

FRIDAY EXTRA!

The Daily Astorian

Friday, March 20, 2014

Weekend Edition



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Seen through a cracked window, Anna Lee Larimore paints a still-life scene of a horse at Vintage Hardware.

NO MEETINGS. NO AGENDAS. NO RULES.

This group just draws

They sit spread out in chairs throughout the space as comfortably as if they were in a living room.

Some have easels, some prop sketchbooks on their knees, but all are intently studying a subject they have chosen in the vast antique-filled cavernous Vintage Hardware store.

Between chests of drawers, signs, tables and sundry other items, 11 artists have gathered to simply draw or paint. “No meetings, no agendas, no rules,” laughs Christi Payne, one of founding members of a loose-knit group called Draw — A group for drawing. Since its inception in 2006, the number of participants has more than doubled, surprising her that the idea of gathering a few people together to draw has taken on a life of its own.

“This is an inclusive group,” Payne says. One doesn’t have to be an artist. “If you want to draw, you can draw.”

The group meets every other Thursday at predetermined places, such as the Liberty Theater, Coffee Girl, Shively Park, Pioneer Cemetery, etc.

On March 12, Becky Johnson, co-owner of Vintage Hardware, welcomes the drawing group that fell in love with the store’s former space in the Astor Hotel. Many of the artists are her customers and they find beauty in the new location where the displays change often.

“We have a very vibrant business,” Johnson says, adding that 98 percent of the inventory is local and people appreciate the artistry and repurposing items to make them useful.

“We are honored and thrilled that



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Noel Thomas ponders his painting of Anna Lee Larimore during a drawing session at Vintage Hardware March 12.

‘You just kind of hone your craft — like a fisherman finding a hot spot.’

— Penny Treat
artist

they come here. Their renderings are beautiful and delightful,” she says.

THE ARTISTS AT WORK

Bill Fitch

Bill Fitch, one of the founding members, sits studying a bright red “Antiques” sign on the wall in Vintage Hardware. Propped on his knee, is a

sketchbook. But looking at the pad, one notices he left out the first couple of letters in the sign, but included many objects on the shelves below as he sketches with water-soluble graphite.

Like a photographer choosing a composition, he frames his drawing as he likes.

“I find it’s better to not include

everything in the design,” Fitch says. “You can use artistic license — leave things out.”

Marga Stanley

Marga Stanley is drawn to a strange creature built from found objects, created by Sue Darms, another group member. Stanley says she chose this subject because she likes Sue and likes fun stuff. “And all my work is whimsical,” she adds.

“This is a wonderful place to draw. They’re so nice to let us draw here, to offer us this.”

See *DRAW*, Page 3C

TAX SEASON SPECIAL

**Now thru
April 15th**



15% Off ON ALL FURNITURE

Appliance & Home Furnishings

“We Service
What We Sell”

Hours:

MON-FRI: 8-6PM SAT: 9-5PM SUN: 10-4PM

503-861-0929

529 SE MARLIN AVENUE, WARRENTON, OR

