



Watercolor by Nancy Farrar-Coughlin



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www.harborartguild.co
www.facebook.com/harborartguild
Adoorproject.com



Art by Cassie Andre

HAPPY NEW YEAR! JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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, and much more.

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

EDITOR: Jan Swan

www.zhibit.org/janswan

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.

Next Member Meeting is February 19, 2024

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Nancy Farrar Coughlin

www.nancyfarrarcoughlin.com

HAG officers:

Douglas Orr, President

Nancy Eichenberger, VP

Kris Jenott, Secretary

Brenda Woods, Treasurer

MEMBER NEWS:

Member **Mary Lou Gregory** wrote a letter to the editor of the Daily World disputing and correcting Councilwoman Pieraccini's misleading letter the Daily World published regarding a perceived conflict of interest for HAG funding since member **Douglas Orr** became Mayor of Aberdeen.

At the Aberdeen City Council meeting on January 10th, member **Jan Swan** spoke regarding the Council's freezing funding for our Guild based on bad information. Councilman Sidor told Jan afterwards that he would move to reinstate the funding at the next Council meeting.



Art by Rick Woods



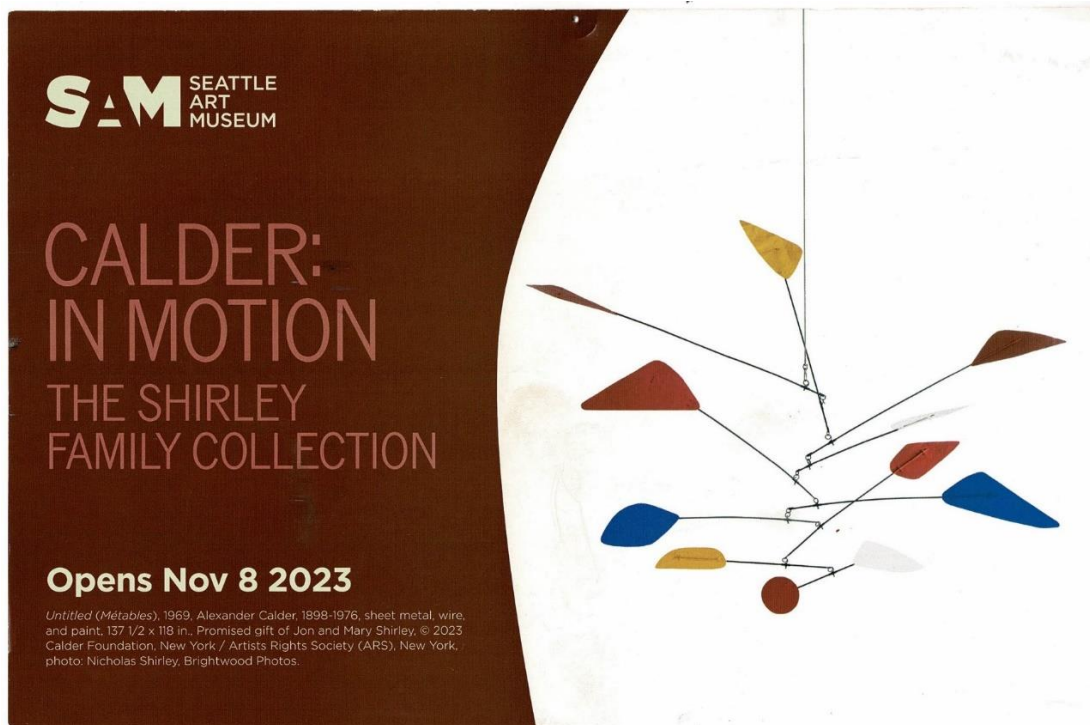
Art by Sue Lowatchie

OPPORTUNITIES:

Artistic opportunities become a bit limited in winter in terms of art festivals, etc. However, HAG has some things going on, as usual:

Robert Gray Elementary Mural Project: At our monthly meeting, we had guests from Robert Gray Elementary. The school is remodeling its library and will have an internet “bar” above which they want a mural. The mural would be about 9’ x 20’. The principal, Sherri Northington, asked if HAG could plan and paint the mural. The theme is “exploration.” The mural could be done by one artist or a group. Please let member **Jan Swan** know if you would be interested in taking on this project or if you would like to form a group of artists for the project. No timeline was provided, but they said they are in the initial planning stages of the remodel. I would like to let them know either way by the February member meeting so they can find other interested artists if none of us take this on.

Fieldtrip: We have planned a fieldtrip to the Seattle Art Museum to see the Alexander Calder exhibit. The fieldtrip is set to leave from the Aberdeen Art Center at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 18th. Member **Laveta Bowen** can take three additional people in her car if anyone needs a ride. Please let Laveta know if you want to go with her.



