



Paintings by Kris Jenott

# HARBOR Art Guild

200 W. Market Street  
Aberdeen, WA 98520  
[www.harborartguild.co](http://www.harborartguild.co)  
[www.facebook.com/harborartguild](https://www.facebook.com/harborartguild)  
[Adoorproject.com](http://Adoorproject.com)



Painting by Ken Hurley

## NOVEMBER 2023 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.\***

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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 DECEMBER 18, 2023**

HAG officers:

**Douglas Orr**, President  
**Nancy Eichenberger**, VP  
**Kris Jenott**, Secretary  
**Brenda Woods**, Treasurer

### MEMBER NEWS:

November 3<sup>rd</sup> saw not only the renewed Fall Gala at Grays Harbor Community College opening (see Featured Event), but also the Aberdeen Art Center celebrating Halloween and Dia de los Muertos with a costume party during its First Friday Art Walk. Here are members **Carole Cohen** and **Tracey Hartje** looking gorgeous in their costumes.



Members **Laveta Bowen**, **Jan Swan**, and **Doug Orr** went on a really fun fieldtrip on November 19<sup>th</sup> to the Seattle Asian Art Museum to see the *Renegade: Edo and Paris* of Japanese and Toulouse-Lautrec prints. It is a great museum and the neighborhood it is in is itself an astonishing tour of Craftsman mansions. A field trip to SAM is anticipated in January 2024.



Member **Laveta Bowen** demonstrated her process making copper plate art and ornaments during First Friday Artwalk at the Aberdeen Art Center.



## MEMBER NEWS (CONTD):

New member **Tyler Haney** is the owner of the Gambit Gallery and Gifts in the Aberdeen Art Center. Please stop in and say hi. It is a very interesting and unique gallery.



Member **Kris Jenott** taught a free painting class at the Art Center on First Friday. It was well attended. It is so nice to see so many of the same people return each month for the free class. Just another gift to the community from HAG and the Aberdeen Art Center (and the teachers!).



Member **Marshelle Backes** is offering another free painting class on the December 1<sup>st</sup> First Friday at the Art Center. This time the theme will be winter with this pretty bird.



Member **Kristi Beitzel** had her fantastic batik-dyed clothing on sale at the Ocean Shores Lion's Club Holiday Bazaar. I especially love her octopi.



The HAG book group, which includes members **Kristi Beitzel, Jan Swan, Laveta Bowen, Cassie Andre, Donna Miller, and Kris Jenott**, has decided that going forward for the next several books it will be reading biographies of artists. New participants are welcome and encouraged. It is a fun time!

what to read next ?

Members **Kris Jenott** and **Ken Hurley** hosted an open studio and gallery at their home in Raymond on the weekend of November 17-19. They are both very talented artists and they have an amazing art collection. Members **Jan Swan, Laveta Bowen, Brenda Woods, and Rick Woods** attended.



Member **Rick Woods** needs helpers for planning and conducting the newly resurrected Grays Harbor Open Studio Tour (formerly GH Art Drive). Please contact Rick to find out how you can help and if you have any questions about the event. Also let him know if you are interested in participating in the tour.

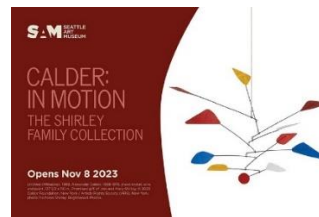
## OPPORTUNITIES:

Member **Marshelle Backes** is offering a class for making custom Christmas ornaments on December 9, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. at the Aberdeen Art Center. To register, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/create-a-custom-christmas-ornament-tickets-758236524857?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR16EIVYXPvm6EYNVz8cqm7WXBb1EKbFQeOXYJPGGMRhNkVw3RBp6gtTRgk>

The Grays Harbor Community College is seeking artwork for its *Student Services & Instructional Building* and has put out a Call for Artists. According to the website, <https://www.ghc.edu/ssib/art> : Grays Harbor College is seeking art from artists or teams of artists to provide local artwork for the new [Student Services & Instructional Building](#). The College hopes that the artwork displayed in the new building will be created by local and tribal artists to recognize GHC's community, the region's Tribal Nations, and the cultural history of Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. Stipends are available to cover costs. Deadline November 24.

In January, HAG plans another field trip to the Seattle Art Museum to see the exhibits *Calder: In Motion* and *Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence from the Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*. Final date will be posted in the December newsletter.



At the Asian Art Museum:



