

# Local artists to light a fire in Winterfest competition

By Jim Cornelius  
News Editor

Some fine functional metal sculpture will be featured in the annual fire pit competition at Winterfest in Bend over Valentine's Day weekend. Ken Scott's Imagination Gallery and Ponderosa Forge & Ironworks will both have entries in the contest, which will be judged on Saturday, February 14.

Scott is hard at work on his creation, bringing his usual intensity to the task.

"Creativity is all about showing up," he said. "Inspiration is easy, but sweat comes hard. True art is an intensely personal endeavor; It's about the love of the work and the love of life."

Scott's work, like his

persona, is larger-than-life.

He describes his work thus: "Exciting projections, swirling in Victorian, stolid Gothic, delectable Deco and injected with one frighteningly wild imagination. It's Captain Nemo meets Luke Skywalker, where the past meets the future!"

Scott's got his eyes on the prize at Winterfest.

"That's my goal," he said, "to take first prize — and yet in the company of some seriously respectable sculptors."

One of those is Jeff Wester and his crew at Ponderosa Forge & Ironworks.

Wester and company built a cauldron that hangs from a weathered tree. The tree was "hammered around and welded together in several pieces," Wester explained.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Ponderosa Forge produced a fire pit cauldron hanging from a metal tree.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ken Scott's wild imagination will be at play with an entry in Winterfest's fire pit competition.

"We put a rusty patina on it." The cauldron "incorporates a lot of traditional metalwork. The cauldron is all built using traditional methods."

Wester is a storyteller, and he always has some sort of tale in mind with his creations. Scott is highly intuitive.

"I don't even know when I start what I'm gonna get," he said. "The work bench does a lot of talkin'. I just want to see it unfold."

Scott will have two booths featuring his wide-ranging metal work — and his legendary Cinderella carriage will

be there, too.

Wester will be conducting demonstrations at a blacksmith's tent.

For Wester, participating in the competition is about being part of a community and "for the public to see the different types of craftsmanship that goes into these metal sculptures."

For more information on Winterfest visit [www.oregonwinterfest.com](http://www.oregonwinterfest.com). For more on Ken Scott's Imagination visit [www.kenscottsimagination.com](http://www.kenscottsimagination.com) and visit [www.ponderosaforge.com](http://www.ponderosaforge.com) for more information on Wester's work.

# Simpkins to be featured on OPB show

Many people in Sisters know John Simpkins' extraordinary art work from his years of living and working in Sisters and Camp Sherman.

The artist will be featured on OPB's Oregon Art Beat this Thursday, February 5, at 8 p.m.

"As a very young boy, I used crayons to draw pictures on my bedroom wall," Simpkins recalls.

This is how John Simpkins began to express himself through art. Simpkins, a self-taught painter, seeks to "let my inner voice speak," he explained. Simpkins' strong, bold graphic style is deceptively simple. His paintings often reveal layers of meaning and symbol. The artist explains, "My work evolves slowly and intuitively."

Simpkins painting style is equally "layered." His use of paint and color is subtly complex. His art is sought by private collectors, galleries, museums and publishers. His creations have been exhibited from America to Europe and published in a variety of books and magazines.

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 With special thanks to the Downtown Bend Business Association, the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce and these participating restaurants: 10 below, 900 Wall, Bad Wolf Bakery, Bend Brewing Co., Hola!-Downtown, Jackalope Grill, Marcello's Cucina Italiana, Panini's Pizza, Pine Tavern, Summit Saloon, Sunriver Merchant Trader Cafe, The Wallow Bar & Grill, The Wine Shop and Beer Tasting Bar, and The Village Bar & Grill.  
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