GRANTS PASS MUSEUM OF ART Since 1979

ART MATTERS

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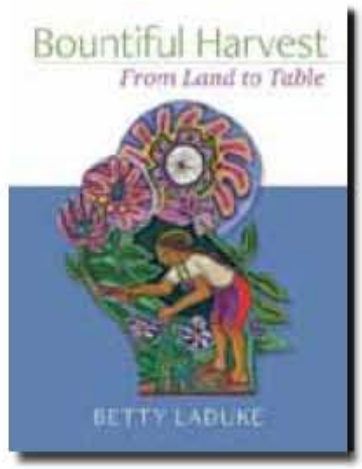
Betty LaDuke: *"Bountiful Harvest" March 30 to May 26*

From the foreword of her new book: "Born in the Bronx, New York, to Russian and Polish immigrant parents, Betty LaDuke knew by the age of nine that she would be an artist. Now in her eighties, she remains actively engaged in an artistic practice inspired by the lives of working men and women in developing countries, and, in Bountiful Harvest, of working men and women of southern Oregon.

LaDuke settled in Ashland, Oregon in 1964 to teach in the Art Department of Southern Oregon University (Then Southern Oregon College). LaDuke travelled alone to India for a month in 1972. Thereafter her extensive travels took her to almost exclusively to developing countries in Africa, Latin America, and Southwest Asia. LaDuke has a special interest in the condition of women in the countries she visits, as well as in agrarian workers, craftsmen, and tradespeople who supply the food and products that allow their cultures to develop.

"LaDuke's work is illustrative and documentary, political and spiritual. It is not for an art for art's sake like Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, and Minimalist



movements that reigned supreme during the artist's formative years. From 1953 thrugh the 1970s, LaDuke claimed a position cognizant of, but outside the dominant spectrum of modern art, even though stylistic nods to artists like Francis Bacon, Willem DeKooning, and Ben Shaun are evident." By Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson, The Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Northwest Art, Portland Art Museum.

Hyla Lipson, the Museum's newish director, says, " I am so impressed with the cleverness of our exhibition committee in signing up Betty LaDuke for an exhibition. It is a pleasure to work with Betty. She is beyond clever and a marketing maven. Her pallet is incredible. Vibrant does not begin to describe the feast for one's eyes. She was here for first Friday and is a great salesperson for her own book. And why not—she is donating her royalties to a special fund in the Oregon Community Foundation set up to benefit the children of our farm workers. Don't miss this exhibit. You can meet Betty on May 8. She is going to have a conversation in the afternoon about her work and her passions.♦

Coming Up - SAQA/GPMA: "Concrete and Grassland" June 1 – July 29

The SAQA exhibit that is coming to the museum in June and July is a collaboration between SAQA and Grants Pass Museum of Art. SAQA desires to make their shows to appear more appealing to the the Art community as opposed to solely the quilting world. Collaborating with an art museum will put a better face on their work. GPMA has exhibited their work for years and thus is making an ideal partner. The exhibit curator, Susan Burnes, has worked for several years to define this collaboration agreement. She was also the juror, picking 57 art quilts out of 400 submissions to be highlighted in this exhibit.

Fiber art is always a favorite exhibit here and this will be one that everyone will enjoy. Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development, documentation, and publications. SAQA defines an art quilt as "a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure." SAQA was founded in 1989 and now has over 3000 members.♦

President's Corner

by Susan Eileen Burnes

These last few weeks I have felt an urgent desire to dig into the nooks and crannies of my house where closets overflow with outdated paperwork and stored clutter. I'm organizing what I must keep, shredding unnecessary papers and passing along items no longer relevant to my life but useful to others. Spring cleaning? Actually, the purpose of all this activity is to open time and space in my life for whatever new adventures are ready to enter. Change keeps us fresh and energized, encouraging personal growth and new experiences.

Throughout the last several years, GPMA has taken tremendous leaps of growth providing many new services and opportunities for our community to participate in art adventures. With summer just around the corner, you may wish to take advantage of some of the exciting programs offered by the museum. Classes in arts and crafts for kids are always popular and fill up fast, while adult workshops, now available year round, provide loads of fun while exploring our creative selves. You may discover an appreciation for poetry by attending Poetry Sharing evenings on second Fridays every month. Art in the Garden is a lovely way to spend a June weekend and Autumn brings our annual Golf for Art so get out your golf clubs and practice your swing for a chance at the great prizes and awards. Check the GPMA website and newsletters for the exhibition schedule and featured artists in Gallery One, always an exciting place to browse and buy. Bringing the whole family to the museum to see the exhibits and attending events like First Friday when artists are present to discuss their artwork and provide opportunities to stimulate our imaginations.

