

Art Far & Wide

ARTrageous takes participants around the world. BY KIM SMITH

Since 1994, participants of ARTrageous Adventures have traveled around the world including trips to Spain, Mexico and Washington state exploring the role of art in various communities. As an educational outreach program through OSU's Craft Center and ArtCentric, ARTrageous Adventures' participants get up close and personal with art in ways even art aficionados rarely experience.

Barbara Sobo Gast, a lively artist with a passionate desire to experience new things, heads up the program and plans trips where participants are exposed to a myriad of art forms that vary from painting to performance, architecture to public art, music to dance. Trips include personal talks with the curators, knowledgeable tour guides and even tours of local artists' studios.

"We spend the time with the artists talking about [their art] and seeing this beautiful relationship between the artist and the real beat of the community," Gast said.

ARTrageous Adventurers have visited the Guggenheim Museum in Spain, observed glass-blowing in Washington, made pots from local clay in Mexico and visited artists' homes in Phoenix. ARTrageous has also traveled to places throughout the immediate area including Portland, Ashland, Newport, and Tacoma, with an upcoming trip to Eugene.

For Gast, the trips close the gap between the artist and the viewer, a process that completes the artistic experience. "The more we can put pieces together, the richer and more understandable is our place within the world and our relationship to each other," she said.



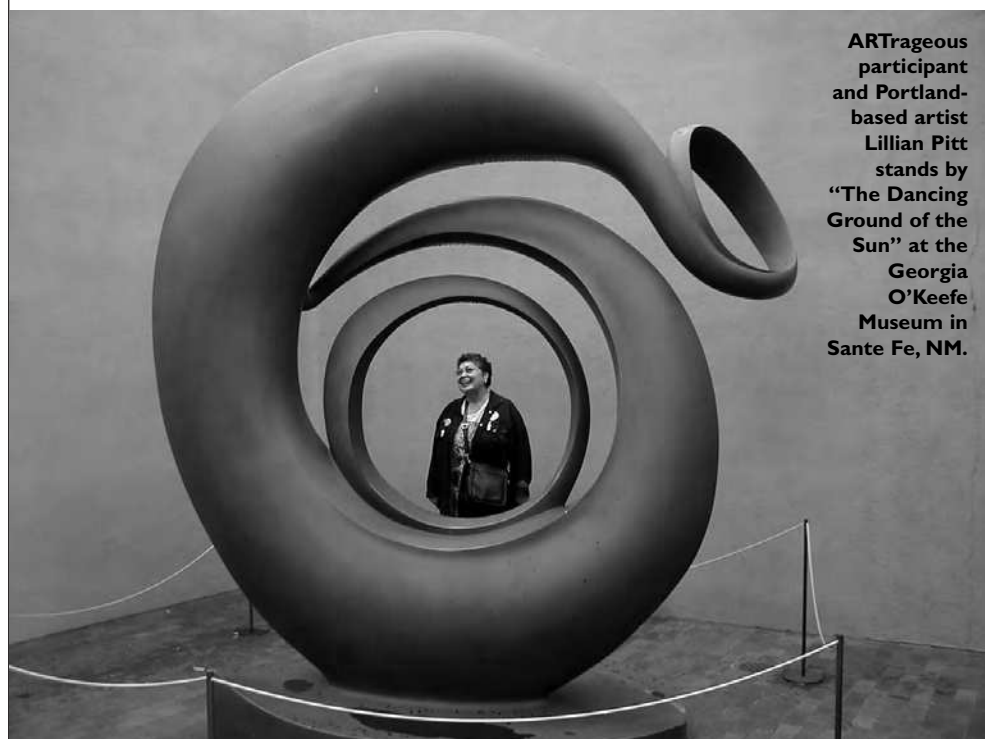
Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art is one stop on the next ARTrageous Adventures trip.

Anyone can join an ARTrageous trip, and participants are diverse in both their interests and backgrounds. ARTrageous trips usually consist of roughly 30 travelers, and it is the people, Gast claims, who are the heart of the program. "The trip itself is a piece of art," she said. "It is a living, breathing, performance art piece. I don't create the trip. I may design an itinerary of activities but the actual trip is a collective process."

In June, ARTrageous Adventures will travel to Chicago to stand in front of the paintings of the old masters at the Art Institute of Chicago,

talk with the curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, take a cruise down the river to view significant architecture and ride a train to the outdoor symphony. With plans for a New York City trip next spring and aspirations for London and Paris in the future, Gast and her ARTrageous Adventures continue to broaden the awareness of art's place in our lives. "Life is art," she said. "And art is life."

For more information about ARTrageous Adventures, please contact Barbara Sobo Gast at bgast@peak.org or (541) 752-3528. ★



ARTrageous participant and Portland-based artist Lillian Pitt stands by "The Dancing Ground of the Sun" at the Georgia O'Keefe Museum in Sante Fe, NM.

Participants are exposed to a myriad of art forms that vary from painting to performance, architecture to public art, and music to dance.

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