

Galleries hang broad art spectrum

By KELI OSBORN
Of the Emerald

The arts are booming in Lane County, according to Susan Colket of the Lane Regional Arts Council.

Colket cites the diversity of Eugene's art galleries — several of which are recent additions to the local arts community.

"You have galleries from the traditional, like Gallery 30, with landscapes and that sort of thing, to something like Opus 5, which is more crafts-oriented. Then you have Open Gallery, which is more innovative and concerned with the visual and performing arts," Colket says.

She adds, "And have you heard of the Foundation Gallery? It's a new place up on 19th and Agate."

Foundation Gallery is simply a new name for a more than year-old Eugene establishment, according to gallery staff member Shawn Jones.

"We used to be a part of Gentlewoman (a Eugene clothing boutique), but it moved and we have the house to ourselves now," Jones says happily of the older home at 1639 E. 19th Avenue.

According to a handbill Jones gives curious gallery viewers, Foundation Gallery is part of a new center established by the

joy."

Foundation Gallery's "joyful" and philosophical orientation contrasts sharply with the more traditional atmosphere of Gallery 30 at 2650 Willamette St. in Eugene.

The seven-year-old gallery, a cooperative of 30 Oregon artists, features paintings of landscapes, children, animals and flowers. It also displays a few photographs and wall hangings.

Gallery 30 is fairly traditional, admits cooperative member Deanna Court. "But, with 30 artists, we show a variety of things as different styles come into vogue. We try not to get too crafts-oriented, though."

Gallery 30 membership is restricted to local Oregon artists, "with members from Cottage Grove to Harrisburg," according to Court. She encourages local artists to apply for current openings in the cooperative, but warns, "We are a cooperative and we are selective. All artists must first show us their work and must be approved for membership."

Across town from Gallery 30, at 2469 Hilyard St., sits Eugene's sophisticated alternative to the Saturday Market, Opus 5.

Opus 5 is filled with a wide variety of crafted items, from pottery and porcelain to woven wall hangings and wooden toys. Though Opus 5 hosts monthly showings, it



Emerald Photo

The Maude Kerns Art Center, near the University at 1910 E. 15th Ave., is now showing sculptures and paintings by Paul and Kay Buckner of Eugene. A spokesman for the center says "We insist on quality in whatever we show, be it crafts or fine arts."

"We don't want anything that creates chaos in the minds of those looking at the art. We want art that expresses joy."

Eugene-Springfield Foundation for Anthroposophical Studies.

(Anthroposophy is a philosophy popularized by German writer Rudolph Steiner in the 1920s. Steiner's aim, according to his book *Truth and Science*, was "to reduce the act of cognition, by analysis, to its ultimate elements." Whatever that means.)

As if one name change weren't enough, Jones says the center will soon be called Rowantree Shop and Gallery. Pointing to empty rooms, Jones says, "We're growing... and we'll have more than art."

The center hopes to feature workshops and study groups, and will sell art supplies as used in the Waldorf Schools — all of which are associated with anthroposophy.

They seek uplifting art for their gallery, says Jones. "We don't want anything that creates chaos in the minds of those looking at the art. We want art that expresses

seems more of a "crafts store," with a wide range of items for sale.

Despite Eugene's ever-growing interest in crafts, one of the five owners of the four-year-old Opus 5 says, "I wouldn't say we're doing well." But, when asked if the establishment is breaking even, she nods and smiles.

Another fairly recent addition to the Eugene arts community is the Open Gallery, which was founded about two years ago by local artists Flora Rudolph and Rich Halter.

Located in Midgley's Mill at High St. and 4th Ave., the Open Gallery is intended to "encourage and promote the visual arts in Eugene."

"We want to do away with the hushed atmosphere of the traditional gallery. We try to make art a little less formidable," says Paul Ollswang, a Eugene artist and Open Gallery's publicity director.

In its efforts to reach the public, Open Gallery sponsors films, ex-

perimental music and poetry readings on the Eugene downtown mall, according to Ollswang.

"You might classify us as progressive... avant-garde, even. But we try to explain what it is we are doing. For our last show, we created a little booklet which made the show easier to understand," Ollswang says.

Though aiming for community outreach and involvement, Open Gallery doesn't compromise quality in its programs and exhibits, according to Ollswang.

"We don't try the popular shows. We want exhibits with appeal, but we want art that is pretty much in the forefront," he says.

Open Gallery shows thematic exhibits and displays for which an "environment" is created, such as the upcoming "Dream Making," according to Ollswang.

The summer showing features the surreal multimedia con-

structed boxes of artist Gordon Wagner. Wagner will lead workshops combining poetry, collage, drawing, sculpture, music and the creation of small environments.

His wife, Virginia Wagner, will lead workshops in the philosophy and history of Tai-Chi. She will add Tai-Chi movements to "Dream Making" performances presenting dream readers, poets and slow dancers.

The Maude I. Kerns Art Center, co-sponsor of "Dream Making," has yet another Eugene art gallery at 1910 E. 15th Ave.

According to a Maude Kerns spokesperson, "We insist on quality in whatever we show, be it crafts or fine arts."

Eugene's biggest art gallery is, of course, the University of Oregon Art Museum. The museum is best known for its extensive collection of Oriental art.

This summer, the museum

celebrates the Oriental Year of the Horse with an exhibition of works from its permanent collections.

According to museum preparator Tommy Griffin, the show will "run the gamut... everything from little horse netsukes (tiny Japanese carvings worn on belts) to a Korean horsehair helmet."

Although the show celebrates an Oriental event, it includes a number of works from other cultures. "We'll have French paintings of horses... anything that has to do with horses," Griffin says.

Marianne Lewis of the Lane Regional Arts Council admits the number and diversity of Eugene's art galleries are unusual for a city of its size.

But, she adds, "There's probably nothing real profound about it... we're a diverse community. The only way for so many galleries to survive is to be different."

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