FEATURED ARTIST:
Michael Caldwell

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"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

- Albert Camus

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509-996-2417 | info@nectarskinbarwinthrop.com | nectarskinbarwinthrop.com
Join us for an evening with the renowned Kiowa/Choctaw artist Steven Paul Judd and hear first hand about the inspiration for his work and current projects.

Judd specializes in pieces “for Indians to have, and that gets white people to think,” says Judd. He draws from “the lack of mainstream Native American culture during his childhood and rewrites history.” This is reflected in pieces depicting Rock'em Sock'em Indians, a fry bread-flavored, Warhol-inspired spray can emblazoned with the Campbell's Soup logo or a Magic 8-Ball that tragically reveals, “She is your cousin.”

This presentation is presented by Methow Arts through a collaborative project, “Beyond the Frame”, featuring the work and life of Edward S. Curtis. Visit www.beyondtheframe.org for more events, updates and project information.

DATE: Sat, Oct 20, 7PM. TICKETS: $10/kids, $19/adults in advance, $24/door, $25/reserved seating. INFO: info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004. AT: Winthrop Red Barn, Winthrop, WA.

METHOW ARTS PRESENTS

Steven Paul Judd

CIRQUE ZUMA ZUMA

SAT, OCT 20, 7PM

Cirque Zuma Zuma, often referred to as an African-style Cirque du Soleil, will perform at 7pm on Saturday, October 20 at the Winthrop Red Barn.

Cirque Zuma Zuma combines the mysticism of Africa with the excitement of a theatrical circus performance. In 2011, Zuma Zuma was a finalist in America’s Got Talent.

The show is filled with more than 15 performers with non-stop action and African culture, including dance, acrobatics, tumbling and music. Featuring artists trained in Kenya and Tanzania, the performance will showcase some of the most exquisite skills associated with African variety arts and culture. These include: a South African female vocalist, club juggling, limbo dance, South African gumboot dancers, pole acts, Zuma Zuma Acrobats, a chairs handstand balance from Tanzania, comedy, Gabonese tumblers, contortionists from Ethiopia, the Africa Lion dance, Ethiopian foot table juggling and percussionists from Zimbabwe.

“This show is a high energy program comprised of dance, drumming, acrobatics, juggling and more,” says Eve Kawadza, spokesperson for Cirque Zuma Zuma. “We are from 16 different countries in Africa, including Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe. Each of us has different talents.”

“The audience can't help but get engaged, moving to the rhythm from their seats” Kawadza says. Adding to the experience are colorful costumes decorated with beads and instruments from various cultures within Africa, which date back to traditions from 2,500 years ago. “This is an ultimate African experience,” Kawadza says. “It will leave the audience breathless and stunned.”

DATE: SAT, OCT 20, 7PM. TICKETS: $10/kids, $19/adults in advance, $24/door, $25/reserved seating. INFO: info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004. AT: Winthrop Red Barn, Winthrop, WA.

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**line dancing at the twisp grange**
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**Trivia Night at Methow Valley Ciderhouse**
Mondays, 6pm
Methow Valley Ciderhouse, methowcider@gmail.com

**craft night at osb taproom**
Wednesdays, 6pm
OSB Taproom on the TwispWorks campus.

**fix your gear night**
First Thursday of each month, 4-7pm
At eqpd, TwispWorks Campus

**Game Night at the OSB Taproom**
Saturdays, 8pm
OSB Taproom on the TwispWorks campus.

**movie night at the OSB Taproom**
Sundays, 6pm
OSB Taproom on the TwispWorks campus.

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**september**

**Dinner @ TwispWorks**
Sun, Sept 2, 4-8pm
Dine on amazing food highlighting the bounty of the Methow Valley. Listen to music from Terry Hunt. On the TwispWorks campus in Twisp, WA. tickets/reservations: www.twispworks.org

**Auditions for Seussified Christmas Carol**
Holiday Theatre at the Merc
Sept 13, 5pm & Sept 16, 4pm
Ages 12 through adult. See article p.8
Merr Playhouse, call 509-997-7529

**Winthrop Gallery: Harvest**
Sept 19-Nov 12; Artist reception Sat, Sept 22, 11am-3pm
A show of artwork by co-op gallery members. See article p.8
At Winthrop Gallery, 237 Riverside Ave, 509.966.3925, www.winthropgallery.com

**Steven Paul Judd**
Thurs, Sept 20, 6:30pm
Kiowa/Choctaw artist Steven Paul Judd specializes in pieces “for Indians to have, and that gets white people to think,” he says. Join us for a presentation and conversation with Judd. See article p.3.
Location TBD. info@methowartsalliance.org, methowarts.org

**Reflections on Water**
Through Sept 22
See article p.19. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.com

**George Winston**
Tues, Sept 25, 7pm

**Claudia Castro Luna**
Workshop: Tues, Sept 25, 5-6:30pm; Reading: Thurs, Sept 27, 5:30-7pm
The first immigrant and woman of color to assume the role of Washington State Poet Laureate. See article p.9. Location TBD. methowarts.org, info@methowartsalliance.org

**Strange Couplings: Curator’s Tour**
Thurs, Sept 27, 10am
A curator’s tour with Jody Bento of Seattle Art Museum. Open to the public. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.com