Teachers needed: Member **Marshelle Backes**, after regularly teaching the First Friday free community art class at the Art Center for a year or so, will not be able to do so for a couple months at least. Member **Kris Jenott** has offered to teach the February class and can do the March class as well if no one else volunteers. At our last meeting, we voted to increase the stipend given to the teacher to \$200. Teachers are encouraged to use the art supplies the Art Center has on hand and create projects utilizing those supplies. We are also asking our members to donate any unwanted art supplies that may be useful for teaching classes. We all want to offer Marshelle our very best wishes for quick healing and to let her know how very grateful we are for all she does for HAG. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO TEACH.

FEATURED ARTIST: JAN SWAN

Jan Swan was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado, in a family of teachers and artistic siblings. She started pursuing art and photography in high school, but in college studied European cultural history. Jan eventually moved to San Francisco where she began painting again. She never stopped taking photographs.

Jan moved to Aberdeen from New Mexico in the fall of 2018. In early 2019 she opened The Rowan Tree Gallery on Market Street. Due to the pandemic, Jan closed her gallery in May of 2020.

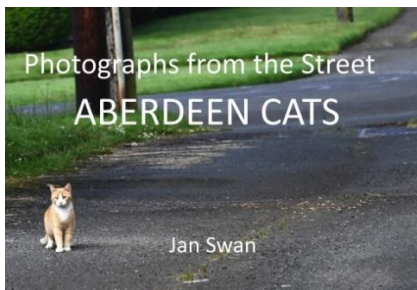
Jan continues to participate in the Aberdeen artistic community. She was asked by Our Aberdeen to act as the director and curator of the Healing Gallery in the HRH Community Hospital. She curated the first show there in February 2020. When the hospital ended its COVID protocols in August 2023, she was able to issue a new call for art and to put up a new exhibit.

Jan has been an active member of the Harbor Art Guild since 2018, serving as an officer and creating and editing a monthly newsletter, with the first edition published in March 2022.

Jan's recent oil paintings are colorful figurative abstracts. Her website is www.zhibit.org/janswan.

Jan is especially excited to present her photography book, *Photographs from the Street: Aberdeen Cats*, which can be purchased from her or from Harbor Books in person or online at:

<https://shop-harbor-books.square.site/product/photographs-from-the-street-aberdeen-cats-by-jan-swan/12700?cs=true&cst=custom>



"It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child." - Pablo Picasso

EDITOR'S NOTE BY JAN SWAN:

As you saw above, HAG has planned a trip to Seattle to see the Alexander Calder exhibit. We are particularly interested in Calder because he lived briefly in Aberdeen! His sister and her family lived here and Calder moved here, taking a job as a timekeeper at a logging camp for a short time. He was inspired to paint by the scenery (who isn't?). He didn't stay long in the area and soon moved to New York.

Calder was born in 1898 in Pennsylvania to a Jewish German mother and a Calvinist Scottish father. He never practiced any religion. In 1902, at only six years of age, Calder made his first sculpture, a clay elephant. When the family moved to California, Calder made a studio in the cellar of the house, where he worked with copper wire to make jewelry. Later, when the family moved back east, Calder sculpted a dog and a duck of out sheet brass. The duck's wings rocked when tapped, hinting at his future love of sculptural motion.

Calder's studied mechanical engineering at the Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. His training in mechanical engineering are obvious in is sculptures and mobiles. In New York City in the 1920's, Calder enrolled at the Art Students League. In 1926, Calder moved to Paris and enrolled in the *Académie de la Grande Chaumiere* and established a studio in Montparnasse. He became friends with many of the artists in Paris in the 1920's, including Fernand Leger, Jean Arp, and Marcel Duchamp – all *avant garde* artists influenced by Cubism and Dada-ism. Calder had his first exhibition of abstract sculpture constructions in Paris in 1931. He and his family returned to the U.S. in 1933.

In the 1960's, Calder moved back to France to the village of Indre-et-Loire, where he had a studio. He named all his works in French and donated a sculpture to the village in which he lived, which is still situated in the town square. In 1966 Calder published an autobiography. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack in 1976.

It was Marcel Duchamp who christened Calder's abstract sculptures with movable parts "mobiles." Early on, Calder motorized his movable sculptures, but he came to prefer less mechanical movement and, in 1932, made his "hanging sculptures" which were moved by air currents or touch. Calder also made outdoor standing mobiles, referred to as wind sculptures, in industrial materials that moved in the open air. In the 1950's, he concentrated on producing monumental sculptures and public commissions.

Calder was an amazingly prolific and versatile artist who created not only the mobiles for which he is most famous, but also monumental sculptures, theatrical stage sets, paintings, prints, book illustrations, jewelry, and he even painted on aircraft and automobiles! He was commissioned by Braniff Internal Airways to paint a full sized passenger jet in 1972 and by BMW for its "art car project." We so look forward to seeing his amazing work in person at SAM.

Source: Wikipedia

Poetry:

Tyger Tyger, burning bright

In the forests of the night;

What immortal hand or eye,

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

William Blake



Membership: JANUARY IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

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.

Submit information for inclusion in the newsletter to Jan Swan at janswanart@gmail.com. Artwork must be in jpeg format.