. Single issues are available at Safeway, Mike's Meats at Pybus, Martin's Market in Cashmere, Dan's Food Market in Leavenworth.
- Dan McConnell is selling a watercolor painting by a nationally recognized Idaho artist. It is on view at the gallery. He is donating half of the profit to the gallery.
- Thanks to several of our members who have donated money to help make up losses we have had during our closure. All donations, any size, are greatly appreciated.
- We have a number of members who have medical issues that can compromise their safety if they are

exposed to Covid-19. That creates a greater load for those who are docents as we ask you to fill the gap in our calendar. If you can, please sign up for more than one day per month. We don't want to drop Sunday openings if it can be avoided.

- When you go online to 2riversgallery.com you will see a new pic or two of your recent work. Marc Dilley has shot our recent show and it can soon be found at EXHIBITS, Current Exhibit. Jen Evenhus works to keep our site current and attractive.

August Featured Artists

Beginning August first the gallery will feature Victor and Kellie von Beck.

VvB KvB Art is a joint artist venture of Kellie and Victor von Beck. We love creating art using the medium of glass. The depth of color and tactile surface quality inherent in glass allows us to create beautiful artistic objects that people can enjoy on a daily basis.

Kellie von Beck is a multimedia artist. She is an accomplished painter, fused/stainglass, printmaker, sculptor and diorama artist. Her art typically depicts scenes of fantasy and adventure. She has a direct focus, and her point of view seems quite playful at first glance, yet often the viewer will find themselves questioning what is really going on in her work. Hidden meaning and symbolism saturate her work as she believes that the world is often not

what it seems. And who can argue with that? She has shown her work at various galleries in the Pacific Northwest and holds a BA in Art History from the University of Washington.

Victor von Beck is a highly creative and visually driven artist who sees the world as a three-dimensional canvas that can be used to express his vision. As someone who experiences the world as an on-going artistic endeavor, Victor actively transforms the world around him through a wide range of creative activities, from working in art glass, painting, sculpture, and metalwork, to interior and landscape design. He holds a BFA in Graphic Design from Cornish Institute.



Two Rivers Art Gallery Celebrates its 11th Year

A bit of gallery history by Professor Theriault

The Wenatchee Valley has creative talent that is exhibited daily at an out-of-the-way art gallery at the bottom of 1st Street. Two Rivers Gallery is an artist-run gallery of over 100 members. Opening 11 years ago with the help of grants & the talent of its first board members, the gallery has become a place for artists to exhibit their work and the community to have an art experience and learn from the many activities the gallery provides.

Survival in Hard Times

The business model suggests that it could go on in perpetuity. How can a business operate during its first 4 years of a recession and be financially stable? The secret is that our community supports the arts.

Gallery membership has over 30 local businesses who are supporting members at \$125 annual membership or are like-kind members. Other members have paid \$45 a year plus \$10 per month to exhibit their work. The gallery has a commission of 30% on sales. Members participate to make the gallery a success.

Two Rivers Gallery is Wenatchee's Art Gallery

Enterprising board members, most whom have business experience and all who have a passion for art, make the cooperative a success. The talent of our local artists & their ability to keep exciting exhibits fuels interest in the visual arts. Two Rivers Gallery is Wenatchee's art gallery established in the

historic downtown and is the only artist run gallery in North Central Washington.

First Friday at Two Rivers Gallery

On the First Friday of each month a new show is presented, a featured artist is introduced and a local musician helps provide the atmosphere. Complimentary refreshments are provided by the members. During the 3 hour reception crowds of art lovers pulse through the gallery show rooms, meeting friends and having an art experience. Local art, local music, and sometimes local refreshments make good company.



Gallery benefactor Fredric M. Johnson visits with Walter Graham's niece, Denise Marker, our present Treasurer.

Partners with the Gallery

The gallery artists participate with community partners. The Wenatchee Symphony Orchestra invites the gallery to have a mini-exhibit at some of their concerts. The Performing Arts Center shows an artist's work on display. The Wenatchee Senior Activities Center exhibits a featured artist every 2 months. Sixteen gallery artists are invited to show their paintings at the Cottage Inn Restaurant.

Where's Art?

