



Submitted photo

"Afternoon Stroll" by Jeni Lee at Haystack Gallery. Lee takes her in-progress works out of the studio and into the elements before the acrylic paints have dried, allowing the rain to create patterns. notforsale



Photo by Andrew Tonry

Blue Bond paints a Haystack Rock seascape in his new gallery, located at 172 N. Hemlock St. Bond will be one of the artists demonstrating his technique at the Art in Action event at 7 p.m. Friday at the Sufsand Ballroom. Other featured artists include Janis Ellison, Heather Soderberg, Rob Hooper, Jeffrey Hull, Christopher Mathie and Hazel Schlesinger. The event includes a silent auction, appetizers and drinks. Tickets are \$55.

# STORMY WEATHER ARTS FESTIVAL

Among the artists, unveilings, demonstrations and libations, the 28th annual Cannon Beach arts festival debuts one new gallery and one new gallery owner Nov. 6, 7 & 8

Story by ANDREW TONRY

There are few works more apropos of the Stormy Weather Arts Festival than Jeni Lee's "Rain Paintings."

Lee, from Portland, takes her in-progress works out of the studio and into the elements before the acrylic paints have dried. Then she lets the rain come down.

"I like that randomness," Lee says, "the accidents, the chaos."

"As I practiced more, I found I could layer more," she says. "It literally reminded me of the coast. Some of the patterns of the raindrops remind me of patterns in the sand."

"Sometimes the rain would actually remove some of the drawing out of those pieces," Lee continues. "So I'd have to go back in and bring the picture back out."

"I liked when the rain would alter and destroy, and I'd have to rebuild," she adds. "I kind of feel like the winter at the coast is like that too."

Indeed, the Stormy Weather Arts Festival is a bitter-sweet marker: Summer is over; the cold, wet darkness looms. The event also reminds us: Art can sooth that transition. And for artists it's a signal: Hunker down, and get to work.

This year marks Stormy Weather's 28th annual event. For a lot of artists and galleries preparing for

the festival — which includes a weekend of food, libations, presentations, demonstrations, a concert and more - that means pretty much business as usual.

Such is not the case, however, for two new gallery owners: Christina Anthony and Blue Bond.

In Cannon Beach, Blue Bond is beckoned by yet another blank canvas.

From Vancouver, Washington, Bond opened his namesake gallery in July. It's in Sandpiper Square, on the second floor. There, Bond not only displays but creates his boldly colorful, realist oil paintings.

He does so relentlessly. "I do a painting a day," Bond says. "I paint extremely fast. I can finish a painting like that," he says, pointing to a large, poster-sized work, "in about four or five hours." Often folks sit on the bench behind the easel and watch him work.

"In the last two-and-a-half months I've finished over 30 paintings," Bond says.

He's so fast, in fact, that waiting for paintings to dry has become a realistic concern. To demonstrate, Bond procures a pastoral sunset of Haystack Rock and pushes his finger into the surf. It emerges covered in paint.

In part, Bond is fast because he's been at it for decades.

"As a young child I was always interested in art," he says. "I started painting when I was 10 years old. I started using oils when I was 14 or 15."

"To start making a living, I started painting signs," Bond explains. "I had a sign company in Vancouver to support my 'art habit,' so to speak. I'd close my business and paint at night."

Bond says he sold the business five years ago but kept the building, which he turned into a gallery. He

also offers painting classes there.

"I really enjoy sharing my artistic knowledge," Bond says. "After 45 years I have a bit of it. I really enjoy giving back what people have given me."

Going forward, Bond hopes to offer some one-on-one classes in Cannon Beach. That opportunity, with potential for a sort of low-key artist's retreat, coupled with his ability to affix any image to canvas in a day's time, figures to set Bond apart from the numerous galleries and commercial artists in the downtown area.

And while Bond still operates his art space in Vancouver, he hopes to pivot more to the North Coast.

"Having a gallery in Cannon Beach was always a dream," Bond says. "It was a dream I never thought would be possible. And yet, sure enough, here it is. It's wonderful."

