



By Kristi Beitzel



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Adoorproject.com



By Loni Lou LaQuill

NEWSLETTER

Second Anniversary Issue

March 2024

From its beginnings in June 2008, the Harbor Art Guild has worked toward its Vision and Mission by joining together and supporting artists in Grays Harbor County, creating public artwork such as the Pollinator's Pocket Park in Aberdeen, placing art in local venues, organizing and staging the annual Rain Glow Festival in Aberdeen, raising scholarship monies for students through its Adoor Project, putting on the Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour, and much more.

The copyright for all artwork in this newsletter is held by the artists.

EDITOR: Jan Swan
www.zhibit.org/janswan

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Nancy Farrar Coughlin
www.nancyfarrarcoughlin.com

Harbor Art Guild (HAG) meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is in person at the Aberdeen Art Center, 200 W. Market, Aberdeen, or via Zoom.

HAG OFFICERS:
Douglas Orr, President
Nancy Eichenberger, Vice President
Kris Jenott, Secretary
Brenda Woods, Treasurer

Next Member Meeting is April 15, 2024

MEMBER NEWS:

Aberdeen City Council, to our frustration, put the final nail in the coffin of any funding for HAG in 2024. The council's decision is based on a mystery attorney's advice, ignoring the city attorney's and state auditor's assessment of no conflict, and a misreading of the city charter. Thanks to those on the Council who voted to keep the issue on the table, including Liz Ellis. Council happily gave the Little League \$60,000.

Regardless of the City Council's nonsense, the **Rain Glow Festival** will happen on July 27th. It is funded largely through private donations. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated to prepare for and set up the festival.

"Painting is the silence of thought and the music of sight."

Orhan Pamuk

MEMBER NEWS (CONTD):

Member **Nancy Farrar-Coughlin** participated in a collage challenge in February (called Februllage) with an international group of collage artists with the goal to create one themed collage a day for the entire month of February! She shared her fun and inspired pieces to her website and her Facebook page. This piece is the theme “Cardboard.” www.nancyfarrarcoughlin.com



Many of our members recently were attacked by the dreaded COVID virus, and HAG hopes everyone recovers quickly. We need to have a lot of energy for the upcoming summer and all the art doings in the area.

A silent auction fundraiser for member **Tammy D’Andrea** will be held on April 5 at Game Freaks in the Side One Building, 201 S. K Street (on Wishkah), from 5-8 p.m. Please drop off donations for the auction at the Aberdeen Art Center through the 25th of March.

The nonprofit organization **Our Aberdeen** is looking for new members for leadership positions. Our Aberdeen is responsible for starting the Healing Gallery in the Hospital, for creating a series of full-color brochures about Aberdeen attractions (public art, historic houses, etc.), funding murals, and for many other endeavors. Contact Marshelle Backes if you are interested.



By Marshelle Backes



By Carole Cohen



By Laveta Bowen



By Donn Angel

OPPORTUNITIES:

ghOST (Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour) is full-steam ahead

The HAG open studio event is completing the planning stages with materials in production for distribution soon. Please consider opening your studio to the tour and/or volunteer to help out. Contact Rick Woods for details.



Cosi Art Center is looking for vendors for a fundraising art festival in downtown Aberdeen on May 11, 2024.

This event is seeking youth participants for the Art Fair in Aberdeen. Students are encouraged to participate in the one day event as are professional artists. All mediums welcome. Contact info is at the bottom of the flyer and on the application form, which was emailed to HAG members earlier.

FEATURED ARTIST: STEVE SWINDELL



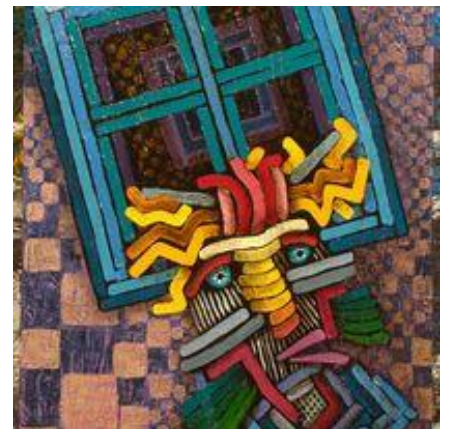
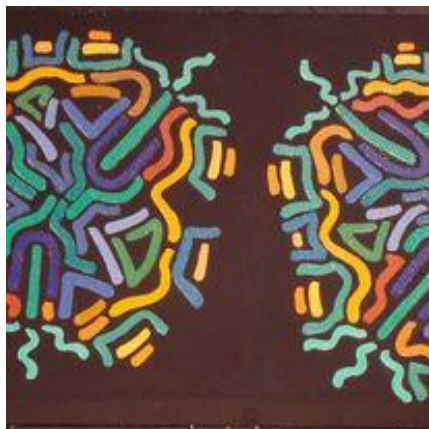
Steve is a prolific self-taught artist working in oil paint on wooden canvases with a black gesso base. He lives in Hoquiam and loves painting, cats, and gardening. Drawing on primitive motifs and nature, Steve's style, with patterned lines and shapes, creates a sense of movement and vitality.