Like the "Where's Waldo" character, "Where's ART" is a cut out of an artist who encourages you to participate in a fun activity. Finding ART in a local business gives you a chance to win a prize from that business. Find art, fill out the slip & take it to Two Rivers Gallery. If your name is drawn you return to the gallery, pick up the slip & take it to the business for a prize. Prizes have included gift certificates, oil changes, uncut

cash from the federal reserve, wine tastings, sodas & more. Over two dozen local businesses have had fun participating in "Where's Art?"

Plein Air Paint Outs

The gallery participates in community values. Each year the gallery holds a contest that encourages artists to paint a subject on site. The 2015 Paint Out was at Ohme Gardens as a tribute to 75 years as one of America's great award winning gardens. The 2014 contest focused on Castlerock, the latest prominent Wenatchee feature added to the city park system. Paintings were judged and winners were on exhibit through August. Other plain air contests included the 20th year of the Apple Capital Loop Trail and Saddle Rock inclusion into the city park system. The gallery always focuses on subjects important to the community. In 2018 we had local artists choose a Wenatchee feature to paint. In 2019 it was the 90th Anniversary of the nationally acclaimed Ohme Gardens just outside of Wenatchee city limits.

Tailgate Art Sale

Tired of that painting or piece of art that has been on your wall and no longer fits your decor? Sell it at the gallery's Tailgate Art Sale in September. Sell your art from your car or tent in the parking lot at 1st & Columbia. The sale lasts all day. The community is invited to get a great bargain on art. At the 2014 & 2015 sale over \$1,000 worth of art was sold. The event is growing and may be held again in 2020.

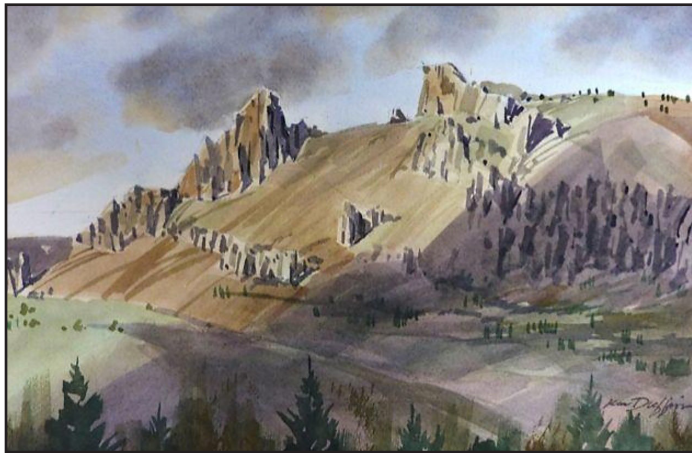


The Tailgate Art Sale welcomed the community to sell their own art.

Our Members

Most of our members are local artists, professional and emerging artists of all ages, all abilities and even from far off places like Southern California, Alaska, Russia, and all parts of Washington State. We have Ginger Reddington an encaustic

artist from Twisp, Stan Price, a fused glass artist from Everett, Milo Mirabelli (passed in 2019) a local wood carver who shows in major galleries throughout the country, artists like Jan Cook Mack & Robert Wilson, who's artworks were exhibited in New York & other major cities, Jerry Kinney, who studied in France and Russia. We have noted local cartoonist Dan McConnell who's cartoons are in the local Wenatchee World Newspaper and local Good Life Magazine.



Ken Duffin's winning watercolor of our Plain Air Paint-Out of Saddle Rock

Celebrating his 97th year Ken Duffin, WW II veteran, watercolorist / oil painter & retired from Boeing, acclaimed for his work with designers and architects. Artists who have passed but not forgotten such as Bill Reese, who had his own art gallery in Wenatchee & became one of the Northwest's finest Western artists. Hollywood cartoonist Les Garcia who's non-objective abstract art splashed vibrant colors throughout the gallery. Walter Graham, one of the most prolific and well known artists came to Wenatchee from Chicago where he had made his fortune with the Sears catalog. Walter painted murals and established himself as the most sought after commercial artist in North Central Washington. Bronze artist Larry Gay has shown his art throughout the West and is one of the few living artists to have his work accepted in the permanent collection at the C.M. Russel Museum in Great Falls Montana.