Until he began spending regular time in Cannon Beach, Bond's work was largely southwestern. And still, horses, elk and cowboys keep watch over a good portion of his gallery's real estate. But the North Coast is a rising tide.

"At first I was intimidated," Bond says of painting the coast. He's well aware of joining the ranks of those who've tried to capture Haystack Rock, and he's searching for his own twist.

"I've never painted the ocean before," Bond continues. "It's really a change, but I'm enjoying it." Bond has been aided by photographer George Vetter, who's allowed Bond access to his archives as source material.



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Portland artist Jeni Lee works in her studio on a rain painting, which will show at Haystack Gallery during the Stormy Weather Arts Festival. Lee will be present for a demo and reception from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 and from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.



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"Oliver and Zoe," a commissioned pet portrait by Oregon artist Jean-Marie Chapman. Chapman returns for her 10th year as artist in residence at the Cannon Beach Hotel during Stormy Weather Arts Festival. She will present daily painting demos as well create an oil portrait of hotel owner Claudia Toutain-Dorbec. An artist reception will be held 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the hotel, 1116 S. Hemlock St.

Bond too has been embraced by his neighbor, renown watercolorist and pillar of the Cannon Beach art community, Jeffery Hull. While some might be adverse to competition, Hull sees it differently.

"People find what they're looking for," Hull says of the city's artistic patrons. "With art it's very personal. You can't somehow convince people: 'This is the painting you want.' We don't even try."

Of Bond, Hull adds: "Certainly I'd love to see him be successful."

"It has been absolutely incredible," Bond says of the support. "I can't imagine being here without having friends like that."

Hull too has helped Bond prepare for Stormy Weather. "He's clued me in to what it really is all about," Bond says.

For the most part, Bond plans to do what he does best: paint.

Christina Anthony has too been lent a helping hand. Bill and Patty Coomes, who sold Anthony the Haystack Gallery after running it for 30 years, are letting Anthony, an "amateur artist" and first-time gallery owner, know just what to expect for Stormy Weather. Mostly, Anthony wants to follow the Coomes' lead.



Submitted photo

"Red Umbrella" by Kelly Vivanco at Archimedes Gallery. Currently living in her native California, Vivanco pulls inspiration from the natural and imagined world, vintage photographs, literature and dreams. The artist will be present at the gallery's reception at 5 p.m. Saturday, which also features cocktails from Cannon Beach Distillery and beer from Bill's Tavern.

"I think the gallery has been here long enough that I don't feel I need to put my own stamp on it," Anthony says. "I don't think it's about me. It's about presenting art to people who really like art and making it a comfortable place for them to look at it, and buy it if they want."

Anthony hopes to eventually bring some new and young artists into Haystack Gallery. Her first curatorial selection will be unveiled at Stormy Weather. But largely, the changes will be piecemeal. She says she's excited to continue the Coomes' aesthetic, which includes a little bit of everything, and the relationships they've cultivated over the years.

One of those is with Jeni Lee, whose latest Rain Paintings will be on display. (Lee herself will be on hand Friday evening, from 4 to 7 p.m.) This year marks something like Lee's 10th year to the festival. She's not sure of the actual number, though suggests it's higher.

For Anthony, this year will be her first. "I've never been to it," Anthony says of Stormy Weather. "Isn't that amazing? I've heard nothing but good things."

## Stormy Weather Arts Festival

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6, 7 & 8  
Multiple times and locations in Cannon Beach  
Tickets can be found at cannonbeach.org  
For a comprehensive schedule, visit  
<http://tinyurl.com/stormyschedule2015>



Submitted photo by Steve Karakas

Blues musician Lloyd Jones will perform a concert 7 p.m. Saturday at the Coaster Theatre as part of the arts festival. He will be joined by The Atlas Horns on stage. Tickets are \$35; call the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce at 503-436-2623.



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"Sea Cliff" by Christopher Mathie at White Bird Gallery. Mathie opens a new exhibit of coast-inspired mixed-media large canvases during the arts festival. He will give a painting demo at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and will be present for the artist reception at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, with live music by Denim Wedding.