

Laurie's cub gets a face-lift

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Alan Laurie's "Cubist Cub" is returning to its position in front of the Grants Pass Museum of Art, where it has been on permanent display for nearly 10 years. The fiberglass bear has greeted visitors, while also calling attention to the second story museum located on G Street.

Over time, the bear, one of dozens created for Evergreen Federal Bank's annual "Bearfest," has fallen into disrepair as delighted children have climbed all over it.

"Evergreen decided to step in and reinforce and re-fiberglass it and then have me repaint it," Laurie said. "The fiberglass completely covered the original painting and it gave me a blank 3D canvas again." The piece is currently being clear-coated and will be reinstalled in time for the tourist season.

Laurie was asked to participate in "Bearfest" the first three years of the downtown Grants Pass promotion. In 2003, he painted one bear and the following 2 years, he did two bears each. He embellished the cub by adding fiberglass shapes to create two faces and other sculptural features.

The theme he selected in 2004 was Picasso Bear and Cubist Cub. In 2005 he painted another mother and cub, giving them each fiberglass headpieces and more elaborate designs for Egyptian themed bears. Evergreen Federal Bank kept all the bears created that year to populate "The Bear Hotel" and Laurie's Egyptian cub sits in the lobby of that facility.

"Initially, my intention was to try to replicate the original design, but as a result of doing the Egyptian bears, I felt compelled to redo the entire design and add more details. It's ten times as complicated as it was before," he said. Amazingly, he only used 2 small brushes to paint the entire piece.

Laurie has been an artist as far back as he can remember. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in fine arts and has made it his career. In addition to working as a fine artist, he's also worked as a festival poster artist, television courtroom artist, and political campaign graphic designer.

Laurie has lived in the Illinois Valley for over 13 years, having moved here from Seattle. His graphic art skills are behind many familiar local logos, including the *Illinois Valley News* and the Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC). He's also designed many posters and t-shirts.

He recently completed a map for the National Park Service's

"Circle of Discovery" regional promotion and is a co-editor and publisher of the quarterly "Takilma Common Ground."

Currently "Winter Solstice," one of his elaborate mandalas, is on view in the winter issue of Cobra Lily, a regional online arts magazine, based in the I.V. It can be viewed at www.cobralily.org.

"I've been doing mandalas for years," Laurie said of the

ritual symbol which represents the Universe. The symbol is common to both Hinduism and Buddhism. The basic form is a circle with a center point, contained within a square with a "gate" on each side.

Laurie is currently doing a series of Rogue Valley landscapes with farm animals such as llamas and horses as focal points.



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Alan Laurie's "Cubist Cub"

Art's Red Garter Karaoke - Dancing Live Music Where the Valley goes to play!	Ross Welcome Fri., Feb. 27 @ 5:30 p.m. From Taylor's Country Store	Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE Circle of Stone Sat., Feb. 28 @ 6 p.m. Every Friday night Jay Barley Every Wednesday Open Mic Night 6-8 p.m.	Oregon Lottery Machines Play Now @ Sportsman Tavern	Kate's Redwood Bar and Grill Happy Hour 3-5 Stop in and see Kate and Mamie today!	Ras Cricket & The Cultivators Sat., Feb. 28 @ 9 p.m. \$5 Jammer Dave's Birthday Karaoke Night Friday, Feb. 27 @ McGrew's!
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