

## LightBox displays 'Nudes Downtown' paintings

ASTORIA — LightBox Photographic Gallery will hold an artists' reception for local artists Lisa Ackerman and John Wecker from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Both artists will display a selection of paintings as part of the "Nudes Downtown" celebration. Ackerman and Wecker will also include other pieces of work for the reception.

Ackerman has lived in Astoria since 2005 and owns Old Things & Objects antique shop with her husband, Shawn. She is a familiar face in the Astoria art community, having shown her work in both group and solo shows over the years. Most notably, Ackerman has been accepted into the "Au Naturel" art show at Clatsop Community College four times. "I feel inspired by painting the nude form as it discloses human nature without any disguises," she says.

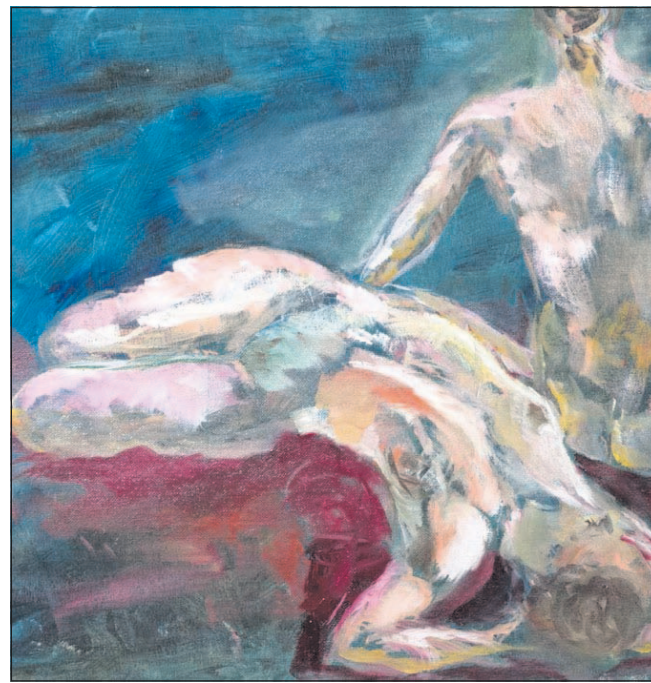
Ackerman is currently working on paintings inspired by the seven chakras. The first chakra, "Muladhara," (the foundation of the energy body with energy circulating from the base of the spine and is the symbol of earth and roots with red) is in the "Nudes Downtown" show at LightBox.

"The focus of my paintings is to open myself and others to the world's diversity and expression through building on a collective consciousness of imagery, and to promote an awareness and reverence for the earth and all of its inhabitants, while also showing respect for the generations that preceded us and how they have shaped us into the people we are," says Ackerman. "I love painting friends in deity form, as it helps provide insight into their own archetypes. I also love including natural landscapes in back-

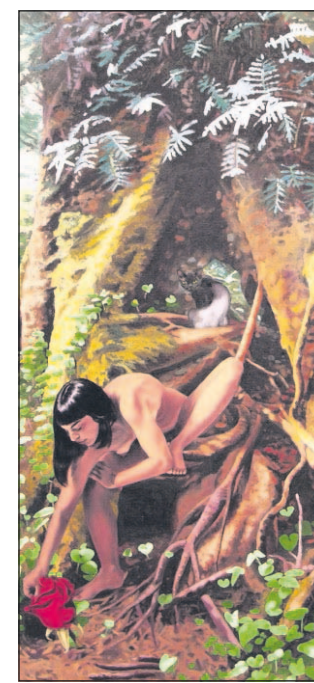
grounds inspired by the local area and various trips."

Artist John Wecker is a retired Lutheran pastor who discovered the joy of drawing and painting by studying with Kristin Shauck at CCC, noting that he has also learned much from local artists who are generous with their ideas and experiences. At this time, Wecker is focused on oil paintings on canvas or wood, but has been experimenting with oil on polymeric film as well.

On his attraction to artistic nudes, Wecker explains, "The human figure is particularly fascinating and challenging since every pose and expression is new, and the slightest change of a line or value makes a huge difference in the image. I particularly enjoy the gesture aspect of figure drawing as it trains the eye and mind to pay careful and intense attention and to quickly see the rela-



"At Ease" by John Wecker.



"Muladhara" by Lisa Ackerman.

tive proportions, values and shapes of the model. I hope that as I learn more skills in drawing and painting I will also gain more freedom to express what I see or imagine in new ways."

LightBox Photographic opened "The Photographic Nude 2015" in February, an annual international juried exhibit that is in its fifth year. This year's exhibit consists of work from photographic artists from around the globe, including Portugal, France, Great Britain, Iceland and Slovakia. The

exhibit runs through April 4. Every month LightBox exhibits new silver gelatin prints from LightBox Dark-room members.

LightBox Photographic Gallery is located at 1045 Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-468-0238 or visit [www.lightbox-photographic.com](http://www.lightbox-photographic.com)

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5:00 pm - Downtown Astoria  
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## Color the Coast for Autism with run, walk this April

HAMMOND — The Autism Society of Oregon will host a Color the Coast for Autism 3K Run / Fun Walk on April 11 at the Astoria/Warrenton/Seaside KOA, located at 1100 N.W. Ridge Road.

Registration starts at 10 a.m., and the run/walk begins at 11:30 a.m.

KOA is providing free activities, a free hot dog lunch, and a free two-night stay April 10 and 11 in a rustic cabin, tent or RV site for all registered participants while supplies last. A one-night deposit is required but will be refunded upon check-in.

Early bird registration for the run/walk ends Saturday, March 21 and fees are: \$12 for adults and \$9 for children

age 3 to 12. Standard registration after March 21 is \$14 adults and \$11 for children age 3 to 12. Children ages 2 and younger are free. Every person registered gets a free event T-shirt.

Teams are welcome. Discounts are available for teams with 10 or more members.

When you register, you can create a personal fundraising page. You can also win prizes for largest team of registered members, highest fundraising team and highest individual fundraiser.

For more information, call Tobi Rates at 503-636-1676 or email [oregonautismd@gmail.com](mailto:oregonautismd@gmail.com). Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/2015colorthe-coast>