

# Artist's seasonal colors shown at Library

By Helen Schmidling  
Correspondent

Kathleen Keliher has always been an observer of the world around her. She's lucky enough to have the skill that conveys light, color, and the texture of nature through art. This month, a collection of her oil paintings is on display in the computer room of the Sisters Library.

The display includes one large work, called *Riverlight*, three small framed pieces, and six tall, vertical paintings: three depicting the rich colors of fall, and three showing winter's cool shades. Together, they portray Kathleen's love for both art

and nature.

"I have six brothers and sisters," she said. "Our parents bought us art supplies to keep us busy."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, she graduated from UC Davis with a degree in botany. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Grand Canyon and Olympic national parks, before deciding to go to nursing school at the University of Washington. She moved to Bend in 1997, and except for a couple of years in Portland, has called Central Oregon home ever since.

Nursing was her career for 33 years, but she always turned to art in one way or

another. At first it was watercolor, but she discovered it was all too easy to ruin a piece of art using watercolor paints, where one color just bled into another. But, she found herself with an abundant stash of watercolor paper, so she learned to create with pastel paint on top of the watercolor paintings. She also fell in love with plein air painting, and gained facility for expressing how light looks on a two-dimensional surface.

A few years ago, she turned her interest to oils on canvas because of the expense of framing pastels. She still gravitates to plein air painting, with a certain amount of abstraction in order to personalize her art. Sky and clouds offer a lot of room for interpretation, she notes.

"I'm not as rigid in my art as some people," she said.

Keliher is the founder and former president of Plein Air Painters of Oregon. She was also an original member of the High Desert Art League. She has taught classes in pastel, both at Central Oregon Community College and



PHOTO BY HELEN SCHMIDLING

Kathleen Keliher and *Riverlight*, oil on canvas, at Sisters Library.

privately. Her art was chosen for the Sunriver Music Festival Posters in 2001 and 2007. She is one of the partners at Hood Avenue Art, where her work can be viewed, along with the art on her website, [www.kathleenkeliher.com](http://www.kathleenkeliher.com).

Also this month, in the community room of the Sisters Library, look for small, colorful canvases created by Sisters kids in the

summer program. With the theme "Libraries Rock!" the kids — some of them as young as three — got to play with paint. The idea is to show music or their favorite musical instrument.

Every month, the Art Committee of Friends of the Sisters Library rotates a display of art in the library, using the walls of the Community Room, Computer Room, and entry area wall cases.



PHOTO BY HELEN SCHMIDLING

Libraries Rock! That's the theme of children's art. The kids painted their favorite instruments and sounds on canvas.

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Please visit the City's website at [www.ci.sisters.or.us](http://www.ci.sisters.or.us) for the position profile, job description, and application. **To apply, candidates must provide a resume, a cover letter, a completed application, and a minimum of five professional references to Human Resources, P.O. Box 39, Sisters, Oregon 97759 on or before 5 p.m. on August 31, 2018.** Applications (and materials) may be emailed, mailed, or hand delivered to Finance Officer, Joe O'Neill. The position will remain open until filled.

If you have any questions please contact Joe O'Neill via telephone at 541-323-5222 or email at [joneill@ci.sisters.or.us](mailto:joneill@ci.sisters.or.us)

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