So clear your spaces and allow time in those busy lives to make your own leaps into creative new adventures with our Grants Pass Museum of Art.♦

Director's Reflections

by Hyla Lipson

In the past I didn't generally sit on the "other side of the desk." In my position at the museum I am finding the help of other executive director friends invaluable. On this particular day, Kate Lasky (Executive Director of the Josephine Community Libraries) was explaining some interesting statistics about volunteers. Most non profit organizations rely on the willingness of volunteers to share their time, expertise, talents, and creativity. The hours spent keeping our doors open and our programs vibrant are many.

Everything we do is connected in some way to volunteers. Each day a volunteer is a greeter. Someone who makes certain our visitors are treated well and their questions are answered. A greeter is also an ambassador for other cultural activities in the area.

During events our volunteers "make things happen." There is always something for everyone. Each week we are heartened when someone visits the museum for the first time and decides to not only join the museum but also become a volunteer. We have lots of upcoming opportunities for short term help.

We will need people for Art In The Garden (next year), Golf For Art, Open Studios, and Winterfest. Think about it.♦

Judy Basker, New Board Member

Judy Basker is a native Oregonian (Cavewoman)! She graduated from the University of San Francisco with a degree in communications. After working as a lawyer for a short period, she spent her career in education administration most recently as the Senior Director of Major Gifts at Willamette University. Judy loves introducing people to 'the exquisite joy of sharing' through philanthropy and charitable contributions. She is thrilled to return to southern Oregon and hopes to raise lots of resources for RCC.

She spent a year in Florence, Italy, which resulted in a passion for art. She also enjoys music, theater and dance. She has traveled extensively including China, India, the Middle East, South America and Europe. Judy is an animal lover and currently has two sweet Shih Tzus, Bubby and Denzel.

Judy hit the ground running when she joined the museum board. She is a hands on member and is very active. For Black White & The Blues she filled two tables of buyers. She also convinced friends who are artists from out of town to send sent their art for the auction.♦

Administrative Assistant Kristen O'Neill

The first job I loved was working for the Department of Exhibitions & Events while attending the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. I spent three years working at "Gallery 2" and loved it all, from painting the same walls white (over and over again) to all the craziness of our large openings with up to 5,000 people in attendance, to the hours of sitting in a quiet gallery working in the office.

While I loved the School and the Gallery, I quickly had realized that living in a major city was not for me and that I am truly a landscape painter at heart. I spent one of my summer vacations working in Yosemite Valley trying to soak in as much nature as I could. The day after I received my Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2003 I headed back to the West Coast.

Over the next few years I tried to find my spot. I lived in Washington, where my art job fell through, and I started a career in insurance purely because it was the first job offer and I was hungry. I lived in Washington for almost two years and moved back to Santa Cruz, California to be with the man I love, who is now my husband. Together we tried to find "our spot." He had moved from Grants Pass, back to California to help his mom and we were able to live on her property until she passed away.

Priced out of Santa Cruz, especially after the birth of our first daughter, we moved to Iowa where my dad had offered to be a full time babysitter for free. We joking refer to the next three years of our life as "doing time in Iowa." I was still in insurance, nearly a decade later, but I craved art in my life. I joined a co-op gallery downtown Omaha (which is 10 minutes by car from Iowa), and I volunteered at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art.

We moved back to the Santa Cruz Mountains, financially missed our window to buy a home and decided to take a good look at what we truly wanted from our life. We wanted another kiddo, and to live in a beautiful town in the mountains that has a nice sense of community. Art, gardening, and hiking were in our lives on a regular basis and we wanted to keep it that way. Our second daughter was born the next year. While pregnant we took a driving trip all the way up through Oregon and Washington, looking for our new town. Every time we started to move in a new direction life pushed back against us until one day I declared that we should move to Grants Pass, he agreed and then everything fell into place. He had a new job lined up by the end of the week. Within three months we had moved into the house we bought. In the next few months I participated in Artoberfest, the UVAA Plein Air event, Jacksonville Art Market, Art Along the Rogue, and signed up to volunteer at the Museum. I was hired as administrative assistant shortly after. Hyla had been searching for a person with my skills—who knew!

