

...a place to learn & grow in the arts

503-365-3911

info@willametteartcenter.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WAC?

Winter Classes

Our new winter classes and class schedule are now up on our website at www.willametteartcenter.com to sign up.

Community Outreach

The Willamette Art Center often receives calls requesting a venue for family, business and community events. Past events have included a professional retreat in which employees from Seattle's Deloitte learned to throw pots on the wheel and an event with a Portland-area nurses' group.

In the last several months, three families have scheduled birthday parties for children, their friends and families. In August, Nikki Svarverud led a group of children and their parents through the creation of slab fairy houses. A family group of children, parents and grandparents worked with Outreach Coordinator Pam Prorise in October to create a variety of "knee bowls," a Svarverud project that takes little time and builds skill in beginner potters. An upcoming party in December will see young children creating pinch-pot puppies within a puppy-themed birthday party.

In addition to birthday parties, the center will be sponsoring a family glazing night for Salem Electric, which involves painting bisque ware with glaze for mid-range-fired holiday giving. A girl scout group will complete a badge during two visits in November creating pinch-pot bowls and wall sconces with Svarverud, glazing a bowl with Prorise, and creating a small watercolor with the expert guidance of Dea Edwards. Future planned outreach opportunities include hosting public, private, home school and day care field trips, as well as Willamette University student groups.

If you would like to schedule a party, professional retreat, or family gathering, leave a message at the art center for Pam Prorise (503) 365-3911, and she will contact you to make arrangements for your event.

"I attended a family party at the WAC and was impressed with the instruction and patience shown by the instructor we had. There were 8 of us and very little knowledge of working with clay. Fun was had by all and for me, personally, I will definitely be back for more instruction. Thank you, WAC!"

— Barbara Bryers



Deloitte Participants

2018 Empty Bowls

Join us for the annual Empty Bowls sale November 18-19. All proceeds go to the Marion-Polk Food Share to help alleviate hunger in the local community. During the year, art center potters and community artists throw 1,200 bowls. Each bowl must be thrown, trimmed, bisque fired, glazed and fired again. Thank you, potters and staff, for again reaching our goal. Thank you to John Gear Law, Salem Electric, and The Grand Hotel for their generous sponsorships.



2018 WAC Volunteers of the Year

The Willamette Art Center is a volunteer driven non-profit and without our large team of volunteers, the doors could not open. For the first time, three people were honored as volunteers of the year at the Fall Potluck.

Karen Hackney has made huge contributions to the smooth running of the WAC this year. She is Treasurer on the Board of Directors. She teaches the "Surface Decorating" class and inspires students and instructors alike with her stunning painted pots. As Monitor leader, Karen handles this huge job efficiently and besides her own monitor shift, often covers shifts when others cannot. As Marketing Committee Chair, Karen is responsible for organizing WAC advertising and promotions. She organized Saturday Market, Englewood Forest Festival, and Neighborhood Night Out. She worked shifts at Artisan Village, made the raffle baskets, and worked at Art Jam. Karen organized Throw-a-thons, throwing and glazing her pots and bowls, and has been responsible for organizing many exciting workshops this year. Thank you, Karen for your innovative ideas, creativity, amazing energy and willingness to step in whenever needed.

Cindy Nelson has been a big part of nearly all volunteer tasks all year. She was a monitor for Family Clay Sunday. She organized, reorganized, counted, recounted, ordered and organized the

pots for Art Jam and AV. Empty Bowls were boxed and organized by Cindy. She worked many shifts and helped set up for Art Jam and Artisan Village and threw AV pots and empty bowls. Cindy manages the class information sheets and rosters for Instructors each term and keeps our mailing groups updated. She is a monitor and covers many extra shifts. She is a talented, dedicated pottery student. Thank you, Cindy for handling all of these tasks with endurance, humor, accuracy and at times, hummingbird speed.

Gordy Minten has been the go-to guy whenever a volunteer was needed all year. He is a monitor who covers many extra shifts. He threw pots for AV and bowls for Empty Bowls. Gordy helped set up and worked many Raku shifts for AV and spent hours hauling boxes and tables for AV and Art Jam. At the Saturday Markets, Gordy set up the booth, worked, and hauled everything back to the WAC. Gordy loves to clean, and he keeps the studio and sheds clean and organized right down to the glazing brushes, sorted by size and shape. Whenever you enter the WAC, he will greet you with a big, friendly, welcoming smile. Thank you, Gordy for your tireless hard work, great music, amazing pottery and laughter!

A huge thank you to all Monitors, volunteers, Board members, and staff for your hard work this year!



