



DOVE MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY AT SAM BOND'S

GALLERIES

Lane Arts Council's First Friday ArtWalk, a tour of galleries & art venues, will be hosted by Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director & Conductor of Eugene Symphony. The tour begins at 5:30pm at the Broadway Commerce Ctr. [44 W. Broadway]

Broadway Commerce Ctr. Harmonic Laboratory presents City Synth, an intermedia installation that turns Eugene into a musical instrument. 44 W. Broadway

Euphoria Chocolate Company "Apocalypse Carousel," Nuno & needle felted tapestry work by Andrea Ros. 946 Willamette St

Karin Clarke Gallery Bay area artist & art teacher James Kroner. 760 Willamette St

Le Café Maison Works by John Trovillion. 488 Willamette St

Framin' Artworks "Resilient Endurance," a combined art show ft. landscape & atmospheric work by Cyndy Duerfeldt & Kelley C. Roberts. 505 High St

OPENING

Backstreet Gallery Photo show w/artists working outside their usual medium. Reception Feb. 10, 3-5pm. 1421 Bay St., Old Town, Florence

Benton County Historical Museum Oregon Woodworking Art Exhibition. Through March 3. 1101 Main St., Philomath

Cowfish Grab a cocktail & enjoy original art. 62 W. Broadway

Eugene Public Library Artwork by participants in the Open Arts Studio at OSLP Arts & Culture Program. Music by Delgani String Quartet. 6pm. 100 W. 10th Ave

Gallery Calapooia Big Show of Little Art. Artwork by 114 artists from the mid-valley. Reception Feb. 2, 6-8pm. Through Feb. 24. 222 W. 1st Ave., Albany

Giustina Gallery "An Ocean of Impact," Sea Grant art exhibit. Through March 5. 875 S.W. 26th St., LaSells Stewart Ctr., rm. 100, Corvallis

InEugene Real Estate "Geotopia," analog/digital

hybrid pieces that include acrylic, graphite & more by Dave Snider. 100 E. Broadway

MAVEN Megan Dixon of Portland layers geometric patterns over organic images. Music by Marmalade [DJs]. 271 W. 8th Ave

Morning Glory Cafe "Transparent Double Sided Felts" by Mary Jane Moffat. 450 Willamette St

New Zone Gallery "Northwest Images," woodcut natural forest scenes by featured artist Robert Homer. 220 W. 8th Ave

Oregon Art Supply Staff show titled "At Shift's End." 1020 Pearl St

OUT ON A LIMB Gallery Paintings by Coda Johnson. 191 E. Broadway

Passionflower Design Kristen Walker from Twin Raven Press demonstrates printing on a portable press. 128 E. Broadway

Raven Frame Works Works by Dan Chen. 325 W. 4th Ave

Sam Bond's Garage Photography by Dove Miller. 407 Blair Blvd

Townshend's Teahouse Have a tea & enjoy original artwork. 41 W. Broadway

Tropical Contemporary "Slipstream." Reception Feb. 2, 6-9pm. Through Feb. 4. 1120 Bailey Rill Rd., #11

UO Law School "Dynamic Rhythms in Northwest Landscapes" by Eugene photographer Michael S. Thompson. Reception Feb. 15 from 5-6:30pm. Through July 2. 1515 Agate St., 2nd fl

White Lotus Gallery "Under 21: Small Formats of Paintings & Prints." Through March 24. 767 Willamette St

WOW Hall WOW Hall Staff & Volunteer Art Show. Through February. 291 W. 8th Ave

CONTINUING

Corrine Woodman Gallery Art by Angelica Neileen. Through Feb. 3. 700 S.W. Madison Ave., Corvallis

Don Dexter Gallery Q1 Artist Reception: Zoey Miller. Through March 26. 2333 Willamette St., ste. B

ECO Sleep Solutions & Gallery Felted wool home décor & apparel by Tylar Merrill; clay tile collages by Annie Heron; silk apparel by Lybi Thomas; & other artists. 25 E. 8th Ave

Eugene Yoga Photographs by Katsuyuki Shibata. 245 E. Broadway

Goldworks Jewelry Art Studio Original jewelry by Goldworks staff. 169 E. Broadway

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art "Vision of Nature/Vessel of Beauty" by Keith Achepohl. Jan. 20 to Apr. 29.