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**cascadia music 2018-2019 season**

**George Winston**
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**Paul Tazb**
**Eduardo Villa**
**Volta Piano Trio**
**The Centeotli**
**The Cascadia Chorale**
**Wayne Horvitz**
**The Pipestone Orchestra**

www.cascadiamusic.org
509.997.0222
Strange Couplings: Jody Bento & The Many Faces Of Raku: Leslie Ahrens
Panel discussion, Sat, Sept 29, 4-5pm; Opening reception: 5-7pm; Exhibit: Sat, Sept 29–Nov 10
Article p.6. Confluence Gallery, Twisp. confluencegallery.com

Water Reflection: Poetry Night
Sun, Sept 19
A night of local poetry. Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. confluencegallery.com

Little Shop of Horrors
Oct 12-21, Thurs–Sat, 7pm, Sun, 2pm

Eduardo Villa-Tenor with John Picket-Piano
Oct 1, Sat, 7pm
One of the world’s most sought-after and versatile tenors. Article p. 6. Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp, WA. www.cascadiamusic.org

Cirque Zuma Zuma
Sat, Oct 20, 7pm
From Africa. Known as the African-style Cirque du Soleil. Finalist in America’s Got Talent. 15 performers take the stage. Article p. 3.
$10-$25. Winthrop Red Barn. Methowarts.org, info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004

Cirque Zuma Zuma Matinee
Sun, Oct 21, 3pm
Known as the African-style Cirque du Soleil. Finalist in America’s Got Talent. 15 performers take the stage. At the Omak Pac, Omak, WA. omakpac.org

Auditions-Missoula Children’s Theatre: The Secret Garden
Mon, Nov 5, 3:30-5:30pm
Open to students grades 1-12. See article p.9. At the MV Elementary School. 509-997-4004, info@methowartsalliance.org, methowarts.org

Missoula Children’s Theatre: The Secret Garden
Sat, Nov 10, 2pm and 7pm
See article p.9. At the MV Elementary School. info@methowartsalliance.org, 509-997-4004

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Experience www.MethowArts.org | 509.997.4004
Cascadia's Season

Cascadia's 2018-2019 season begins with renowned pianist GEORGE WINSTON in concert at the Methow Valley Community Center. Listed among his many influences are the dynamic New Orleans style Jazz pianists Henry Butler and James Booker, and guitarist Pierre Bensusan. A well known and loved composer and performer, this show is sure to sell out! This event benefits the Cove Foodbank in Twisp; George asks everyone to bring donations of non-perishable food items to stock our foodbank.

DATE: Tues, Sept 25, 7pm. LOCATION: The Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp. TICKETS/INFO: $30/door, $25/advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3466996. cascadiamusic.org

EDUARDO VILLA-TENOR ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN PICKET-PIANO

Eduardo Villa is one of the world's most sought-after and versatile tenors with an unusually broad repertoire that ranges from Nemorino to Otello in leading opera houses throughout Europe and North America. A regular guest of the Metropolitan Opera, he has appeared on their stage in the title roles in Don Carlo and Ernani, Radames in Aida, Rodolpho in Luisa Miller, Don Jose in Carmen, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, Canio in I Pagliacci and Enzo in La Gioconda. Eduardo and John will work with junior and senior high school students at Liberty Bell, Methow Valley School District from October 8th-13th.

DATE: Sat, Oct 13, 17. LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp, WA. INFO: www.cascadiamusic.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT – SAVE THE DATES

Cascadia Chorale and Pipestone Orchestra join forces again to Celebrate the Holiday Spirit this year, with beloved favorites and some lesser known pieces with a 20th Century Theme. Save the dates for a Winter Wonderland of Holiday Fun. Cascadia Chorale, conducted by Dana Stromberger and the Pipestone Orchestra, Matthew Erik Armbrust conducting. DATES: Dec 11 & 12. LOCATION: Methow Valley Community Center, Twisp. INFO/TICKETS: Reserved seating @ cascadiamv@gmail.com, www.cascadiamusic.org

Strange Coupling with Seattle Art Museum’s Jody Bento

The Confluence Gallery is proud to welcome guest curator Jody Bento to the Main Gallery for her show Strange Coupling. The show dives into the interpersonal relationship between art and companionship with three sets of artist couples.

Bento, Seattle Art Museum Associate Director, presents the work of artist couples from across Washington State and asks the question: “Do artist couples face unique challenges?” Bento will host a discussion panel on September 29 at 4 pm with artists Nichole DeMent, Stephen Rock, Perri Howard, Craig Howard, Kate Protage and Chris Sheridan where the public is invited to find out how the experience of being partnered with another artist shapes, changes and enhances the artistic process.

Of the artist couples, most have come from other walks of life before becoming full-time artists. The juxtaposition between artists and their partners’ works shows another aspect of their respective art careers—one that isn’t typically highlighted in an art exhibit. But Jody wanted to bring these couples’ works together to see the common thread between work and connection to another artist.

Chamber Music Festival Celebrates Rousing Season

At the 23rd Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival, audiences were introduced to stellar musicians – from an internationally award-winning string quartet to a young pianist and clarinetist – all of whom have seen their careers catapult after they won top prizes in their fields.