Ken Jacobsen Honored

In the corner of the row of wheels in the art center is a special wheel, once considered Ken's wheel. Ken would sit there every day and create giant, awe-inspiring vases. Ken Jacobsen was a founding member, gifted potter, Instructor, monitor leader,



board member, and kind friend to all. In his honor we have placed a small plaque honoring Ken's wheel. We miss Ken, but potter's using this wheel have reported feeling Ken's creative spirit, so he's still with us.

Meet Judy Murray

Judy Murray is one of the center's most talented and prolific hand-builders. Her intricately designed sheep sold immediately during Artisan Village and many new critters are currently corralled in the Oaks Gallery, awaiting new homes.

When did you begin working with clay?

I first touched clay in the third grade when I attended Halls Ferry, a two-room school house in rural South Salem. My third-grade teacher, Mrs. Law, introduced our class to clay. We were allowed to build things once we finished our lessons and I would hurry through my assignments so I could work with clay. Mrs. Law would help us with our creations and then take them home and fire them, bring them back for us to glaze, and then haul them home to fire again. I made a little duck in which I planted a tiny cactus and gave it to my mom. She had that in our window sill for many years until recently when she returned it to me for safe keeping. Having grown up in South Salem where the dirt is red clay, I have many childhood memories of creating and perfecting my pie crust fluted edge and of staining my clothes. Who would have known making all those pie crusts would have led to where I am now?

Have you worked in other Art Mediums?

I do basic quilting and crochet blankets for Ronald McDonald houses and also for Simonka Place in Keizer for battered women.

Where do you get your inspiration for new pieces?

I continue to expand my education by taking classes at WAC. No matter how many times I repeat a class, I continue to learn something new and then practice, practice, practice! I highly recommend the classes. I get some ideas from Pinterest, pictures of pets, and specific items people have commissioned me to make. I can't shop now without looking at tools, stamps or just about anything without asking myself, 'How can I use this in my clay pieces? How would this item work as a texture on clay?'

Your delightful sheep were a hit at Artisan Village. What is the process to produce them?

I make two pinch pots and put them together to form a ball. I then add legs, face, and fleece. To keep the art fresh for both myself and to give the customers choices, I try and create different fleece textures and details of flowers, butterflies, ladybugs, etc. This keeps the process fresh and keeps boredom at bay. Also, making multiples helps me perfect the pieces. I then think, 'What else could I make out of these sheep?' So, now I make planters and banks of different sizes.

About how long does it take to make each piece?

It's hard to say as the more I make, the faster I get! At this point if I worked nonstop, I could build one in about four hours, depending on the fleece texture I choose. But then drying time, kiln time, glaze, painting of details, and final firing takes time. Most of my items start with pinch pot balls, so I may spend a day at WAC just making those of different sizes. I take them home and perfect the details from there.

What other pottery pieces have you made?

All of my pottery pieces have a whimsical tone. I first made fish with red lips, added teeth, then as suggested by my sister, added braces. Again, I have kept them unique by using different textures for scales and adding different features. I also make frogs, bird houses, and birds that are displayed on rebar for customers to directly install in their yard. I make birdfeeder cats and add the birdseed in their mouths. I try to complete my items so the customer can just purchase and enjoy! My sales tag says 'Whimsical Yard Art' and that really sums up my form of art.

Which is your favorite and why?

Whatever I am working on at the time is my favorite piece. I try to view it through the customers' eyes and visualize if I would like this piece in my yard or home. Where could I put this piece? For example, a fish could go in a bird bath, by a bathtub, pond, waterfall, desk, or bookcase, etc.

What skills are required?

Basic pottery building classes are essential, and then repeat, repeat, repeat until the piece is perfected. Often when I

make a new piece in a class, I will go home and make the exact piece at home to solidify the new skills I learned that day.

Are you currently taking a class? What do you like about it?

I am taking Sue Allen's and Candice Ulbricht's Monday Hand building class. Even though I have taken this class many times, they always have a variety of new projects from which to choose. Planters, hippos, moose, birds, owls, or anything you can imagine, they will help you build. Their techniques are on the whimsical and fantasy side which is also my thing. I have always learned at least one new technique in their class, plus it's a fun group. Even when not in their class, Sue and Candice are always willing to help or answer questions, as are most people at WAC. After I retired, I rediscovered that working with clay puts me in a peaceful, happy place!



The Dedicated Family Clay Sunday Team!



Joseph — FCS Coordinator/
Instructor



Jose —FCS Instructor



Jan — FCS Monitor

"I attend the Saturday wheel throwing class and come again on Sunday for Family Clay day. It is relaxing alone time for me and quality time with my kids. We look forward to coming every single week!"

