

Artist's show recounts National Park adventure

By **Jim Cornelius**
News Editor

Dan Rickards has been capturing the beauty and majesty of America's National Parks in a series of oil paintings for several years now. Just last month, his affinity for these gems of the natural world landed him a two-week residency at Crater Lake National Park, where he sketched, journaled, painted — and taught others to slow down and truly experience the wonders of Oregon's only national park.

The results of that endeavor will be on display in the artist's retrospective show at Clearwater Gallery on Monday, October 24, from 4 to 6 p.m. The event will also mark the unveiling of the painting "Sentinels of the

Great Basin." A special selection of wine will also be on offer.

As artist-in-residence at Crater Lake, Rickards made it his mission to get people out of their screens and into the deeper flow of nature. He noted that people more and more tend to treat excursions into the wild as opportunities for selfies and other smartphone photos that they then rush to post on Facebook or Instagram.

He saw his mission as helping people truly connect, "to take more time at the park ... so you're remembering what it felt like to be there, not just what it looked like... If you only believe the photos on your phone, there's something you're going to miss."

Rickards encouraged others to sit and sketch and to

write and sketch in journals — and he did the same. He did studies and sketches, and experimented with color. All of that will be on display in the October 24 show.

"There'll be plus [or] minus 10 pieces that will represent my stay there," he said.

The pieces will be available for purchase.

Four people who stayed at the park with Rickards will also have pieces in the show.

The unveiling will be of

a major piece in Rickards' series of national park paintings, this one featuring Great Basin National Park — which is especially noted for clear, dark skies.

"I actually painted it as a night scene with the Milky Way galaxy," he told *The Nugget*.

The artist illuminated the painting with black-light paint.

"For me, that's a pretty big stretch," he said. "We'll see how that goes."

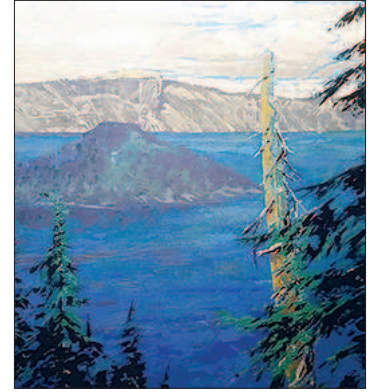


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Crater Lake study.

Clearwater Gallery is located at 303 W. Hood Ave. For more information, call 541-549-4994 or visit www.danrickards.com.



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Rickards encouraged visitors to take their time at Crater Lake.



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Dan and Julia Rickards at Crater Lake National Park.

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— National Park Series —
Continues With A Retrospective Show Of Works
From Crater Lake National Park

Also, the Unveiling of
"Sentinels of the Great Basin"

Monday, October 24 • 4 to 6 p.m.
A special selection of wines will be served.

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