Bringing in these artists as their acclaim grows allows the Festival to feature some of the top talents in the country. It also increases awareness of the Festival among musicians, attracting more exhilarating talent for future seasons. “It’s a win-win situation,” says Festival Executive Director Liz Johnson. “New artists often choose to come here based on who’s been here before. And once they get here, they love the audiences and housing hosts and the Valley so much, they keep coming back.”

In addition to string quartets, sextets, and piano trios, the Festival highlighted a mezzo-soprano, three percussionists, and even a group of bulb horns, a simple instrument with an eerily beautiful tone.

In special lectures before each event, concertgoers, who filled the Signal Hill barn to capacity most nights, got insights into music from the baroque through contemporary eras. They also learned about the overlooked contributions of women composers and heard about the exciting careers of pianist Kenny Broberg and clarinetist Naruk Arutyunian since they won international awards last year.

Many locals and visitors got a taste of the magic of chamber music at informal, accessible – and free – concerts around the valley. The Fellowship Quartet—students from Baylor University School of Music in Waco, Texas—performed at venues from the Mazama Store to the Barnyard Cinema, the latter hosting a music-themed movie after the mini-concert. The quartet also continued the Festival’s tradition of working with students from the Pipestone String Camp during the week.

This fall, artistic director Kevin Krentz will return his primary focus to cello performance, teaching, and his numerous inventions – devices that improve the resonance of the cello and specially designed cases that protect string instruments. But he’s already thinking about programming for next season, seeking out both new and familiar repertoire that will excite and galvanize the audience and the festival musicians.

Dates for the 2019 season of the Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival will be announced in September at www.methowmusicfestival.org.
Winthrop Gallery: Harvest

In this show Winthrop Gallery artists offer artworks that reflect upon the fullness that we experience in the fall harvest. Expressed in paintings, drawings, photographs and more, this show is a celebration of fall.

Susan Donahue offers her oil painting “Wheat Field between Winthrop and Twisp”. “The wheat field being harvested is located between Winthrop and Twisp on Highway 20,” explains Susan. She hopes her viewers will feel that the landscape is familiar in that it depicts a specific time and place but also that the painting shows something previously unforeseen as if coming upon the scene by chance.

Tamera Abate will display her encaustic painting “Provencal Harvest”. “This painting is based on memories of time spent in Provence at the height of the lavender harvest season,” says Tamera. “The fields filled with row after row of purple lavender were often next to fields of golden sunflowers also in full bloom, the sky seemed to realize it was no match for the colorful fields and was content being a hazy grey. I don’t know which I miss the most, the sweet, lavender scented air or the sweeping fields of color.”


Announcing Auditions for A Seussified Christmas Carol

SEPT 13 – 5PM & SEPT 16 - 4PM, BY PETER BLOEDEL, DIRECTED BY SUE GOTTULA

A Seussified Christmas Carol is a whimsical mash-up of Dickens’ most beloved Christmas story with a few Seuss-style characters thrown in. The Merc Playhouse will be auditioning actors ages 12 through adult to fill approximately 18 roles. No experience and no prepared readings necessary. Pages of script will be handed out at auditions. Bring your calendar to auditions.

AUDITION DATES: Sept 13, 5pm and Sept 16, 4pm. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp. REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE DATES: Rehearsals begin the second week of October and performances run December 7-16. INFO: 509-997-7529, info@mercplayhouse.org.
Methow Arts Presents Washington State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna

The 2018-2020 Washington State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna will be leading poetry residencies, workshops, and public readings in Okanogan County in late September.

In 1981 as a teen, Castro Luna fled war-stricken El Salvador and immigrated to the United States with her family, later earning an MFA in poetry and an MA in urban planning. She now writes and teaches in English and Spanish in Seattle.

“As the first immigrant and woman of color to assume the role, Castro Luna will be advocating for poetry during a particularly fraught period for both the humanities (the current administration proposed eliminating the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities early this year) and immigrant populations, who are confronting uncertainty in the face of travel bans and heated rhetoric,” notes Humanities Washington, which sponsors the Washington State Poet Laureate program with ArtsWA.

In addition to teaching a poetry workshop for the public on Tuesday, September 25 from 5-6:30pm and holding a public reading on Thursday, September 27 at Trails End Bookstore, Castro Luna will lead poetry residencies for students at Liberty Bell Junior/Senior High, Okanogan Middle/High, and Brewster Junior/ Senior High.

Castro Luna succeeds former WA State Poet Laureate Tod Marshall, who visited Okanogan County and the Methow Valley several times to work with students and members of the public.

DATES: Poetry workshop, Tues, Sept 25, 5-6:30pm (location TBD); Public poetry reading with community at Trail’s End Bookstore, Thurs, Sept 27, 5:30-7pm. REGISTER/INFO: Methow Arts, 509-997-4004, info@methowartsalliance.org

Missoula Children's Theatre
The Secret Garden

A joyful retelling of a story of hope and celebration and all good things in life. Mistress Mary Quite Contrary embarks on a journey from India to her uncle’s home in England. Along the way she makes friends with the hilarious Canadian Geese and the colorful Giant Bugs that Rock! In time she learns to appreciate everything around her, including the Moor Animals and the helpful Fireflies. Add to that a good healthy dose of daring, and what happens? Colin, Martha, Archibald – well, the whole household - begin to enjoy the return of health and happiness in a garden carefully tended...until it blossoms once more.