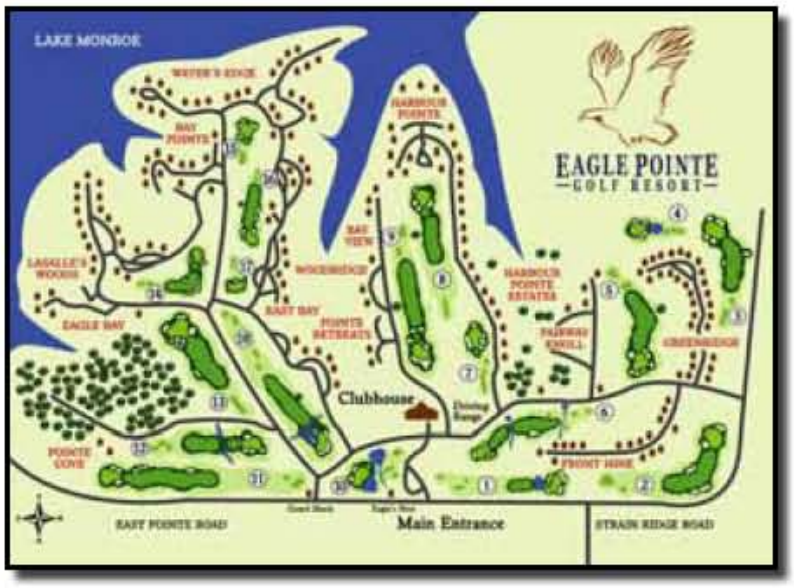
My husband trims trees for a living (I teasingly call him a professional monkey). I paint trees, and together we will take our two daughters, ages 7 and 2 this April, on beautiful trails that abound in Southern Oregon. I am so delighted to work here at the Museum. I consider it an honor to be able to combine my love of art, museums, galleries, and my office skills together in one position. After ten years of looking for our place I feel like we finally came home.♦

Events

Golf for Art
Sunday August 28th

EAGLE POINT GOLF CLUB

Shotgun Scramble at Eagle Point Golf Club. Get your teams together and be ready. This is going to be a fabulous tournament. Stay tuned!



Open Studios
Sept. 23rd & 24th

Save the date for the weekend of September 23 and 24.

The museum has invited as many artists as possible to join in for this exciting new concept. The idea is to have lots and lots of artists involved so visitors have a choice of where to visit.

A preview will be placed in the museum the week before so visitors can choose which artists to visit. In addition a commemorative book will be created which is the "ticket" to the event. This weekend is really all about artists and their art. It is not meant to be a fund raiser for the museum. It is hoped that this will grow and flourish over the years and become a "cannot miss" weekend). For more information and to participate contact Kristen at 541-479-3290. The committee for this event includes Kristen O'Neill, Gwen Childs, Rosemary Eichorn, and Karen O'Brien.♦

Art in the Garden

Art in the Garden is postponed until **June 10 & 11, 2017**. This would be the 20th year of Art in the Garden. There were not enough gardens to make this a really spectacular event. We combed the neighborhoods, put an ad in the paper, spoke with garden clubs and more. It was just not going to happen this year.

However, next year we intend to engage as many nurseries as possible for sponsors. We also intend to find the best gardens in Josephine County. (We already have a few signed up.) Let's make the 20th Anniversary of this amazing event the best ever. **Save the date!**

Also, if you know of a special garden and/or want to participate as a volunteer, please contact us as soon as possible. Call at 541-479-3290 or send an email to hyla@gpmuseum.com.

Thank you for your understanding.

Ordinary Magic

By Margaret D. *Horn*

Artist Judy Weiner says, "Mainly I just want to share what I experience here with others. I'm a painter, so this is how I communicate." Her paintings are narratives, often fables, visual fiction, based on her concern for our planet and its health. Their subject matter comes from observing what's right in front of her. She takes numerous photos to use as components in her work.

Judy moved up to her 28-acre Windy River Farm from Los Angeles in 1977 after earning a BA in English Literature from Northwestern University and then doing graduate work in Environmental Education at UCLA. After 21 years of growing organic herbs and seed crops and developing a line of seasonings and teas with her husband, Peter Liebes, Judy began to rekindle her first love of oil painting and is continuing to learn and develop those skills that she had put on hold for years.

