

Serving artists from
Oregon City and the
surrounding communities.

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Downtown Oregon City hosts *Arts in Action* demos on Friday nights

By Lloyd Purdy, Downtown Manager



Local Artist Mary Wonser will be showing her artform in action at the October 2ND *Arts in Action...Fueled by Coffee Rush*.

Downtown business are partnering with local artists for a cultural initiative in downtown Oregon City. The event utilizes empty storefront windows, artwork inside of businesses and artists “on the street” exposing themselves... in a very appropriate way, to create *Arts in Action*.

The first *Arts in Action* event on Friday, October 2 from 4:00–7:00PM is sponsored by Coffee Rush at 900 Main Street in downtown Oregon City. *Arts in Action...Fueled by Coffee Rush* is produced with the help of the Three Rivers Artist Guild and the nonprofit Main Street Oregon City.

“*Arts in Action... Fueled by Coffee Rush* showcases the potential for commerce and culture downtown,” said Lloyd Purdy, Downtown Manager for Oregon City. “It leverages creativity and the creative process to encourage people to visit historic downtown.”

The goal for this event on October 2 is to showcase the creative process of 20 to 30 artists creating their art downtown. While artists may have previously completed work on display the true purpose of *Arts in Action... Fueled by Coffee Rush* is for artists to showcase their creative process in action (with a cup of coffee in hand for inspiration).

“*Arts in Action...Fueled by Coffee Rush* is an opportunity for members of the Three Rivers Artists Guild to develop their presentation skills and exhibit their creativity live,” said Mike Wonser, Task Force Chairman of this joint project between Main Street Oregon City and the Three Rivers Artists Guild. “We’re very excited that Coffee Rush will be the first sponsor of a recurring First Friday series of events in downtown Oregon City.”

Arts in Action... Fueled by Coffee Rush builds upon downtown’s Art in Windows project and a similar arts initiative that invites downtown businesses to host a Three Rivers Artists Guild member on the First Friday of every month.

Arts in Action is fueled by Coffee Rush, but it will be downtown visitors that energize the artscene on Friday nights downtown. Please join us for Downtown Oregon City’s First Friday night on October 2 from 4:00–7:00PM and see what *Arts in Action... Fueled by Coffee Rush* is all about.

For more details contact Downtown Manager Lloyd Purdy from the non-profit Main Street Oregon City at 503.522.1564.

Editors note: This article was featured in the September 2009 issue of the *ChamberWire*, published by the Oregon City Chamber. Sponsors for Arts in Action are:



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Welcome To Our Newest Members

Three new members have joined TRAG this past month:

We welcome Terry Solini who resides in West Linn. Terry paints landscapes and urbanscapes using oil or acrylics.

Also joining TRAG are Robert and Carol Bresky. They live in the Oregon City area. Robert is a writer and photographer and Carol's area of expertise is in fused glass. She creates jewelry pieces and small sculptures.

We are happy to have you as new members and look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.



Second Annual Holiday Art Show & Sale

November 14 & 15, 2009
Pioneer Community Center in Oregon City
10:00AM – 4:00PM

The Holiday Show is coming together with a great group of artists participating in the 2009 event. We have a full event already this year with about 26 artists participating. There will be something for everyone again this year. Artwork includes everything from fibers, beads, metal, pottery, woodworking and even mosaics. You will be sure to find that special something for the holidays created by local artists.

You will have two days to visit the show and enjoy holiday music performed by students of Harmony Road Music Course in Clackamas. Snacks and drinks will also be available, so come and stay the day. Some of the artists will be demonstrating their artwork during the show.

If you would like to volunteer as a booth sitter, contact Mary McCarty, 503.344.4024 or Mcfiber@comcast.net. Mary is the volunteer coordinator for the show.

We are excited about this show and judging from the excellent turnout last year and the power of word-of-mouth advertising, we expect a successful and fun weekend! Tell all of your friends about this great opportunity to enjoy some terrific local art and creative Christmas shopping. Be sure to come and support the artists who are participating.

If you have any questions about the show or requests about participation, send an e-mail to Janice Gunderson, janicegunderson1@comcast.net.

Agenda Monday, September 14



King's Raven Winery

Art in the Vineyards.

**Arrive at 4:00PM for
plein-air art. General
meeting at 6:00PM.**

Our next meeting is taking place at King's Raven Winery, 11603 S. New Era Rd., in Oregon City, (503) 784-6298. www.kingsravenwine.com.

