



MEN'S ROOM



WOMEN'S ROOM

Photos by Michael Mathers

Views of the Astoria Column restoration taken from the restroom adjoining the caretaker's cottage.

Column: The exhibition's title has a double-meaning

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The exhibition — a fundraiser for the nonprofit Friends of the Astoria Column that runs through Nov. 14 — will also feature a display of historic Column photographs and materials from site manager John Goodenberger's private collection, photos by locals who have captured the Column's transformations over the years, and prints of photos from the Oregon Historical Society.

Astoria High School art students will also present miniature interpretations of recreated mural segments that, hung side-by-side, will compose a full interpretive replica of the frieze that winds up the Column.

'It's art'

The exhibition's title has a double-meaning, Christie said.

The Column itself inspired the restoration team — under project director Marie Laibinis' leadership — to join forces creatively from June through September, and to labor long hours to complete the project. "It's the Column that pulled this group of people together," Christie said.

It also inspired artwork in the teams' private lives.

Rachel Maxi, for example — a professional painter from Seattle who worked on paint manager Kitty Kavanaugh's team — will show three small paintings on Masonite panels: one of the Column enshrouded in the white netting that covered the structure during the summer; another of the netting blowing off the Column during the summer storm; and a third of the Astoria Bridge as seen from the Astoria Riverfront Trolley tracks at sunset.

"I really loved Astoria. I really had a great time," Maxi said. "I feel honored to have been part of that."

Kavanaugh, master scenic artist for the Seattle Opera, is crafting an Astoria Column costume for the exhibition.

"Astoria is so good about parades and celebrating things, and I just thought it'd be neat to put a costume in (the exhibition) that somebody would want to wear in a parade or something," she said. "It just goes with Astoria in my mind. The people are so ... jubilant."

She added: "I've only been there in the summertime, so that might have something to do with it, but, yeah — you guys really know how to celebrate."

Her husband, Rick Araluce, who also worked on the restoration, will enter a small conceptual sculpture.

"You get to see the artists in another way," Goodenberger said, "and when you see their ability, and go back and look at the Column, you just say, 'Wow, the Column's really quite something.' And it's not simply images — it's art."



Artwork by Rachel Maxi

Rachel Maxi, one of the crew members who worked on the Astoria Column's mural during the restoration this summer, will show this small painting of the Column under wraps in the exhibition.

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John Goodenberger
site manager



Photo by Kitty Kavanaugh

This is the "in process" costume of the Astoria Column that Kitty Kavanaugh, the restoration team's paint manager, will show at the exhibition once it's finished. (Her husband, Rick Araluce, is assisting with the cupola.)

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