

KEITH ACHEPOHL'S
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What's To See Around Town

SLEEK CARS, PEER GYNT WATERCOLORS AND (MAYBE!) A REVIVED MAYOR'S ART SHOW ARE ON EUGENE'S ARTS CALENDAR BY BOB KEEFER

Visual arts fans have much to look forward to in the new year. Some great museum shows are coming to Eugene, Salem and Portland, as well as some interesting gallery shows around town.

And perhaps the best news of all, the city is trying to resurrect the now-defunct Mayor's Art Show.

We'll start with the three big art museums along the I-5 corridor, which offer the richest assortment of art.

At Eugene's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on campus at the University of Oregon, a big exhibition coming right up features work by Eugene artist, collector and arts patron Keith Achepohl.

Vision of Nature/Vessel of Beauty features paintings, drawings and collages Achepohl made during artist residencies in 2011 and 2016 at The Lake, the fabled northern California home of Northwest mystic painter Morris Graves (1910-2001) and still owned by the Morris Graves Foundation. While there, Achepohl focused on the native

plant life that surrounds the rural estate.

"A single tree could be observed many times, revealing a different landscape in the intricacies of its bark and branches at each perspective," he writes in a statement accompanying the show.

The exhibition opens Saturday, Jan. 20, and runs through April 29.

Continuing at the Schnitzer is an edition of Chinese superstar artist Ai Weiwei's *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads*. The figures refer back to a circle of human/animal figures installed in an 18th-century palace outside Beijing, most of which were looted by Anglo-French troops in 1860. Some have since appeared on the contemporary art market; some are either lost to history or in the hands of discreet private collectors.

Early in his career Weiwei recreated the figures in two editions: one in gold, which was exhibited three years ago at the Portland Art Museum, and one in bronze, which you can see now in the Schnitzer's outdoor North Courtyard

through June 24.

Several smaller exhibits are also coming up at the Schnitzer.

The dryly named *Weegee: Selections from the Collection* draws on a 2016 gift to the museum of 85 photographs taken by Arthur Fellig, the mid-20th century New York freelance photographer who went by the name Weegee. It includes both his hard-boiled newspaper crime coverage, which has long since enjoyed cult popularity, and his later experimental work. March 28 to July 1.

Don't Touch My Hair: Expressions of Identity and Community checks into the politics of hair. It will feature portraits of UO students accompanied by their "personal hair stories." Feb. 23 to May 13.

Up I-5 at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem, check out a new exhibition of work by Portland conceptual artist MK Guth running Saturday, Jan. 20, through April 1.

MK Guth: Paying Attention draws on her previous work and features a range of site-specific installations by the artist to explore how social interaction is shaped through rites and treasured objects.

Even farther up I-5, the Portland Art Museum has a major Richard Diebenkorn exhibition opening in June. *Beginnings, 1942-1955* will feature about 100 early paintings from the acclaimed Portland native, covering a period in which he was influenced by abstract expressionism and the Bay Area figurative movement of the mid-20th century. It runs June 16 to Sept. 23.

Dipping into popular culture, the museum will offer *The Shape of Speed: Streamlined Automobiles and Motorcycles, 1930-1942*, with 16 classic streamlined cars