AUDITIONS
MON, NOV 5, 3:30-5:30 at the Methow Valley Elementary School. Open to students grades 1-12. Not all who audition will be cast in parts. No advance preparation is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to assist with the technical aspects of the production. There is a $25 participation fee for those cast in roles or support positions. Scholarships available. The Missoula Children’s Theatre touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct rehearsals at MVE throughout the week from 3:30-8pm each day.

PERFORMANCES
SAT, NOV 10, 2pm and 7pm at the Methow Valley Elementary School. TICKETS: At the door. CONTACT: Methow Arts (.org), 509.997.4004, info@methowartsalliance.org.

A BIG Thank you to our dedicated donors who through generous donations brought back Missoula Children’s Theatre in 2018!
used color and composition,” said Caldwell. “Each time, it revealed something else – the way he was seeing things, going back seven days in a row to study the painting. It’s always taking it apart.”

“It’s on who you are,” not that different from what attracts you. It’s an individual experience based on personal reaction in both the artist and the viewer. Although Caldwell bases all his paintings on photographs, he always alters the scene in some way. He takes overlapping snapshots to create an old-fashioned panorama of a landscape, then tapes them together to create a complete view. “I invent things for them – it’s not a replication of a place,” he said. “But I like the idea that you could go there.”

Unlike artists who expect ideas to emerge as they work, Caldwell deliberately about finding a device that will invite the viewer into a painting. He pointed to a painting where a small creek flows across a field towards low hills in the distance. “The idea was that you can move into the space through changes of colors in the field, or that your eye is drawn to the creek,” he said.

Caldwell’s paintings are usually about space – fields or meadows, with mountains in the distance, a few well-placed clumps of trees, and sky – a vast expanse of sky. Buildings, maybe a house or a barn, are usually dwarfed by the landscape. Caldwell carefully creates openings in trees to give the viewer a passage. “The configuration of trees is a square or rectangle with open space around them – that’s the way I look at things,” he said.

Although Caldwell’s landscapes are extremely detailed, occasionally verging on photo-realism, he is very influenced by abstract color-field paintings. He likes to intensify colors from nature and always includes subtle variations of color in the sky.

Caldwell pointed to one painting, where a deep blue sky, punctuated by feathery clouds, fills the majority of the canvas. “I like to lay wispy clouds to organize it, so it leads the eye in and then back over your head,” he said, showing how the clouds guide the viewer’s gaze upwards from a clump of aspens at the edge of the canyon.

“The eye is forced to go through the hills or little windows in the trees,” he said. “I like the horizontal plane of the ground, with distant hills where trees pop up.”

Although Caldwell takes regular trips to take photos – sometimes returning to a site many times – he doesn’t intentionally go looking for inspiration. “But I’m always looking for something. It could be the light, the configuration of forms, or the sense of space or colors,” he said.

Caldwell paints some scenes right away, but others oil for many years until he figures out the approach he wants to take.

Caldwell is drawn to the landscapes of Wyoming and Montana, with their expansive vistas and small creeks etched into the ground. “I’m always attracted to subject matter with big skies,” he said.

Although he likes to paint birds or animals – usually livestock like horses or sheep – these days, Caldwell’s paintings never include people. Caldwell got his fill of portraits in graduate school, when he made life-size, standing figures rendered painstakingly in pencil.

“It was very labor-intensive and systematic. I would lay out the figure on paper using a slide so that there were no erasure marks,” he said.

When Caldwell returned to painting landscapes, he retained that same attention to detail and the meticulous system of making paintings. He starts with the sky on the upper left and works across the canvas. He blends colors for the sky and uses tiny dabs of paint for the mountains, trees, and water.

“I think about the paintings in the way I thought about abstract pieces,” he said. “It’s about layers – I see various surfaces. It’s a very abstract-expressionist idea.”

As a bit, Caldwell drew all the time. “I always wanted to touch,” he said. “The first day I walked into kindergarten, I was in love with school.”

Caldwell planned to study English literature in college so he could become a teacher. Soon his attraction to the visual world won out and he thought he’d pursue geography and make maps. Then, at the last minute, he got in line for the art department.

Caldwell retired in 2006 after a long career as a professor at Seattle Pacific University, where he taught drawing, painting, and art history. During his teaching career, Caldwell always did his own painting and exhibited widely in galleries in Seattle and beyond. He also curated the school’s gallery, building a reputation for exhibiting work by emerging artists.

Today he is committed to his oil painting and to refining his approach to his favorite subjects. He starts with a clear vision and works on one painting at a time, focusing on what the painting needs and how to invite the viewer into it. “I just finished this one,” he said, before quickly correcting himself. “I brought it to a stopping point – paintings are never finished.”