This will be an excellent opportunity to blend work with pleasure. The owners of King's Raven Vineyard are allowing artists to set up out among the grape vines and sketch, paint or take photographs before our meeting. You can catch the fall colors and the glorious bunches of wine ripe grapes on the vine! This is the vineyards at their most picturesque, and you don't have to be in Italy or France to enjoy it. This will be a social event but there is quite a bit of new business that will be discussed. It has been a very busy summer for some of our Guild members. You have seen some e-mails from Mike Wonser about the *Art in Windows Program* and the current *Arts in Action—First Friday* event. Come and hear all the wonderful things that are being planned for you, our TRAG artists! There are big things happening. So come join us at the vineyards, create your art, have a glass of wine, and hear what's new for TRAG!

Art Festivals and Events

Oregon City Farmers Market. The Oregon City Farmers Market is held on Saturdays from 9AM–2PM. Market manager Jackie Hammond-Williams welcomes artists to set up anytime at the market to paint and sketch the market, then bring the artwork back to sell one weekend in September. For more information, please contact: Jackie Hammond-Williams, manager, 503.734.0192, www.orcityfarmersmarket.com.

Howden Art & Framing announces the new group show *Body of Art ~ Celebrating Form*. Reception September 25, 6:00–9:00PM. Howden Art & Framing, 1512 Washington Street. You and your friends are invited to a reception and wine tasting. Mix & mingle with the artists responsibility for this new show celebrating form. Show runs through October 31, 2009. Gallery hours are Tuesday– Friday, 10–6, Saturday 10–4, and closed Sunday & Monday. www.HowdenArt.com.

Arts in Action...fueled by Coffee Rush, October 2, 4:00–7:00PM. Artists showcasing their talent and creative process at Coffee Rush at 900 Main Street. Live Music and featured artwork at Winestock at 820 Main Street. Arts in Windows Exhibit at 900 Main St. Suite 104; Fournier Group at 814 Main Street; Meet the Artists at Busch Furniture at 804 Main Street; Featured Artwork at Mi Famiglia at 701 Main Street; Meet the Artists at Pilates with Fe at 702 Main Street; Art in Windows Exhibit at ECP Copy at 623 Main Street.

4TH Annual Pre-holiday Sale. A Celebration Of Art, sponsored by the Northwest Jewish Artists. Held at the MJCC (Mittleman Jewish Community Center) on Sunday, October 25, 2009. The address is: 6651 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219, 503.244.0111. The show's hours are: 10AM–4PM.



Art Rotation at the 221 Molalla Gallery

The new art just installed the last of the 2009 installations at the Planning Department. The artists participating in the current installation are Beth Miles, watercolor; Linda Spillum, dream catchers; Laura Rambo, photography; Mindy Benfield, cement leaves and Lynda Orzen, fiber arts. These installations are always a great event for the receptionists in the planning department as well as the planning staff. They love the fresh look each installation gives their work space. “The artwork always gives our office a very sophisticated look and makes us feel good,” said Stephanie, a receptionist.

This comment is about much more than pretty pictures hanging on a wall. Art creates a feeling in people. When that feeling is of joy, peace or contentment and reaches out to the viewer, that is a very good thing! It is always fun to interact with city staff during the installation, and explain who the artists are and how they have achieved their piece of work.

The committee is looking for new members to help with 2010 installations for the city. They will be talking to city representatives about installing a rotating gallery in the new city hall.

Our gallery spaces have been growing this year, especially this summer with the adoption of space at the Citizens Bank on Molalla and the US Bank on Main Street. To see these programs grow and be successful, more people are asked to step forward and volunteer. Lynda Orzen

would personally like to thank committee members Ingrid Aubry and Mindy Benfield for their support this year with the planning department rotations. This project couldn't have supported without their time and effort.

You can e-mail Lynda at orzep@comcast.net for more information or just talked to her over a glass of wine at the September meeting.



Artist Statements

What is an artist statement and why do you need one? Artist statements are presented as part of an exhibition or in a gallery to give the viewer a basic introduction to your art. The statements may be about the complete body of work, a series, or for a particular piece. It's almost always written in the first person. The statement represents you and gives the viewer some insight into you and your creative process. It is required by many venues and is usually sent out with press releases. It is not a biography or a list of accomplishments and awards. It should be easy to read and understand.

The ideal statement is to the point, easily read and understood. It can be as short as a few sentences and shouldn't be longer than one page. In general, the typical statement should be about three paragraphs with three to four sentences in each.

When faced with a blank page, how does one begin? Write down words that describe your art. It's always helpful to have a thesaurus close at hand when working on this list. Write down phrases that describe your processes.

Make many long lists to begin. It is always better to have too many words or phrases than not enough. You can edit as necessary. The more raw materials you have to pull from, the easier it will be to write your statement.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Why do you make art?
- How do you make your art?
- What materials do you use?
- What does your art mean to you?
- Are you trying to convey any emotions?
- What inspires you?
- Are there major influences in your work?
- How do your technique, style, and methods relate to your medium?

Use the answers to these questions to create your draft three paragraph statement. In the first paragraph, talk about why you make the art, and what influences and inspires you. In the second, explain your process and materials you use. In the final paragraph, you can address your current work or a specific piece detailing how and why you make it.