Inspired by a trip to Italy in 1996, Judy immersed herself in studying the masters, especially Rembrandt, and says she is still learning to apply the many layers of paint and glazes to create the luminescence that gives her classically realistic paintings that mystical glow. Her paintings have been included in numerous group shows; she has had many solo shows and has won awards such as First Prize in Oil and Acrylic Painting by AAUW in 2001, and from the Oregon Agriculture Shows, the University Award in 2004, and the Northwest Environmental Award in 2005. She also won the Jurors' Choice Award from the Rogue Valley Biennial in 2013.

Recently Judy has been teaching oil painting and currently has openings for students with a serious interest in learning. Just as with music, dance, or writing, Judy says painting is communication. So the first question she asks her students is, "What do you want to say?" If you are interested in learning more about your own oil painting, you can contact Judy at judynweiner@gmail.com. One of the artists instrumental in starting and growing the Grants Pass Museum of Art, Judy still serves on the Museum's Exhibition Committee.♦

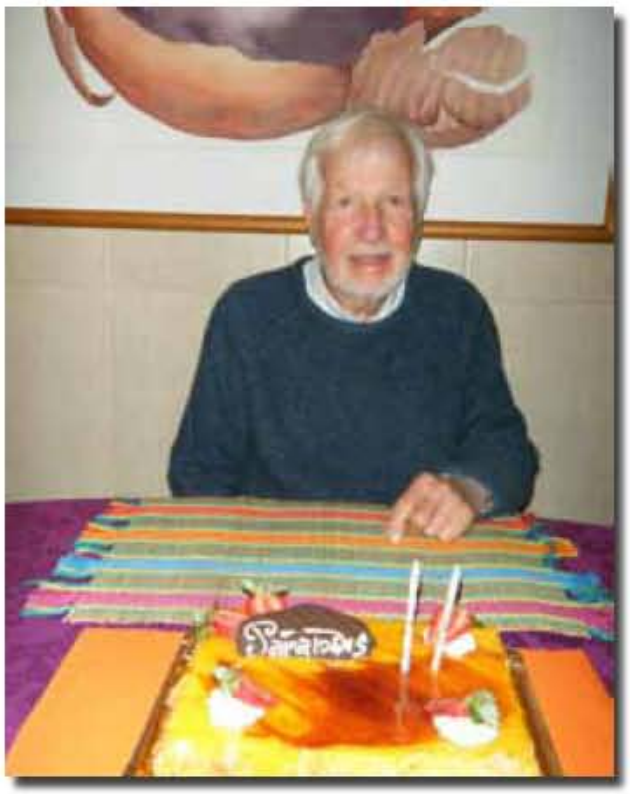
Gallery One, located below the Museum, provides a venue for local artists to exhibit and sell their exquisite art.

APRIL - "Local Flavour"
Gallery One photographers

MAY - E Bender Webb
"The Games Afoot" mixed media

JUNE - Julie Rae Bickle
JULY - Heidi Keller

Museum Activities



Happy celebration for our founder Charles Hill. He just turned 90 years old and is living in Portugal.

Making dragons out of wool is an interesting class. This was for adults but a mom brought her daughter and it was definitely fun for all concerned. Learning something new is empowering.

Last year we donated an incredible tree to Winterfest. There were 144 hand pointed ornaments.

A class in how to color a Ukranian Easter Egg was really entertaining. Using bee's wax to create a pattern and then multiple dye baths is how it's done.

These eggs are examples of the Ukranian egg technique. This Easter we taught various classes in egg decorating. Here was some of the eggs created in class

The Grants Pass High School string quartet played for First Friday Live! They have been invited to play at Carnegie Hall. We were fortunate to catch them between gigs.

Examples of the "Paint & Sip" classes. This class was all about the color used in Henna patterns. The participants had free reign over their designs and all used the same colors. Fascinating and fun.

Black, White & the Blues

The 29th Annual Black, White & the Blues event was a huge success. Financially it surpassed all previous years with a whopping $22,536.99 in net profit.

Some of the changes we implemented included having Terry Robb play an acoustic guitar while people were mingling and during dinner.

The Ben Rice band, was a real dance magnet and people danced the night away.

The silent auction was mostly an array of art and artistic elements. People came away with real treasures.

