

Community Learning Center Introduces Art Gallery

By Jesse Jones

Vernonia residents have provided staff at the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) with many ideas for an even richer hub of activity. The VCLC has responded to suggestions to show and sell local art by incorporating a gallery into the building.

In addition to its first priority as a classroom the Nehalem Room will now house fine art for sale by local artists and/or their family members on a rotating basis. Proceeds from art sold will go to the artist, Vernonia Hands on Art, and the VCLC (proceeds are also tax-deductible).

This is a special opportunity for new or seasoned artists in the area looking for exhibition and sale experience in an art gallery setting. To be considered, drop off your submissions by September 13, 2007. Art will be selected on the basis of its intrinsic artistic merit and quality of execution. No previous exhibition or sale of your work is necessary to qualify. An Artist Criteria for Submission is available at the VCLC. The next jury review will be on or about September 15, 2007. For more information about submitting art work – or if you are interested in becoming a juror – contact Jesse Jones, VCLC director at vccl@vernonia-or.gov.

To kick off our new gallery space we are excited to exhibit the work of Albert Grotz, father of Erika Paleck of Vernonia.

Born into a working class family in the German section of Buffalo, NY, Albert Grotz was a self-taught artist who became the curator for Educational Exhibitions at the Albright Art Gallery (the Albright-Knox since 1962); a leader then and now in exhibiting modern and contemporary artists.



Grotz taught art classes (materials and design) for children and adults in the late 1930's. He was one of the pioneers in developing an art curriculum for all ages in private and public institutions; this included Introduction to Art, both appreciation and hands-on studies. His pioneering work in art education was written up in Design Magazine, Architectural Forum, Magazine of Art, and the New York World Telegram, from 1939 through 1942. He also taught at the Rhode Island School of Design from 1948-49, as well as at various schools in Southern California.

His art was exhibited extensively in juried shows throughout New York, New England, the Mid-West and California to include: Western New York Exhibition for seven years since 1935, which included an Honorable Mention award; the Great Lakes Exhibition; and the Riverside Gallery in New York City.

Grotz was a member of the Patteran Society, a group of artists that broke away from the Buffalo Art Institute to follow their own more individualistic styles. His later works continued on into more abstract and experimental styles using a wide variety of traditional and experimental materials.

Many of Grotz' paintings exhibited in the Vernonia Learning Center were painted in Santa Barbara, California where he lived from about 1950 to 1954. He briefly moved to Portland, Oregon before settling in San Diego to live out his years. Albert Grotz died in 1989.

On the first Friday of the month from 6-8 pm, supplementary arts and crafts will also be available for sale in the Nehalem Room. No jury review required, limited space available. Please call (503) 429-1030 for more information.

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community learning center

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