

A creative force

CLATSOP COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ART FACULTY EXHIBIT
HONORS ROYAL NEBEKER

Royal Nebeker, who passed away last year, is generally considered the best artist ever to work in the lower Columbia area, and he is being honored with a singular Clatsop Community College art faculty exhibit. This exhibit will present work by current faculty who teach both credit and community education classes. A large portion of the show will be devoted to Nebeker's work as well, in recognition of his central role in developing and advocating for the department and the gallery.

"Royal was, first of all, extraordinary as an artist," says instructor David Lee Myers. "He was an enormous creative force in the college, and he set very high standards in both art and teaching — and met them."

Ceramics instructor Richard Rowland says, "I feel a sense of responsibility in honoring him, from the sense of hope that he gave his students and the faculty, and his contribution to the community."

Nebeker's work will be on the main wall of the gallery. County Commissioner Sarah Nebeker says the works on display will span the last decades of her husband's life and will show some of the various mediums he worked in and taught: watercolor, monoprints, etchings and his favorite medium, oils. The major

piece on exhibit, "Untitled Memory 44" is part of a traveling museum exhibit of the artist's work.

The CCC exhibit will, Sarah Nebeker says, "show that he was a master of these mediums, that he was equally comfortable working in each one, although they are very different." She recalls how, "In the spring, when I was bringing flowers in from the garden, he would hone his skills by painting watercolor still lifes."

While the opening of a show is a fun social event, returning to spend time with the art is time well spent, especially in the case of Royal Nebeker's work. In addition to, "his love of color and his profound expression and humor," says Sarah Nebeker, "His paintings reveal so much of his process and what he was thinking. The content is dynamic; there is so much depth. His works reveal meaning, more and more as you spend time with them."

That there is a flourishing art community in Clatsop County, and in Astoria in particular, is

due in no small part to Royal Nebeker. His influence continues in another way, as artists and musicians come to the coast, influenced by his son, singer-songwriter Israel Nebeker.

Many if not most local artists were at one time Royal Nebeker's students, and it is likely that many of those who were not his students are nonetheless able to quote him secondhand.

I include myself in that group. I tell my photography students in the community education program, "If something is not interesting, you're not looking closely enough," a Royal Nebeker saying that I heard from painter Rhonda Grudenic, who was one of his students.

There will doubtless be many local artists at the reception for the faculty show trading

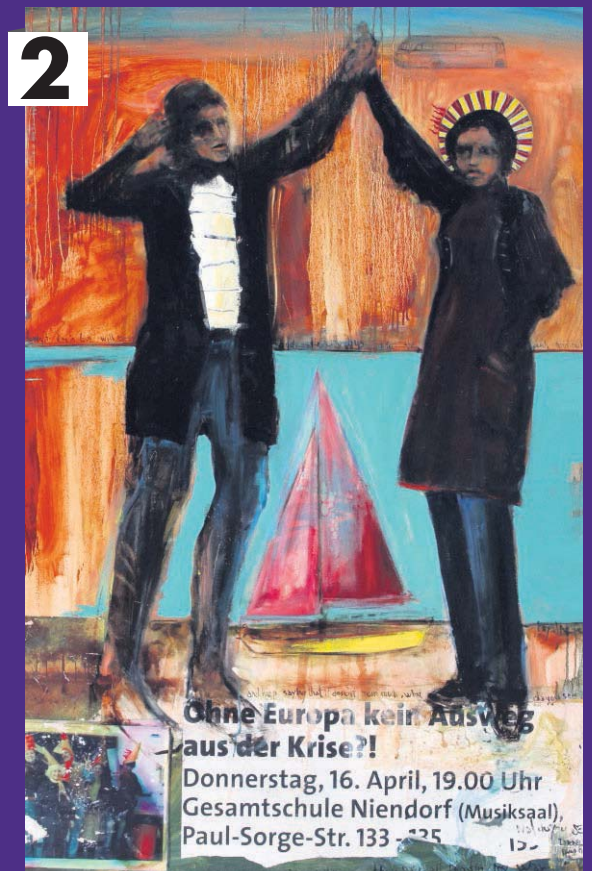
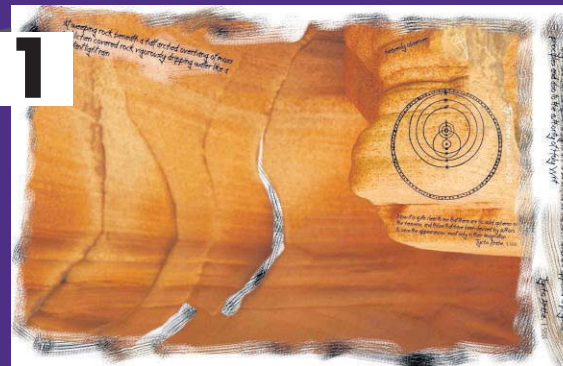
Nebeker anecdotes and aphorisms, one after another. The stories always speak of how Nebeker inspired others, how he convinced artists that they could and should make a living with their art, and how he considered it every artist's responsibility to give back to the community. Royal Nebeker believed in community, believed that an artist was not a lone individual in a studio but an important part of the human whole and of our shared human

experience of the sacred.

CCC instructor Kristin Shauck says, "Royal Nebeker was a driving force behind the art department and its involvement in the community, and his presence in the department will be felt for generations. The CCC art faculty are committed to carrying on Royal's extraordinary legacy."

The reception for the faculty show will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 at the CCC Art Center Gallery. Light refreshments and special treats will be provided by WineKraft and Fort George Brewery. The exhibit continues through Jan. 14.

The CCC art faculty will present examples of their recent work in a range of disciplines, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, photography and calligraphy. Art faculty represented in the exhibit are: the late Royal Nebeker, Bill Antilla, Dwight Caswell, David Homer, David Lee Myers, Rebecca Read, Ben Rosenberg, Richard Rowland, Lucien Swerdloff and Kristin Shauck.



1: "Untitled Memory 44," an oil painting by Royal Nebeker.

2: "Tyco at Zion" by Lucien Swerdloff.

3: "Stones of Stennis" by Dwight Caswell

4: "Manikin in Charge" by David Lee Myers, a found scene in Coimbra, Portugal.

5: From left, David Lee Myers, Richard Rowland, Lucien Swerdloff and Kristin Shauck recently speak about the Clatsop Community College art faculty art show on KMUN 91.9 FM.

the arts

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Story by DWIGHT CASWELL