See others at jsma.uoregon.edu. 1430 Johnson Ln

The Lincoln Gallery "Call for Sunshine," exhibition of warm art w/a common color theme of yellow to brighten winter months. Through Feb. 23. 309 W. 4th Ave

Maude Kerns Art Center "A Convergence of Elements," works by Michael de Forest, Karen Perkins, Gretchen Wachs & Greg Wilbur & "Intersections," works by Diane English, Janet Hiller & Mandy Miller. Through Feb. 9. 1910 E. 15th Ave

MECCA Series of works in a variety of media which have either been left, donated or forgotten. 449 Willamette St

Mosaic Fair Trade Collection Handicrafts from around the world & fair trade wine tasting. 28 E. Broadway

Museum of Natural History "Explore Oregon," "Oregon—Where Past is Present," "Wolves & Wild Lands," "H2O Today," "The Moon." 1680 E. 15th Ave

Oregon Gallery Wide selection of whimsical art by painter Sam Toft. Through March 15. 199 E. 5th St

Saginaw Vineyard Detailed works of World Wildlife/Mixed Media by Karen Pidgeon. Through Feb. 3. 80247 Delight Valley School Rd., Cottage Grove

Shadowfox Grab a cup of coffee & enjoy original art. 76 W. Broadway

Spfd Museum "Come Into This World." Paintings by Benjamin Terrell. Through March 3. 590 Main St., Spfd

Wayne L. Morse Courthouse Jerry Ross Painting exhibit. Through April 2018. 405 E. 8th Ave

VISUAL ARTS

BY ESTER BARKAI



KEITH ACHEPOHL'S OIL PAINTING 'TREE CONVERSATIONS'

THE SECRET LIFE OF TREES

Keith Achepohl at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

After I viewed Keith Achepohl's new exhibit *Vision of Nature/Vessel of Beauty* at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, I began to look at the small buds on some of the bushes in my yard at home.

I'd noticed them before, but now I wondered how far along the buds would be on April 29, the date the Achepohl show comes down. Will they be in full bloom? Wilted? Already turned brown, still hanging on to the stem for dear life? Or will they have dropped to the ground altogether?

The changing of seasons is an ordinary and expected event. You can set your clock to it — and we do. What is surprising and extraordinary about Achepohl's work currently on view is the attention paid to these absolutely ordinary developments, the life and health and death of plants.

More than 200 pieces created in six years (2011-2017) were inspired by a Morris Graves Foundation Residency the artist spent at The Lake, Graves' former home and studio in Northern California.

The show is organized by types of plant life: "Skunk Cabbages," "Pond Lilies," "Water Irises." The bulk of the artist's focus, however, is trees: "Forest Walks," "Tree Maps," "Tree Conversations," "Forest Fragments" and "Forest Seen(s)."

Sometimes artists spend so much time on their subject that they stray from the thing everyone else sees and make it their own. Think Van Gogh's sky or O'Keeffe's flowers.

This straying can be compared to improvisation in jazz or acting. The artist selects a theme — in Achepohl's case, plants and trees — and then steps away to experiment. In art, if the experimentation goes so far that the theme is no longer recognized, the work is then called abstract.

Achepohl doesn't go that far. He isn't an abstract artist, though he does wander into surreal territory. "Tree Maps," 50 graphite works on paper, show how he meanders. Some drawings are almost scientific in their detailed renderings of tree fragments, while others have taken off so far they represent worlds of their own.

Achepohl said his retreat at The Lake "was a total immersion in a place of utmost isolation and serenity. An atmosphere where one is allowed to return to a world within oneself."

Finding yourself in nature is at the heart of this show. The graphite drawings map the way to the paintings, in particular the large-scale oil paintings hanging on raw canvas in "Tree Conversations." The paintings in these "conversations" that are most surreal depict pieces of bark isolated from the tree, their irregular shapes floating against a background of sky.

"Forest Fragments" is a diptych, watercolor and collage on paper that looks three-dimensional, partly because of the effect of collage. Pieces of bark were, it seems, painted on paper, then cut out and adhered to the underlying painting of tree trunks.

Looking at this work reminds you that Achepohl has worked primarily as a printmaker and has an affinity for paper. Yet even here, in this realistic work, the bark begins to come off the tree, going off on its own.

Representing objects outside of their original context was a signature move of the Surrealists, but Achepohl is not entirely a Surrealist, either. He fragments and isolates his subjects, relieves them of gravity, only temporarily. He always seems to return to the theme, to the tree, the lily, the iris.

Keith Achepohl's *Vision of Nature/Vessel of Beauty* runs through April 29 in the Jordan Schnitzer's Barker Gallery; info at jsma.uoregon.edu. ■