Caldwell’s art is on view at the Winthrop Gallery in Winthrop, WA. View more photos and read article online &methowarts.org/featuredartist/michael-caldwell

“I think that’s the magic part of art. It has the capacity to make you see, and to transform you,” he said.
Little Shop of Horrors:
A CONCERT-STYLE PERFORMANCE DIRECTED BY STEPHEN KISH

Feed the need for musical hilarity with this delicious sci-fi smash about a man-eating plant.

The Merc Playhouse is pleased to present the Broadway sci-fi smash musical, Little Shop of Horrors, which has been devouring the hearts of theater goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney’s The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names “Audrey II” - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, BLOOD. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II’s out of this world origins and the plant’s intent towards global domination.

Come experience a concert-style presentation of the well-loved musical directed by Stephen Kish and featuring an all-local cast of singers and actors who will be performing all of the doo-woppin’ music and delivering the laughs in a scaled-down version created to fit The Merc stage.

Little Shop of Horrors is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All show materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

DATES: Oct 12-21, Thurs–Sat, 7pm, Sun 2pm. TICKETS: $5 -$7/children/$16-$18/adults. Purchase at mercplayhouse.org or at the door. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time and concessions are available in The Merc’s lobby. LOCATION: The Merc Playhouse, Twisp, WA. 509-997-7529

Kathy Meyers Wins Equine Art Award

Winthrop Gallery artist Kathy Meyers was recently awarded two honors for her acrylic painting “Move to Spring Pasture” from Equine Art 2018. Equine Art 2018 is made up of the Washington Thoroughbred Foundation, the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association and Emerald Downs, of Burien, Washington.

Kathy was awarded the “Dr. Donald & Beverly Turner and Phil & Sarah Saitta Award for Acrylic” 2nd place. She was also awarded the “Equine Art Committee Poster Award.”

I’ve always been intrigued by horses walking away from the viewer. I wonder what they’re thinking. Horses are beautiful individually, but as a group they’re stunning to me.”

Kathy’s paintings of horses and other subjects can be seen at the Winthrop Gallery.

Collaborative Curation: How art comes alive through volunteer effort at Confluence Gallery

Over a dozen artists gather in a studio up to its skylights in paintings. After chatting, wine and food, it’s time to get down to business: next year’s Confluence Gallery show lineup.

The volunteers make Confluence Gallery possible. Each is uniquely different. Confluence shows are a collaborative and democratic creation between board members, volunteers and administrators.

Each person at the table gets to offer up their own idea for an art show. Some shows are collaborative, some themed, all inspired in some part by the Methow Valley. This is where nature and culture meet under the leadership of volunteer Show Committee Chair Joanne Marracci.

Joanne Marracci has been the chair of the show committee for 4 years. Joanne is an artist living in the Methow Valley and has dedicated her time to ensuring that there is art on the walls at the Confluence. Joanne, along with the show committee, plan, schedule, curate and build each Main Gallery art exhibit at the Confluence.

Joanne joined the show committee after being asked to step in as co-curator for “The Big Sleep” exhibit along with her husband, artist Vern White. Joanne said of the experience, “It was scary but exhilarating. We were so happy with the end result, it made us want to do more.”

Through each exhibit changeover, there are a million moving parts: from art coordination to the technical aspects of hanging and lighting for maximum effect. Each volunteer on the show committee has a certain expertise when it comes to show curation. “We all work really well together as a team, and we get this great cohesion. Somehow everything comes together,” said Joanne. “And we don’t have a problem being honest and open because we have a common goal: to make each piece stand out on its own while being a part of the greater experience while we also selling works.”

Sarah Jo Lightner, Executive Director of Confluence Gallery, said, “We are so lucky to have such an amazing group of artists and art lovers helping to bring our community dynamic and interesting exhibits.”

For more information about the upcoming exhibits at Confluence Gallery, or to find out how to contribute to the show committee team, visit confluencegallery.com.
Leslie Ahrens: THE MANY FACES OF RAKU

The Community Gallery at the Confluence hosts artist Leslie Ahrens and her body of work. Ahrens brings to her show many sculpted raku wall hangings, porcelain sculpture and acrylic paintings. Her show opens on September 29 with an art reception beginning at 5pm.

Ahrens grew up sculpting in a family of artists. Though never classically trained, she has spent the greater part of her life playing with clay. It was only when she retired that Ahrens began her career as an artist.

Over the last few months, Ahrens has tried her hand at portrait painting. Similar to her sculpture subject matter, she begins with the face of the portrait and then the work decides the final piece. According to Ahrens, "I begin sculpting the faces first and then letting them tell me what they wanted to be."

Ahrens’ process does not end with a piece coming out of the kiln or once she frames a painting however; “It is my belief that my work is never complete until it finds that one person it was made for and that person recognizes it and knows that they must have it in their lives,” said Ahrens. “I love to see this in their eyes when they meet for the first time as is the very best reward an artist can have.”

The Ahrens Community Gallery show opens in tandem with the Strange Couplings Main Gallery exhibit.

DATES: Opening reception: Sept 29, 5-8pm. Exhibit Sept 29-Nov 10. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA.