Doug Orr and Laveta Bowen



Jan Swan



Laveta Bowen

# PEACE



## FEATURED EVENT: THE FALL GALA

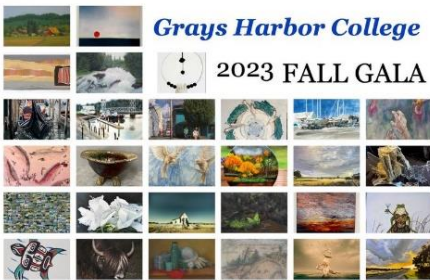
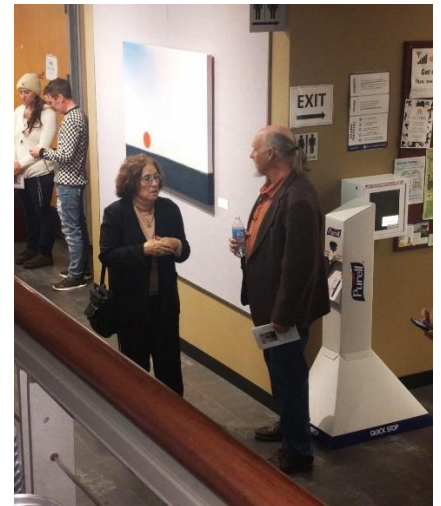
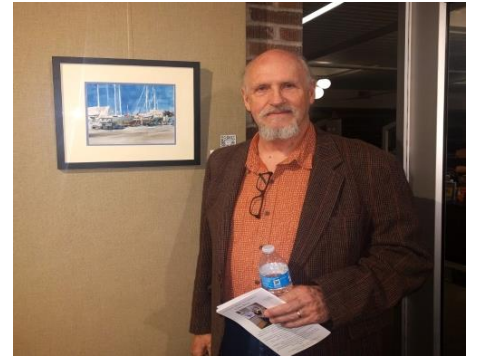
Even though the Fall Gala at the Grays Harbor Community College was not a HAG sponsored event, several of our members exhibited their art and several others attended the opening on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is so nice to have this exhibit start up again after the last show in 2019.

Members **Arlene Eubanks, Laveta Bowen, Donn Angel, Rick Woods, and Ken Hunt** were accepted into this juried show. Congratulations!

In attendance were **Kristi Beitzel, Nancy Farrar Coughlin, Sue Lowatchie, Terry Hosford, Jan Swan, Karri Wood, and Cara Beth Stevenson**.

(Sorry anyone we missed!)

Great to have more places to exhibit. The turnout was very good but we must say that the catering was not the Gala feast of former years.



The John Spellman Library  
At Grays Harbor College  
Invites you to enjoy the returning:  
**Fall Gala**  
Opening Reception:  
Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



## EDITOR'S NOTE BY JAN SWAN

Originally the brainchild of President Kennedy, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), was formed in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. The NEA mission is to “nurture creativity, to elevate the nation’s culture, and to sustain and preserve the country’s many artistic creations.”<sup>1</sup> The NEA provides grant money to artists and art organizations with the first grant provided to the American Ballet Theater. Early grants also included monies to sixty visual arts organization and artists, including Aberdeen native Robert Motherwell. The NEA emphasized new American art and art movements.

In 1968, just a few years after its founding, the NEA faced criticism by Republican members of congress who feared the *avant garde* art supported by the NEA would “bypass the cultural norms of the American majority” or as “state censorship of more traditional styles.” I wonder what art and artists they are referring to. “Culture wars” are nothing new.

In the 1980’s the NEA was again under attack over a photograph by Andres Serrano, a Catholic, that showed a blurred Christ on the crucifix seen through a golden liquid titled “*Piss Christ*.” The *Piss Christ* photograph raised the ire of Republican Senators Al D’Amato and Jesse Helms because the artist had received \$5,000 from the NEA. Serrano received death threats and hate mail (sound familiar?) and he lost other grants due to the controversy. The outcome of the Republican outrage was substantial cuts to the funding of the NEA under President Ronald Reagan.

In 1997, during a retrospective of Serrano’s work at the National Gallery of Victoria, a Catholic Archbishop sought an injunction to stop the exhibit of *Piss Christ*, but the injunction was not granted and the piece was exhibited. However, two teenagers attacked it with a hammer during the show. Gallery officials, of course, received death threats and the show was cancelled. *Piss Christ* was also featured on television by British Channel 4 in 1991, and on “Down by Law” (a show on identity politics and disobedience) in 2006. In 2011, a print was vandalized beyond repair by Christian protestors in an art museum in France. In 2022, *Piss Christ* was sold at auction by Sotheby’s for \$145,162. In 2023, Serrano was blessed by Pope Francis and given a thumbs-up sign. Serrano said of the experience, “*I was very happy that the church understands that I am a Christian artist and I am not a blasphemous artist. I’m just an artist.*”<sup>2</sup>

The Trump administration’s 2021 budget proposed \$30 million to the NEA, an 82% cut in funding, to provide “sufficient funding for orderly termination of all operations of the NEA.”<sup>3</sup> Under President Biden, the proposed NEA budget for 2024 is \$211 million.<sup>4</sup> Our vote in 2024 could save funding for America’s art and culture.

### Poem:

Without a doubt,  
I must read  
all the books  
I’ve read about.

See the artworks  
hung on hooks,  
that I have only  
seen in books.

Lang Leav

**Membership:** Annual Dues are \$20 *pro rated* for a January renewal. Contact any of the HAG officers to request a membership form. New members need to provide an email address to receive all HAG communications.

Email information for inclusion in the newsletter to Jan Swan at [janswanart@gmail.com](mailto:janswanart@gmail.com). Artwork must be in jpeg format. We love sharing your art and activities with our members.

<sup>1</sup> *National Endowment for the Arts – a History 1965-2008*, edited by Mark Bauerlein and Ellen Grantham.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia “*Piss Christ*”

<sup>3</sup> Artnet News, February 10, 2020

<sup>4</sup> NASAA National Assembly of State Arts Agencies web page, March 13, 2023