

JUST LET ART FLOW



Spencer Reynolds, an oil painter from Brookings, uses a pinstripe brush to trace the lip of a wave during an artist demonstration held at Archimedes Gallery during Spring Unveiling. He studied under a Russian impressionist for a couple of years.

Spring Unveiling artists focus on craft over categories

By ERICK BENDEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — While studying a piece of art, it can be fun to figure out which famous forerunners had the greatest influence on the artist, or which movement best defines the artist's work.

But, while creating it, the artist may not even be thinking in such pigeonholing terms; he or she may just be trying to make something beautiful and seeing where it goes.

Take the work of Spencer Reynolds, the oil painter from Brookings featured at Archimedes Gallery Friday during Cannon Beach's 15th annual Spring Unveiling Arts Festival, held city-wide over the weekend.

His unfinished, untitled painting of colossal, crashing waves — whose orange ripples Reynolds meticulously traced with a pinstripe brush during a demonstration — has shades of surrealism and '60s-era psychedelic poster art. It is also reminiscent, he noted, of Katsushika Hokusai's woodcut *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*.

But this kind of reference-based appreciation is helpful only up to a point. Reynolds

said his style is pretty hard to nail down, and he likes to joke that the work in progress, like many of his other paintings, falls into its own special category called "pinstripe impressionism."

Reynolds, in fact, has a background in impressionism and, after graduating from the Art Institute of Seattle, studied for a couple of years under Henry Stinson, the Russian impressionist. But, though that experience does inform his work, Reynolds finds his pieces touch on several movements at once.

"I love everything, from minimalism, to abstract, to impressionism, to whatever," he said. "I just love art."

Because media consumers now live in an age when visual art flies at them from countless directions, a great deal of it probably seeps into artists' work without their knowing it, he said. It would be a heady exercise to tease apart all of his sources of inspiration.

In the moment of creation, however, Reynolds is just focused on what *feels* right on the plywood canvas before him — what it takes to elicit an emotional response from viewers as they gaze upon the ocean turning in on itself

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John and Robin Gumaelius' *In the Beginning Was a Rabbit* is displayed before one of their wood-fired birds at the White Bird Gallery. The pieces were unveiled during the 15th annual Spring Unveiling Arts Festival.

ERICK BENDEL — EO Media Group

Life or death choices

Police, mental health experts struggle to care for mentally ill

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian
and Capital Insider

Carrie Barnhart said she heard voices in her head that told her to jump off the Astoria Bridge.

This was not a secret. Her family knew. So did the police and mental health experts.

Four times since January, Astoria Police responded to Barnhart's suicidal threats. The last time, in April, police found Barnhart walking alone on the bridge after midnight and took her to Columbia Memorial Hospital, where police said she was evaluated by Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and released after two hours.

A week later, Barnhart was dead. Just like she warned, the 54-year-old mother of six jumped off the bridge.

Intervention and care

Oregon, long faulted for gaps in mental health services, has sought to move toward a more community-based system of intervention and care.

Over the past two years, the Legislature has made a \$60 million investment toward improving the state's response to mental illness and addiction, and some lawmakers, including state Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, have called for \$94 million for the next two years.

Counties and cities have tried to make increased state funding for mental health a priority in this year's session, but the amount will likely depend on the state's financial outlook and end-of-session budget negotiations.

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Miss or match?

New food (boat) cart proposed near Bowpicker

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Beer-battered Albacore tuna and steak fries have put the Bowpicker, the distinctly Astorian fish and chips spot, on the foodie map.

Teresa Estrada thinks her clam chowder would be the perfect complement. The Astoria woman and her husband have bought a vintage 28-foot, 1946 gillnetter and want to open a food cart called T's Astoria Chowder next to the Bowpicker on Duane Street.

"We thought, 'Wow,' what a great idea to put it right next to it," Estrada said.

Her request to lease property from

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Surfing teacher promotes healing quality of sport

Tony Gardner to give free lessons for Veterans Surf Day, families

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Local surfing and martial arts instructor Tony Gardner believes there is something restorative about being out in the ocean that is abstract yet in actual.

"It's very therapeutic, being out there with the sun and the waves," said Gardner, a Seaside native and founder of the Art of Surfing. "It's a



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transformative experience and it brings peace."

That sensation can be hard to define — surfers just call it "stoked," he said — but giving veterans a chance to experi-

ence it is the goal behind his inaugural Veteran Surf Day event, scheduled May 22, over Memorial Day weekend. He is offering free surfing lessons to about 20 veterans, and Josh Gizdavich, owner of Cleanline Surf Shop, is donating surfboards and gear.

Together, the men hope to give veterans an opportunity to take a break from overwhelming emotions that may be triggered by Memorial Day observances and focus instead on the water. Participants also can interact with other military members in a community setting and, perhaps, find comfort and enjoyment by swapping stories and sharing an experience.

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Tony Gardner, right, the founder of Art of Surfing, and Josh Gizdavich, owner of Cleanline Surf Shop, are partnering together to offer free rental gear and surf lessons for a Veterans Surf Day on May 22. They also are offering a Grom Day on June 20 and a Family Surf Day on June 26. Gardner is a master surf instructor with more than 30 years of teaching experience. He also teaches martial arts.

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