

Local potter to hold arts show at her Multnomah Village studio

By Polina Olsen
The Southwest Portland Post

Jan Edwards never took a pottery class until she was out of college. Now, she divides her time between clay work, regular teaching, and giving workshops everywhere from Colorado to Tuscany.

“Painting and drawing figure largely in my work on pots, clay paintings and paper,” Edwards said from the light-filled studio she built in the backyard of her 1926 cottage near the Multnomah Art Center.

Today, she was busy turning the studio into a gallery for her upcoming 19th annual holiday show. During the weekends of Dec. 4 and Dec. 12, Edwards and a group of artists will display pottery, beaded jewelry, garlands, -- even felted hats.

“I mostly sell out of the studio,” Edwards said as she glanced around the room. Her terracotta, porcelain and stoneware creations range from abstract wall hangings to food safe cookware.

Teapots are a specialty along with colorful gravy pitchers and casserole dishes that go from the oven to the table. She recently finished a large tile installation for a home in Long Beach, Wash. “I love to do custom tile,” she said. “I do lots of backsplashes and also make tile for bathrooms.”

Although her pottery passion started later in life, Edwards always loved art. “Mom said I was an artist from the time I was two,” she said. “I was trying to be a children’s book illustrator, and

accidentally got into clay work.” While teaching swimming and art at a summer camp, someone showed her how to use a potter’s wheel. “I got hooked,” she said. “From day one I was up to my eyeballs.”

Edwards left Chicago for Aspen, Colorado. In 1988, she attended a ceramic conference in Portland, fell in love with the city, and moved to her Multnomah Village cottage one year later. During that time, she’s seen pottery become more competitive.

“The generation who taught us saved the craft from extinction,” she said. “Today there are lots of people coming out of graduate schools. In Oregon, there’s a potter under every rock -- and often a very good one.”

Edwards enjoys helping other artists and teaches at the Multnomah Art Center and Mt. Hood Community College. She hopes her students will be among those attending her December show. “It’s my favorite way of marketing,” she said. “I enjoy meeting people who like my work.”

Jan Edwards Holiday Open Studio with Judith Rose, Geraldine Foote, Nancy Cushwa and Vicki Strom Medley will take place at Edwards’ Multnomah Village Studio at 2650 SW Custer St., Portland.

Hours are Friday, Dec. 4, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday Dec. 5, 10 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday Dec. 6, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday Dec 13, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, email clayjan@mac.com.



Top: Clay painting by Jan Edwards. (Photo courtesy of Dan Kvitka)
Right: Jan Edwards in her studio with a oven-to-table casserole dish and cake cover. (Post photo by Polina Olsen)



Southwest Portland

\$475,000



Located near Lewis and Clark College, this is your own urban oasis on a .96-acre dividable lot. Classic 1940's house with original charm intact. Two levels with two bedrooms and one bath. Light and bright living room with fireplace. Many improvements and upgrades.



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Hillsdale

\$474,500



This 3+ BR 2.5 BA home is in better than new condition w/ only one owner! Quiet area w/ beautiful sunsets. Kitchen recently remodeled w/ slab granite & SS appliances. Large family room off kitchen w/ nook. Office/den off master suite.

Terwilliger Heights

\$449,500



2 bd, 2.5 ba w/ 3,175 sq ft. Sits peached in the West Hills. The ultimate pad w/ southerly view, indoor swimming pool, sauna & outdoor hot tub. Kitchen w/ island & open living room. Lots of custom features.

Backs to Greenspace

\$437,000



One owner home! Custom kitchen w/ hrdwd floors, island & eating area. Family room off kitchen w/ 2nd family room w/ built-in entertainment center. Master w/ walk-in closet & bath. Large back deck.

Vermont Hills

\$425,000



Classic solid 1963 dayranch w/ room for everyone. 5 bd, 3 ba. Beautiful views of the west hills. Knotty pine family room w/ fireplace. Hardwood floors on main. Fireplace in living room. New deck off dining room & living room. Private back yard.

Vermont Hills

\$374,500



Located near Gabriel Park. Impeccable inside & out. 1928 sqft. 4 BD 2 BA with large, private and level backyard. Cozy family room off kitchen with fireplace. New master suite with attached office or nursery and 2 decks.

New Construction

\$324,750



Light & bright w/ high ceilings. Hardwood floors & gas fireplace. Open kitchen w/ eating bar, granite countertops, maple cabinets & SS appliances. Master w/ bath & walk-in closet. Tile counters & floors in bathrooms. Attached garage.

Multnomah Village

\$324,500



Classic 1924 remodeled home. 3 bd, 1 ba. Hrdwds, FP, new kitchen, bath & windows throughout. 2 beds & computer area upstairs. Partial basement w/ family room. Large fenced yard w/ fruit trees, decks & patios for outdoor living.

4 Car Garage in Multnomah Village

\$319,900



Spotless one level home located 3 blocks to Multnomah Village. 3 bd 2 ba with fireplace in living room. Light and bright. Double garage attached plus separate free standing double garage with shop. Nice yard with garden area.

Vermont Hills

\$319,000



Contemporary home on large private lot. Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings in living room. 2 bedrooms upstairs w/ computer area. Deck off master bedroom overlooking back yard. Large deck in private back yard.

Multnomah

\$309,000



Close to the Village! 3 bd, 1.5 ba home w/ hardwood floor thru-out main level. FP in living room. Full basement w/ additional rooms for storage, laundry room & family room w/ FP. Large fenced lot & detached single car garage.

Vermont Hills

\$257,500



Cute cottage located on large lot just blocks to the heart of the village. 2 bd, 1 ba. Beautiful fenced yard w/ roses & garden areas. Bamboo flooring in most of the house. Updated bathroom. Detached garage & plenty of off street parking.

Multnomah Village

\$220,000



Multnomah Village Cottage located on large lot. Just blocks to the heart of The Village. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. New windows. fenced yard with roses and garden areas. Bamboo flooring in most of the house. Updated bathroom. Detached garage & off street parking.

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