Reread your draft and make sure the sentences flow and have continuity. After writing a rough draft, give it to a friend or two to read and ask for feedback. Look at other artist statements to see what style appeals to you as a viewer. Analyze what works or doesn't work and why. Apply the results of your research to your own statement.

For more information on artist statements visit the web at:

artbusiness.com/artstate.html

Artist-Statement.com, ARIANE GOODWIN, EDD.

artistsfoundation.org

Try a Google search for “writing an artist statement” and you'll get more information than you'll need.

The contents of this article were taken from the article *Minding Your Business* by Jane Davila in the August/September 2009 issue of the Quilting Arts Magazines.

Minutes from the August 2009 TRAG Meeting

General Meeting

- Meeting called to order by Russ at 7:00PM, held at the TRAG Gallery at 900 Main St.
- Kellee Beaudry displayed the TRAG website-in-process on her laptop. Paid members can submit information and images to kelleebeaudry@comcast.net, or call Kellee at 503.730.4784.
- Mike Wonser is the chair for the Arts in Windows Program. The committee is cooperating with Lloyd Purdy and Main Street Oregon City to improve the image of our downtown. Mike reported on the Arts in Windows Program, citing favorable reaction from business owners. Requests for art in other locations are pending. Several TRAG artists have volunteered to participate.
- As a result of the Arts in Windows Program, business owners will have the option to sponsor exhibits as patrons. A fee will be required, and art will be rotated 3 times/year. Annual artist receptions will be planned, inviting clients, city officials, artists, etc. In exchange, participating patrons will be mentioned in the TRAG newsletter and website, and receive recognition as an “Art Patron” in media releases.
- Beginning October 2, a “First Friday Art Walk” event will involve downtown businesses hosting artists for the evening, and staying open for the public to visit. TRAG will assist in selection of participating artists, and arrangements will then be handled between the artist(s) and business owner. October 2 will be the grand kick-off: an outdoor live artists’ demonstration held in the parking area behind the current TRAG gallery at 900 Main St.
- Display tables, grids and other presentation equipment are needed for these and future events. Contact Russ Eversole, russell_eversole@yahoo.com, 503.951.1749.
- From Janice Gunderson: “At the meeting last evening I said I would send out a reminder about the Holiday Art Show & Sale coming up November 14 & 15 at the Pioneer Community Center. Time is closing in on us and we would like to know if you are interested in participating in the show by this weekend.

The show will run on Saturday and Sunday from 10AM–4PM each day. Set-up will be on Friday afternoon.

Would those of you who indicated to me that you want to be in the show, (as well as anyone else who wants to be involved) please send me an e-mail including the information in the following form along with 3 or 4 jpg images of your work. It doesn’t have to be the exact items that will be in the show but should be representative of what you will be displaying.

We will have a community booth for those who don’t have enough work to fill a whole booth. Participants of the community booth will be expected to rotate in manning the booth. Our volunteer booth-sitters will be busy servicing the single participant booths.

Cost for a booth (approximately 9 feet wide) is \$35 for TRAG members.

Community booth participants - \$20 each

We don’t need your money now, just your information and images.

We will be in touch in September with details on the show and how to send in your fee.”

Janice’s e-mail was incorrect in the August Newsletter. The correct e-mail for Janice Gunderson is janicegunderson1@comcast.net.

- Lynda Orzen nominated Mike Wonser as President-elect. The motion was seconded by Janice Gunderson, and passed.
- Formal meeting adjourned, and attendees enjoyed the art display, appetizers & wine, and socializing with one another.

—Submitted by Paula Lewis, TRAG newsletter editor.
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Membership Application

To mutually enhance artistic and business skills through presentations, discussions and educational topics; provide networking and information regarding gallery openings, art shows in the community, and art event updates.

For new members only! Please mail along with check to PO Box 2648, Oregon City, 97045 or bring to next meeting and give to Treasurer.

Name of artists(s)		
Business Name:		
Mailing address: City, State, Zip		
Email and Web Address:		
Telephone numbers:		
Day:	Evening:	Cell:

In which media do you work? (check all that apply, and add brief description in the space below)

Drawing	Painting	Printmaking
Book/paper arts	Photography	Film/video
Sculpture	Fiber/fabric	Ceramics
Glass	Jewelry	Woodcraft
Other		

Please give a brief description of your work:

Galleries that currently represent you:

Website(s) on which your work is displayed and/or sold:

Please attach any current curriculum vitae, artist biography, or artist statement.

Membership dues are \$25.00 per person and \$35.00 for a household. Dues run from January 1 through December 31 of the calendar year. **Please note, membership dues are not prorated.**

Dated: 2009

Your Initials:

Membership Paid on:

MemappV4/5.08