(Artist Leslie Ahrens presents her raku works as well as paintings in the upcoming Community Gallery show opening Sept 29.)
Spartan Art Project

The Spartan Art Project is the brainchild of local artists Matt Armbrust, Steve Ward and Jeff Winslow. Together, these three artists have transformed the shiny silver trailer into a gallery space for local, regional and nationally ranked artists’ works, with a focus on art that would seem unconventional in a typical gallery.

“We want to use the Spartan Art Project to draw new people into art, to generate an unconventional interest in the art scene. . . a low-cost space allows curators and artists alike to take risks and worry less about selling art," says Armbrust.

Since rescuing the 1951 Spartan Imperial Mansion from a field in Malaga, WA in 2012 the artists have been busy restoring the exterior and interior. The trailer has hosted exhibitions and events including the now legendary Winterfest celebration and the annual Little Star Montessori School kindergarten art show. Open most Saturdays during the summer, visitors to the TwispWorks campus can tour the Spartan, check out the current exhibit and purchase unique cards created by local artist Karel Renard, the sales of which help support the Spartan Art Project.

News of the Spartan Art Project is spreading. The Project is the focus of an abstract to be presented next June at the International Conference on the Arts in Society in Lisbon, Portugal. And closer to home, with new tires, rims, trailer brakes and running lights the Spartans plan to make the trailer road-worthy, take their unconventional gallery on the road, and share their vision with other rural communities in 2019. But don’t worry, the TwispWorks campus will always remain home base for this wonderful gallery!

Find the Spartan on the TwispWorks campus in Twisp, WA.

Rebecca Gallivan – Cascadia Music’s New Executive Director

Ever since I was a little girl, music has been an important part of my life. At six or seven years old my parents recognized my love of music and began encouraging me, supporting my goals by signing me up for voice and violin lessons. I am forever grateful. As the new Executive Director for Cascadia Music, I am excited about the opportunity to share this joy with others by providing opportunities to learn, hear and perform music here in the Methow Valley.

In its long history, so many people have contributed to this vision and helped enrich our community through music. Since 1986, when Cascadia was just an idea, it has changed and expanded, has had many leaders and given countless performances. Since then our organization has grown to include: the Cascadia Chorale; the Pipestone Orchestra, a community ensemble; Pipestone Youth Orchestra, a string program in the Methow Valley School District; and the Cherrington Scholarship Foundation, providing merit and need based scholarships for music students. In 1998 Pam and Terry Hunt founded the Pipestone School of Music, Cascadia’s educational branch, providing private lessons in strings, winds and piano. Pam’s excellent teaching is clear in the good work of her many students, and the countless successful recitals and concerts they have given. All this while serving as Business Manager as well. For 25 years Terry has been a member of this organization, a director of the Orchestra and most recently, Executive Director. Pam and Terry’s good work continues even though they are stepping back from their administrative positions. We are so grateful to them and particularly to Terry for the upcoming season, as the incredible guest performances we are offering this year are due to his connections and hard work.

So far my favorite part of this transition has been hearing from so many of you individually, how Cascadia Music has been a part of your lives and about the rich culture this organization provides for personal connection and artistic expression. It is because of you that we are thriving! Perhaps this is best expressed in the happy faces of people applauding for the Holiday Concert, or through the sweet thank you notes from young students to their teachers. I myself am beyond thrilled to have this opportunity and look forward to sharing the joy of music with you at our many performances this year!
artist spotlight: **Joanne Marracci**

For jewelry maker Joanne Marracci of Marracci Designs, the natural world of the Methow Valley serves as inspiration for the unique pendants, rings, and earrings she creates in her Twisp studio. Using sterling silver, gold, and gemstones, Marracci looks to the landscape, the weather patterns, and the ever-changing colors of the skies and the seasons of the valley to fabricate jewelry that "brings a little sparkle and shine to everyday life."

"If you look closely at most natural stones," Marracci says, "there is a tiny world happening in the depths. I mostly prefer stones that have inclusions and weird/cool color play, flash, tiny rainbows, or bits of dust and mystery-matter embedded in them."

When creating a design, Marracci says "I begin with the stone, then create the setting or piece using metal wire and sheet in various thicknesses. I'll draw around the stone itself and sort of wait until it speaks to me. I try to let the stone be the star of the show."

Marracci's Metal Menagerie animal series showcases various critters' essence or character, such as her Jack Rabbit with moveable ears and feet, or her Elephant earrings that stand forehead-to-forehead when put together, just as real elephants do with each other to show affection.

Marracci believes that art forges connections—within communities as vendors support the makers who live here, among individuals as customers purchase from an artisan, and between people and places like the Methow Valley, as customers select paintings or jewelry or pottery that reflects the natural beauty of this place.

And, says Marracci, in the Methow Valley "We are open to be ourselves, which makes those connections much more meaningful and genuine."

Read more online about Marracci's work, the challenges of being a rural jewelry maker, and the ways in which the Methow Valley supports artists @ methowarts.org/joanne-marracci-spotlight
Methow Arts integrates art into International Baccalaureate units of study

Last year the Methow Valley School District (MVSD) received International Baccalaureate (IB) certification for its Primary Years Program (PYP) and Middle Years Program (MYP). IB is an internationally-recognized program that offers a framework for education for students ages 3-19, which focuses on “teaching students to think critically and independently, and how to inquire with care and logic.” With this authorization, the MVSD joins nearly 5,000 other IB schools worldwide in developing inquisitive, engaged, lifelong learners.