—Michele Roland-Schwartz

JUST ANOTHER BUSY TIME at the STATE FAIR

By Margrethe Gregg

Artisans Village opened along with the rest of the State Fair on Friday, August 24th. The weather was perfect. The grounds throughout the Garden where Artisans Village existed, were beautiful. The roses smelled like real roses used to, the little creeks flowed cheerfully, and Jim Johnson's fabulous huge metal artworks were all over the place.

Greg and I had our booth next to Jim's eight-foot tall rearing horse sculpture by the Green Gate. We felt that it was the perfect spot. (It IS the perfect spot, but it's our secret!).

Every morning as we schlepped ourselves to "work", the Hat Lady across from our booth would pick out one of her fancy hats and decorate Jim's horse with it. Little kids would shriek with delight as they looked up from their strollers and saw feathers and streamers from the hat dancing in the wind along with the horse. Yes, it was a good and happy way to start a busy day. Kids loved the horse, ladies loved the hats, and everyone seemed to love our bargain wheelbarrow of one-off pottery going for the absolute, lowest price anywhere five bucks!

The weather stayed perfect for two solid weeks. It was never too hot or too cold. The crowds weren't overwhelming in Artisans Village, but they were pretty steady and very interested in all the offerings at the various booths.

The WAC raku area was hopping most days to the point that Roger, Gordy, and crew worked till 11pm at night to try and catch up with the firings. What a problem to have! Jim Ransom had to come in two days in a row to throw and throw and throw some more pieces for the raku cart because we were running out. What a problem to have!

The Village Vendors got together early in the morning of the last Saturday for a potluck breakfast and a chat about how things were going. Everyone was happy. It had been a positive experience all around. For an event as intense as the State Fair is with weather driven attendance and interest, we all felt fortunate to have participated this year. It was long, and it was tiring, but we had fun. We blew bubbles. We colored with sidewalk chalk up and down the paths. We shared donuts every morning.

Yeah, we're coming back next year!



Margrethe Gregg's Saturday Beginning Wheel: Student Thoughts

"Margrethe is an excellent teacher. She encourages students and takes the time to do individual instruction. She has a wonderful aura. I've learned so much."

—Mary Snyder

"The WAC is a wonderful environment for learning new skills. One does not feel intimidated—all levels co-exist. My experience has been that the classes are very positive with a comfortable level of guidance."

—Bob Dodson

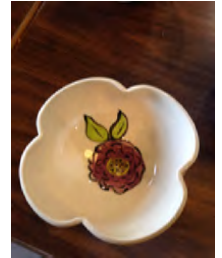
"My beginning wheel class has been so much fun. I've learned a lot in just the few weeks I've been in class! I've really enjoyed getting to know other folks while we learn together. Although throwing can be difficult and frustrating, I'm hoping to continue practicing by taking a class in winter."

—Katie Harvey

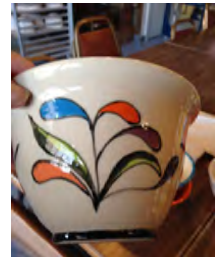
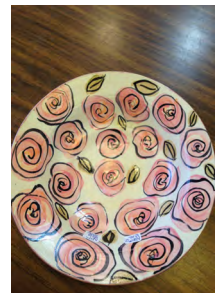
"This has been my first art class at Willamette Art Center. So far, it's been a great experience. I like the environment a lot. I've never done pottery like this before, so it's a nice place to learn something new."

—Morgan Spangrud

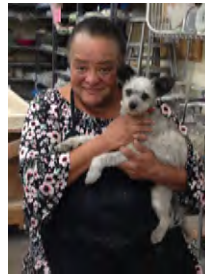
Fall Classes



Empty Bowls



Miscellaneous



News Team:

Pam Baldwin—Editor

Sue Karnosh—Graphic Design

Jeannette Johnson—Photography

Holiday Showcase Call to all 3D Artists

*Willamette Art Center
December 1st & 2nd*

All Willamette Art Center members are welcome to participate in our 2018 Holiday Showcase. Members are free and \$25 for non-members. Bring in your artwork and put it on the tables in the Gallery on November 30 between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

Location: 1820 Silverton RD NE Salem, Or 97301 Phone: 503-365-3911

*We need volunteers to help set up on November 30th from 5-9 pm.
We also need volunteers to work as cashiers and wrappers during the sale.*

Artists will receive 75% of your sales.

A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted in the studio.



willamette
art center

...a place to learn & grow in the arts