The meal, catered by Goodness Gracious Catering was a full dinner. There were two bottles of wine on each table graciously donated by Welch Investment Group.

Timari Cox was this year's auctioneer and she made sure the paddles were raised! The Josephine County Foundation youth helped with logistics. Thanks to their self initiating nature they really helped our own museum volunteers with all that needed to be accomplished during the evening.♦

Many Thanks

The sponsors that helped pay for Black, White & the Blues:

Allcare Health, Ausland Group, Nelson R. Maler, CFP at Morgan Stanley, Evergreen Federal Bank, Holiday Inn Express, Southern Oregon Sanitation, Suzi Matney, Eye Care Group, Hellgate Jetboat Excursions, Wild River Brewing and Pizza Company, Redwood Glass, and Southern Oregon Elmers.

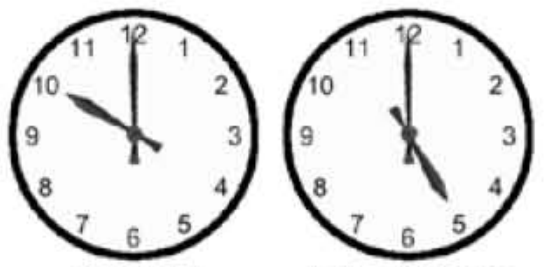
Ongoing thanks to the wonderful foundations that help keep our doors open:

The Ford Family Foundation, The Oregon Arts Commission, The Oregon Community Foundation, Fourway Foundation, Carpenter Foundation, Josephine County Cultural Coalition

And to all of you who have have donated art, time, money, and good thoughts for "our" museum!♦

!Big News!

Museum Hours are now from
10 AM - 5 PM.



The museum has finally changed its hours to allow more visitors.
Tuesday through Saturday the doors are open from 10am until 5pm.
This means 15 more hours each week for museum visits.♦

Grants Pass Museum of Art
229 SW "G" Street
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museum@gpmuseum.com
Tuesdays — Saturdays: 10 AM - 5:00 PM

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Kim Cope
Cal Kenney
Nancy Yonally-Coleman

Hyla Lipson, Executive Director
Kristen O'Neill, Administrative Assistant

Grants Pass Museum of Art Mission Statement:

To enrich lives by offering art experiences that stimulate the senses, intrigue the intellect and bring joy to the spirit.

Apr

4/1 First Friday Live! 5-9pm
4/7 Volunteers Meet 10:30am
4/8 Poetry 7pm (Free)
4/13 Life Drawing 7pm $5.00
4/15 Paint & Sip 6-9pm $40
4/20 Shamanic Healing 6-8pm
4/21 Board Meeting 5:30pm
4/22 Fourth Friday Music 7-8pm Rogue Appalachian Dulcimers (Free)
4/23 Kanzashi Flower Making 1-4pm
4/29 WCST sponsored Poetry for Healing 7-9pm (Free)

May

5/2 Life Sketching 1-3pm $5.00
5/5 Voluteers Meet 10:30am
5/6 First Firday Live! 5-9pm
5/7 Clay Fish class 1-3pm $50.00
5/8 Sunday Conversation with Betty LaDuke 2-4pm
5/9 Life Sketching 1-3pm $5.00
5/11 Life Drawing 7-9pm $5.00
5/13 Poetry 7pm Free
5/14 Clay Fish class 1-3pm part 2
5/16 Life Sketching 1-3pm $5.00
5/19 Board Meeting 5:30pm
5/23 Life Sketching 1-3pm $5.00

Jun

6/2 Volunteers meet 10:30am
6/3 First Friday Live! 5-9pm
6/8 Life Drawing 7pm
6/10 Poetry 7pm
6/16 Board Meeting 5:30pm

Each Monday there will be a Life Sketching Class from 1pm - 3pm.
Most Saturdays there will be classes - keep in touch to find out more

Jul

7/1 First Friday Live! 5-9pm
7/7 Volunteers meet 10:30am
7/8 Poetry 7pm
7/13 Life Drawing 7pm
7/21 Board Meeting 5:30pm

Each Monday there will be a Life Sketching Class from 1pm - 3pm.
There will be many weekday classes for children during the summer. Keep in touch to find out more.l

Art Matters is a publication of
Grants Pass Museum of Art
Photos: Hyla Lipson, Edith Decker