

**LOCAL ART:** Library features work of one of its own

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she describes her idea for a painting of blind justice in the moonlight, holding a potato masher rather than the usual scales of justice.

The moon image figures into a number of her paintings as in "Longing," a painting with a dark blue background, a large moon, and a pair of skeletal hands reaching for the moon.

One very unique piece on display is a three-panel screen Nitcher had in mind for a long time before she finally found the appropriate articulating hinges on a trip back East.

"I have always loved the European cave paintings, and knew I wanted to do something similar," Nitcher explained.

Using three hollow-core doors which she stripped and finished herself, Nitcher created a stunning free-standing screen using acrylic paints to replicate the cave drawings in earthy shades of yellow ochre, burnt sienna, and

umber.

Nitcher has received several awards for her work, including a Best of Show in 1993 at the Surreal and Abstract Show at the Mind Power Gallery in Reedsport and a first place in life drawing at COCC in the spring of 2001. Her painting of daughter Christina was one of only 250 pieces selected from among 40,000 slides for the 1993 Beaverton Arts Commission annual juried show.

She continues to study independently, take art classes, and enter several group shows a year. The exhibit at the library is her first one-woman show. Nitcher looks forward to her retirement in about three years, which will afford her more time to paint. However, she will miss the people she works with and the library patrons she serves.

"The library is a great place to work," said Nitcher.

She may very well be seen volunteering there after she retires.

Nitcher can be contacted at 541-420-4602, ccnitcher@gmail.com, or ccnitcher.wordpress.com.

The prints by 12-year-old friends Eva and Grace exhibited in the library's computer room during December are examples from the after-school art program offered by Circle of Friends (COF) and facilitated by Annie Painter, local artist, educator, and COF volunteer since 2014.

Circle of Friends is a Sisters nonprofit mentoring program whose vision is that every child in Sisters who needs a Friend has a Friend. The mentors provide consistency and long-term relationships for the children they mentor. Mentors in the program spend at least two to four hours of one-on-one time with his or her child on a weekly basis.

Two years ago their mentors, Diane Cooper with Eva and Virginia Rhett with Grace, began bringing them to Painter's studio for art lessons, tea parties, games and good social time. Unable to commit to mentoring just one child, due to her work and travel schedule, Painter offered to volunteer art time for any interested COF child and mentor.

Last year, Painter asked Eva and Grace to commit to



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Charlotte Nitcher is a lifelong artist.

at least three, two-hour sessions on the hand crank printing press. They accepted the challenge, freely exploring found materials, lace, pieces of plastic – anything they could roll with soy-based printing ink and run through the press on high-quality paper.

They cleaned up their pieces with erasers, embellished with colored pencil, measured and mounted the work, and demonstrated their techniques and showed their results at the annual Circle of

Friends luncheon last May. "This (the library) is their second community art exhibit. Not bad for two twelve-year-olds. Congratulations Eva and Grace," said Painter.

Circle of Friends can be reached at 541-588-6445 or check their website, www.acircleoffriendsoregon.com. Painter's contact information is 541-639-2526, or anniepainter@msn.com. Her website is www.anniepainter.com and her teaching studio is located at 392 E. Main Ave. in Sisters.

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