

## PARTING SHOT

A weekly snapshot from The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer photographers



Waves crash at Waikiki Beach at Cape Disappointment State Park in Washington in November.

Bud Cuffel/Submitted Photo to the Chinook Observer

## ODDITY

## BLACK SQUARED

Russia finds previously hidden layers in Malevich painting

By KATHERINE JACOBSEN  
*Associated Press*

MOSCOW — To the naked eye, Kazimir Malevich's famed "Black Square" painting looks just like that: a featureless black square. But X-ray examination found much more, Moscow's Tretyakov

Gallery revealed this week.

Two other paintings have been found under the black expanse, Tretyakov director Zelfira Tregulova told journalists.

There's also an inscription by the artist around the white border of his painting that uses the title of a 19th century black square painting by the French humorist Alphonse Allais that purportedly portrays two black men fighting in a cave at night.

"The findings are important because they confirm that the creation of 'Black Square,' which was one of the most important artistic paintings of the 20th

century, if not the most radical, was not spontaneous," Tregulova said. "Rather it was a long, involved process."

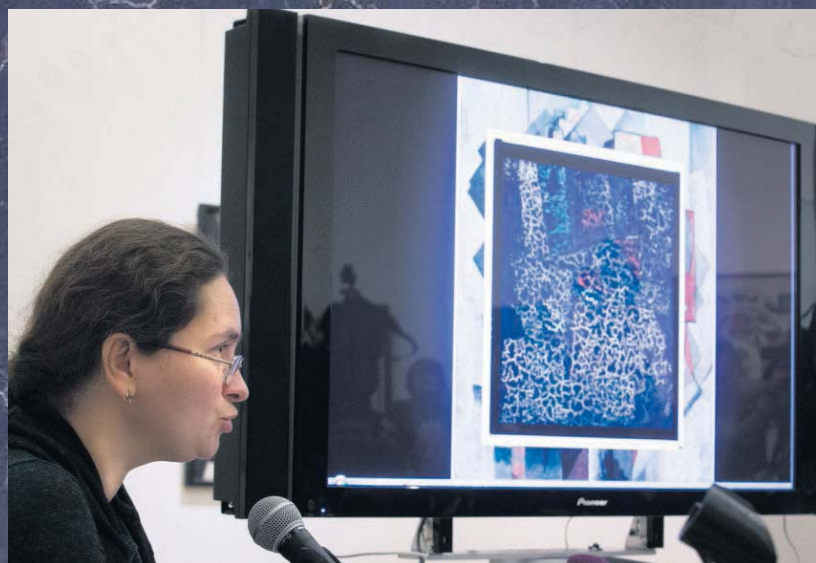
Until this discovery, art historians had largely believed that Malevich had hastily painted "Black Square." But the X-rays show that the monochrome top-coat to "Black Square" covers two layers of colorful and intricate geometric shapes.

The Russian painter was a towering figure of the early 20th century avant-garde, famed for his so-called Suprematist paintings that rejected figurative art in favor of bold geometric shapes.



Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP Photo

An earlier painting found under the black expanse of Kazimir Malevich's famed "Black Square" painting is shown on a screen at a news conference in Moscow, Russia, on Wednesday. To the naked eye, Kazimir Malevich's famed "Black Square" painting looks like just that — a featureless black square. But X-ray examination by Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery found much more.



Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP Photo

Yekaterina Voronina, an art researcher at the Tretyakov Gallery, speaks as an X-ray image of the Kazimir Malevich's famed "Black Square" painting is shown on a screen at a news conference in Moscow, Russia, on Wednesday.

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Zelfira Tregulova  
director, Tretyakov Gallery