Our second featured artist in 2009 was Frederick M. Johnson of Dryden, WA. He saw a need for an artist gallery open to all in North Central Washington and provided the funding for two years of rent at the Exchange Building. It was revealed that Fred himself was an artist who studied

art in Paris France at the prestigious Academie Julien. Fred wanted a place for local artists to show their talents & share them with the public. Fred's paintings were featured at a First Friday reception. The exhibit continued for two months & sold over 16 original oil paintings. Fred gave the proceeds to the gallery for operating expenses. His generosity will not be forgotten.

New members continue to join and become part of Wenatchee's art gallery. Many of our members could be called emerging artists and are popular as their works are hanging in many homes here and around the country. Our youngest artist joined as a fifth grader and showed her artworks that were given first place awards in school contests. Membership is open to all ages and abilities.

A Place to Learn

Two Rivers Gallery is an artist run art gallery and a place for local artists to show their talents. It is also a place to take classes in art that are not available to learn elsewhere.

- Our very first class was teaching preschoolers in oil painting (Ginger Hendrickson)
- Photography in Alaska (Al Piecka)
- How to use your digital camera (Reed Carlson)
- Creating clay figures for children (Martha Flores)
- Private lessons in oils (by Jan Cook Mack) ongoing
- Arts and crafts such as pine needle weaving and sip-n-paint - ongoing
- Pastel painting (Annie Jones)
- Pastel painting taught in cities across America (Jen Evenhus)
- Drawing & cartooning (Dan McConnell)



Robert Wilson worked with student visitors to the gallery.

Sip-n-paint classes for Seniors in rest homes, Colonial Vista and Highline Covelescent (Russ Hepler)

Sip-n-paint classes at local wineries (Barbara Bainard)

Drawing the human face (David Luyben)

How to paint in Plein Air (Rod Weagant)

Terry Johnson has an open invitation for all to learn how to work with clay at his studio.

As new members join the list of teachers continues to grow. Twenty artists joined the gallery in 2019.

The Wenatchee Watercolor Society meets monthly to develop art skills. They have an art show annually each April at the gallery.

Some of our artists have taught classes at Wenatchee Valley Community College. Cartoonist Dan McConnell has taught drawing and cartooning there and provides cartoons for local publications.

Two Rivers Gallery is a resource for the local Wenatchee Community College art students who are often given assignments to come study what they see.

Saint Joseph school has had students visitations where the children chose five favorite artworks and choose one to write a fictitious story about. They then made the stories into a book giving one to the gallery.

Member and Wenatchee High School



The Washington State Apple Blossom Festival painting of the year was a watercolor by Nicki Isaacson.

teacher Reed Carlson brought his photography students to present their photographs to share as the featured artists of the month.

The Gallery participated in a show by autistic youth and placed their work on exhibit in the gallery two years in a row.

Recognition in the Community

Two Rivers Gallery has been voted 'Best Gallery in the World' by readers of the Wenatchee World Newspaper for several years.

Our artists have earned awards:

Each year an artist painting is chosen for the official poster of the Washington

State Apple Blossom Festival. Walter Graham, Jan Cook Mack, William S. Reese, Brad Brisbane, Marti Lyttle, Ken Duffin, Nicki Isaacson, Lynn Brown, Rod Weagant

Other contests some entered and won were Festival of Trees and or Best of Pybus, or Art in the Parks...

Many of our member artists have been written up in local, State & National publications for their talent.

Walter Graham received the Governors Award for Excellence in art by Governor Gary Locke.

The gallery sold an artwork to Governor Jay Inslee at a drop-in visit at a First Friday reception.

Clay artist Terry Johnson sold several of his pots to actor and art collector Rainn Wilson when he last visited his father in Wenatchee.

Autistic artist Randy Adams sold one of his acrylic paintings to a local doctor.

Artist Ken Duffin was commissioned by Boeing Airplane Company to paint the first 747 in flight. His watercolor paintings have won awards across the country.

Presently we are beginning to open the gallery after a three month statewide shut down of all businesses across Washington due to a worldwide pandemic. We will hope that the gallery can come out of these difficult times as we did during the 2009+ recession.

Artfully yours, Jan Theriault



Governor Jay Inslee makes a purchase at one of our First Friday receptions.