Steve says "I don't know what I am doing," but his experimentation has created a lot of fun pieces. He has a mathematical approach to painting and likes the idea of one stroke and a color and then it's done. But his art has grown from that. "Each stroke is itself, but relates to the next strokes. Making three strokes makes a group, but individually. The color follows the same idea. Counting takes place, but in a different rhythm."



Steve says he likes to set up rules like these. As with many artists, he believes his job is staying out of the way of the process. It's about learning and having fun with paint.



Steve sees painting as a form of meditation.

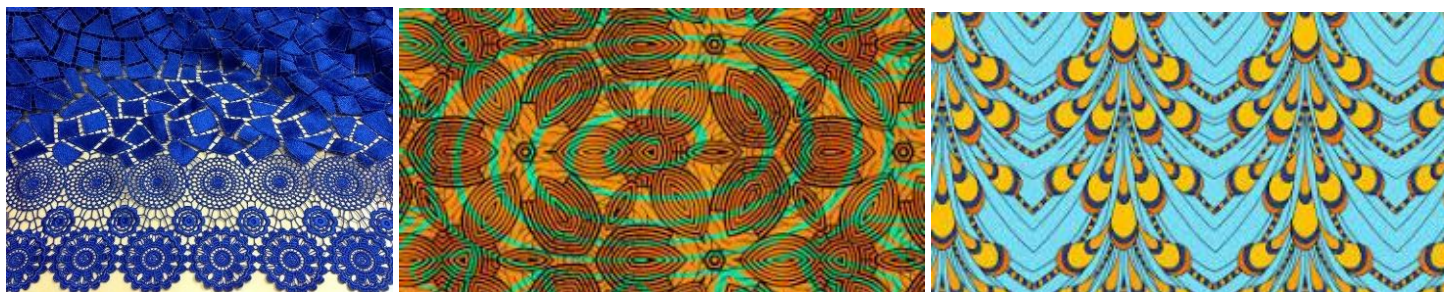
EDITOR'S NOTE BY JAN SWAN

“On a whitewashed wall at the back of the gallery, seven landscape paintings are on display. The artist, Fiyinfoluwa Adeniji, hopes his collection will sell well. Last year, he made 1m naira (\$650) from the sale of two paintings – an impressive achievement for an 11-year-old who first picked up a paintbrush when he was seven.”

The Children’s Art Gallery in Lagos, Nigeria, supports young Nigerian artists from low-income families, helping them sell their work around the world so they can build a better life. The gallery’s walls are covered with paintings and drawings by children aged between four and 17. Any child can submit their work and the gallery does outreach to find new artists – including contacting hospitalized young people. So far, 1400 children have submitted artwork or attended classes offered by the gallery.

The gallery, which is supported by private donations, opened branches in Ghana and Zimbabwe last year. The gallery was named art gallery of the year at the 2023 African Fashion and Arts award and generated \$40,000 from the sale of the children’s art. The artists get at least 80% of the sales. Sadly, the gallery’s website would not allow me to copy any images.

Some of these artists seem to be selling a bit better than many of us adult artists! Art benefitting the community is where it’s at. From an article in The Guardian at https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/mar/13/palette-to-paycheck-the-lagos-gallery-helping-children-make-a-living-from-their-art?CMP=share_btn_url



Nigerian fabric designs

Poetry:

I love to paint
It's magical
Color, Everything
Blank Space
The artist
Life
Becomes form
Magic

The artist
Stands before you
Exposed
This is all I am

Steve Swindell

Membership: Annual Dues are \$20 *pro rated* for a January renewal. Contact any of the HAG officers to request a membership form.

We need an email address for meeting notices and for sending the newsletter.

Let us know what’s going on with your art. Submit information for inclusion in the newsletter to Jan Swan at janswanart@gmail.com. Artwork in jpeg format greatly appreciated for future issues.