Methow Arts collaborates closely with individual teachers at each grade level, as well as with Anne Andersen, the district’s instructional coach, to design arts education opportunities that enhance student learning. Our arts programs are not isolated, stand-alone experiences; they are strategically integrated into everyday lessons and are strategically woven into many of the six IB units each grade undertakes each year, such as:

- 5th grade collages that complement their “Who We Are” unit;
- 4th grade comics residency integrated into the “How We Express Ourselves” unit;
- storytelling residencies that were offered with the 1st grade “How We Express Ourselves” unit;
- puppetry residency incorporated into the Kindergarten “How We Organize Ourselves” unit;
- 6th grade block prints exploring “How the World Works”;
- 10th grade tracing carbon through painting for “How the World Works”; and
- poetry residencies exploring creative expression in “How We Express Ourselves” units at many grade levels

Many of the lessons learned through Methow Arts’ offerings in visual, literary, and performing arts align with the IB Learner Profile, such as:

- IB learners are Open Minded and “critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories as well as the values and traditions of others” (IBO). Students of art, as well, “celebrate multiple perspectives and learn that there are many ways to see and interpret the world” (Eisner).
- IB students are Reflective, “thoughtfully considering the world and our own ideas and experience” (IB). Similarly, students of art learn “to judge one’s own and others’ work and process in relation to the standards of the field” (Hetland).
- IB students are Communicators, “expressing themselves confidently and creatively in one more language and in many ways” (IB). Art is nothing so much as creative self-expression, communicating concepts, emotions, opinions and questions through a particular medium. “The arts help children to learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job” (Eisner).

In fact, nearly every component of the IB learner profile is strengthened through artistic exploration, whether it is developing critical thinking skills as Thinkers (“The arts teach students that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity” [Eisner]) or approaching issues as Risk Takers (The arts teach students to “reach beyond one’s supposed limitations, to explore playfully, and to embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes and accidents” [Hetland]).

Methow Arts seize opportunities to display student art in public whenever possible, which supports the IB element called the “Exhibition.” The Exhibition is a unique and significant component of the IB model that allows students to exhibit the attributes of the IB learner profile developed during each unit. A public exhibit of student artwork serves a similar purpose, giving students the chance to answer questions about their art and display their knowledge of their craft.

Methow Arts features student art (and articles about the projects) on our website; we also feature student art in the community. For example, the still life paintings of 4th graders have been on display at Confluence Gallery; 6th grade block prints make an annual appearance on posters, t-shirts, and other promotion for Fishing Day at the Winthrop Hatchery; a student mural is painted on a building at the Winthrop Town Trailhead.

We believe that displaying student art adds an element of legitimacy to students’ work, and makes them feel as if they are valid members of the artistic community. It also encourages parents who might not otherwise to step into an art gallery and enjoy that new experience.

Basket Making Through Time

BY LAURALEE NORTHCOTT

The following is an excerpt from Lauralee Northcott’s book: A Cowgirl’s Life in the Mountains, describing her encounter with the baskets of famous Washoe basketmaker Dat So La Lee. They are an inspiration for her own pine needle baskets. The book with the entire story will soon to be available through Northcott’s website: www.lauraleenorthcott.com

In July of 2015, I went into the Nevada State Museum in Carson City to see the work of Dat So La Lee. She is a famous Washoe basket maker who lived from about 1835 to 1925 and is often hailed as the finest basket maker of all time. Her work is flawless and required a particularly gifted mathematical mind in order to produce the patterns for which she is justly famous.

Although Dat So La Lee’s baskets are generally not available for public viewing, I convinced the museum’s curator to let me see their collection of her work after explaining that I am a basket maker and would like an opportunity to admire her work.

I followed the curator down the hall, to a stairwell, and down to the basement. We walked along another hall and soon stood in front of a door-sized vault, the kind you see in banks. He dialed the combination and turned the wheel. We entered a large temperature-controlled room. The room was full of baskets. From top to bottom, with rolling wire racks bursting, there was every imaginable shape, size, type, and color of basket. Along many walls, there were locked, glass-covered cases, also full of baskets. I felt as though I was walking into a treasure trove.


The art of art collection

By Rose Weagant

“We buy what we like, what we can afford, and what will fit into our apartment.”

These were the rules established by some of the most prolific art collectors in New York, Herb and Dorothy Vogel. The Vogel amassed a collection of nearly 5,000 works of minimalist and conceptual art worth millions. They themselves weren’t millionaires. Herb worked for the Post Office and Dorothy was a librarian. They simply loved art and saw what Herb noted as “more than average potential” in emerging artists. Because of these collectors, rent was paid, art supplies were replenished, careers were made.

It doesn’t take a fortune to collect. It takes and eye and a willingness to engage with artists.

