

Fiber artists share their craft with Sisters

By Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Sisters put on its prettiest face on Sunday afternoon, as strollers took advantage of perfect summer weather to visit some 25 sites around town that hosted fiber artists in the Sisters Fiber Arts Stroll — the traditional kick-off to Quilt Show Week in town.

The fiber art stroll is a free, self-guided walk featuring artist demonstrations and special exhibits of textile-related arts and quilting. Artists demonstrated their craft and answered questions from strollers, some of whom got a little hands-on experience with a variety of media ranging from weaving, felting, hand-knitting, fabric dyeing, basketry to quilting.

Quilt Show teacher Kathy Doughty of Sydney, Australia, was relaxing in the sun outside Sisters Coffee Company, where Janet Storton was selling fabric in support of her “Sisters of the Heart” project that nurtures a textile industry among the women of Kapchorwa, Uganda.

Doughty is the featured artist at Quilt Show Sunday at FivePine Lodge & Conference Center.

“This is my last moment of relaxation till next Monday (July 11),” she said as Jeff Omodt purchased a fistful of fabric from Storton.

It’s no easy haul from Sydney, Australia, to Sisters, Oregon, but Doughty has made the trip four times. What keeps bringing her back?

“Sisters!” she said. “I love it here. There’s not that many places you go in the world where the community bands together for something like this.”

Across the street at Paulina Springs Books, MarieClaire Van Dam was demonstrating the creation of handmade bookmarks that patrons could take home with them.

Van Dam was born and raised in Amsterdam and had a 20-year career as a couture fashion model for Coco Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent and others. At the age of 80 — and despite losing the vision in her left eye — she is still going strong, creating handmade books, miniature art, calligraphy and more.

Helen Brisson was tucked into a comfortably shaded spot on the back deck behind The Paper Place, where she demonstrated her watercolor fabric painting.

“I basically take the color out of the fabric and put another back in,” she explained.

A graphic artist by trade, Brisson’s work tends to reflect her skill in drawing. In fact, one painted quilt is cleverly designed to look like a page in a sketchbook.

She learned painting on fabric through a class at Stitchin’ Post, but she quickly decided to add water to the paints.

“It meant more work, but you have better control,” she said.

The color of the paint



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Jeff Omodt bought a fistful of fabric from Janet Storton’s Sisters of the Heart.

going on is not necessarily what you’ll end up with, she told a fascinated visitor. The color can vary depending on how the fabric was processed.

Ultimately, Brisson’s work brings her the same kind of challenge and satisfaction that most watercolorists

express about their medium.

Brisson also invited the public to head over to The Open Door during the quilt show, where she has a quilt that looks like a car door.

“I’m really proud of how my chrome came out,” she said.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Helen Brisson’s fabric painting looks like a sketchbook page.

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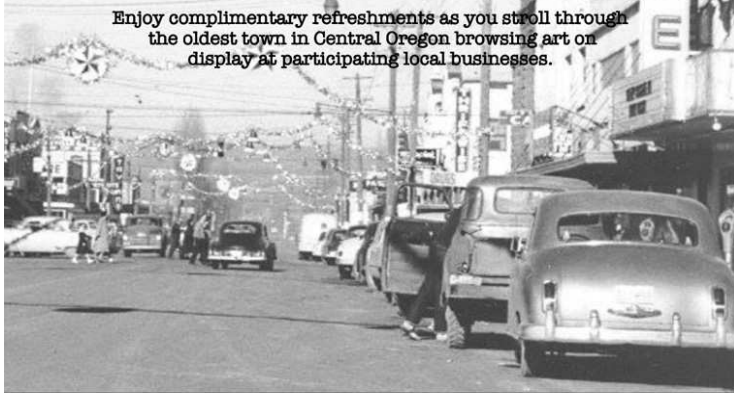
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Financial Planning at Every Life Stage

Just like there are four seasons in a year, there are different seasons of financial planning during your lifetime. Financial planning can help you gain a better understanding of where you are financially, how to prepare for challenges that may be ahead, and how to plan for where you want to go.

Of course, every situation is unique, including the age and circumstances under which you begin implementing a financial strategy. And what suits you at age 25 is typically different from what meets your needs at age 55. In a nutshell, the stages include:

- **Building assets** — At the beginning of your career, your financial focus is typically on accumulating your assets. Your ability to earn income may be your most valuable asset, so investing in your career is critical. It’s also important to establish an emergency fund, build your personal savings and pay off student loans.
- **Investing for the future** — When you grow more successful financially, you will increase your discretionary income. During this stage, you’ll start planning and saving for future goals, such as a child’s college education and/or a comfortable retirement. Make sure you have a well-balanced and tax-diversified portfolio to provide potential growth opportunities.
- **Planning for retirement** — As you near retirement, planning for it often becomes your financial priority. Begin by thinking about your retirement goals and dreams. Then, create a detailed plan that will help you get there. You’ll want to make sure you have the flexibility to take income in tax-efficient ways that will enable you to continue your lifestyle and be prepared for the unexpected in retirement.
- **Generating retirement income** — Once it’s time to enter retirement, begin implementing your retirement plan and enjoying the assets you’ve accumulated. After a few months, reevaluate your plan and make adjustments so you stay on track.
- **Leaving a legacy** — As you become older and more financially secure, leaving a legacy becomes paramount. Legacy is about the impact you’ll make on people, charities and causes that are important to you. It’s also about making sure you have the right beneficiaries in place to protect your assets.

Of course, there is some overlap in each of these stages. For example, you may take steps to get the right protection in place while laying a foundation to grow your assets. Or you may take retirement income while planning ways to transfer your wealth.

Regardless of the stage you’re in, it’s important to make sure that your legal and financial documents are properly structured to ensure the most efficient and effective transfer of your assets — including property, personal belongings and investments — in the event of your death. Doing so can give you the added peace of mind that comes from knowing your family is financially stable no matter what happens.

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