The path to art collection doesn’t begin with art literacy—that’s the destination. Most people begin to collect art when they find a piece that speaks to them. Art collector Penelope Varn said, “I prefer the odd or “ugly” pieces that elicit an uncomfortable visceral reaction from the average viewer but a smirk of secret appreciation from me — those that feel like a sliver of my psyche sandwiched between microscope slides.” Read full article online @ methowarts.org/art-of-art-collection
Reflections on Water Exhibit

The Confluence Gallery approaches the concept of water as inspiration and contention in the Reflections on Water exhibit August 18 through September 22. The exhibit both celebrates the beauty and splendor of water through aquatic animals. From rivers to ponds to irrigation to raindrops to molecular makeup, water in every form is represented in a wide array of mediums.

Volunteer exhibit coordinator, Jennifer Molesworth, created the show to discuss both the essential nature as well as the fragility of water systems. With a BA in Biology with an emphasis on aquatic ecology, and a 19 year resident in the Methow Valley, Molesworth is no stranger to water. After working for the Methow Valley Ranger District and now the Methow Valley Salmon Recovery Reclamation, she understands the complexities behind water and wanted to continue the conversation through art.

“The power of water in its many forms. The play of light and shadow, reflected surroundings, swirling, rippling or still - such wonderful colors and textures,” says Molesworth. And yet, “Many Americans have taken safe water for granted. A glass of pure clean water is such a gift of a clean and healthy environment. Safe water is becoming less of a certainty.”

In light of the political role water scarcity has played over the last few years, think Flint, Michigan, the Dakota Access Pipeline and the droughts in California to name a small few, water rights, quality and quantity now artists have become a part of this critical conversation.

DATES: Aug 18-Sept 22. LOCATION: Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA. CONTACT: confluencegallery.com

(Karalee Kuchar’s triptych will be on display during the Reflections on Water exhibit at Confluence Gallery August 18 through September 22.)

George Winston

Renowned pianist George Winston returns to the Methow Valley to perform at the Community Center in Twisp Tuesday, September 25.

George grew up mainly in Montana, and spent his later formative years in Mississippi and Florida. During this time, his favorite music was instrumental Rock and R&B. Inspired by Jazz, Blues and Rock, George began playing organ in 1967. He switched to the acoustic piano after hearing recordings by the legendary stride pianists Thomas “Fats” Waller and the late Teddy Wilson. In addition to working on stride piano, he also came up with this own style of melodic instrumental music on solo piano, called folk piano.

George also plays harmonica and solo guitar. He is recording the masters of the Hawaiian Slack Key guitar for an extensive series of albums for Dancing Cat Records. Slack Key is the name for the beautiful solo fingerstyle guitar tradition, unique to Hawaii, which began in the early 1800s and predated the steel guitar by over half a century. This concert promises to be a special treat that you won’t want to miss. The event will also benefit the Cove Foodbank in Twisp.

Chicago's Second City
MADE IN AMERICA, *SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
A certified American comedy institution since 1959, The Second City’s laughs are 100% USA-made in this latest take on our great, big dysfunctional nation! The lauded company (John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, with Bill Murray) is sending satire down the conveyor belt and celebrating what makes us all tick in a hilarious revue that will leave you breathlessly ready to face the future...and all its loose screws.

Fresh, fast and always spectacularly funny, The Second City is celebrating nearly sixty years of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and launching the careers of generation after generation of comedy’s best and brightest.

THE SECOND CITY TOURING COMPANY is always original, daring, and hilarious. Their alumni list is a veritable “Who’s Who” of comedy, including Bill Murray, John & Jim Belushi, Mike Myers, Steve Carell, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, George Wendt, Tina Fey, Rachel Dratch, Horatio Sanz, Tim Meadows, Joan Rivers, John Candy, Stephen Colbert, Chris Farley, Harold Ramis, Jack McBrayer, Jason Sudeikis, Jane Lynch, Aidy Bryant, Steven Yeun, Keegan-Michael Key and so many more.

DATE: Sat, Nov 17, 7pm. TICKETS: All seats are reserved. We will sell out. $45/first 5 rows and premiere balcony seating, $35/all other seats. Adult only. Purchase at Methow Arts, Twisp, WA. Brownpapertickets.com/secondcitywinthrop. At the Red Barn, Winthrop, WA. 509-997-4004, info@methowartsalliance.org

“The entire recent tradition of American satire can be summed up in three words: The Second City.” - New York Times

“Legendary” - TIME

“The troupe that gave us and inspired Saturday Night Live and Whose Line is it Anyway?!” - Chicago Tribune

Methow Made
The Methow Valley is home to unique artisanal goods, delicious locally grown and produced food and beverages and products you won’t find anywhere else. TwispWorks’ Methow Made is a program that gives Methow Valley artists, craftpeople, farmers and food and beverage producers exposure to customers who love the Methow Valley and want to support our local economy.

With almost 40 participants, Methow Made is growing and the website is a great place to find everything from locally grown organic apples to custom built yurts! And by choosing Methow Made you can be sure your money supports the local economy.

Visit www.MethowMade.com for a complete listing of our artists and producers as well as a list of local retailers where you can purchase Methow Made products.

(Photos clockwise from upper left, Kelle Ronnfeldt’s Nevewear, Phil Milliam’s Dog Paw Knives, Molly’s Soap, Mandy Shoger’s Foxtail Pottery.)