

See graphite drawings, calligraphy at RiverSea Artist Christi Payne to give illuminated lettering demonstration

ASTORIA — North Coast artist Christi Payne exhibits two facets of her talent this weekend in a solo show of drawings and a separate event dedicated to calligraphy, both at RiverSea Gallery. “Payne’s Grey,” showing in the gallery’s Alcove space, is a series of the artist’s miniature drawings in graphite. The show opens during Astoria’s Second Saturday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. In consideration of the holiday season, any drawings purchased for gifts will be released for pick-up or shipping as of Dec. 15, and remaining work will remain on display through Jan. 5.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, from noon to 3 p.m., the artist will be at the gallery to demonstrate the art of medieval illumination, creating small “keepsake” letters for visitors using a lettering style she has developed through years of practice. Adults and children alike will be entertained to view the process as the intricate letters take form under the hand of this master calligrapher.



Submitted photo
“Evermore,” a graphite drawing by Christi Payne at RiverSea Gallery.

Payne lives on a 100-year-old floathouse just off the tidal Columbia River, five miles upstream from Astoria. This estuarine community is largely involved in boating and traditional commercial gillnet fishing, and many of her drawings represent bowpickers, lightships, skiffs, duck shacks and moorings: the particular details of this world which, in her own words, “wanted to be drawn.”

Payne’s precisely limned and subtly toned scenes of waterscapes and landscapes (and occasional still life settings) not only evoke a world not of-

Illuminated lettering demo

Noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

RiverSea Gallery

1160 Commercial St., Astoria

503-325-1270

ten seen by tourists and weekend visitors to the coast, they also are testaments to her experience of joy in the process of drawing.

After a long history of expressing herself in many mediums, Payne has in recent years become absorbed in both drawing and calligraphy. “Since moving back to Astoria in 2000 and finding myself living on the water, my craft has been drawing,” she says. “It took time to find my ‘voice’ for what I longed to capture on paper — those working gillnet boats moored on our deep-channel slough, the trawlers tied up in town, and the very gray funkiness of creosote and rain. But what I love about life is that with intention, desire and practice, something comes.

“This 2-inch graphite miniature style emerged fully formed, as if by magic, and has allowed me the window I need to capture the scenes in my world.”

Payne also has a long interest in and practice of calligraphy, which for her has come to be mainly drawn letters and illuminations based on exemplars found in medieval manuscripts. Several of her lettering works will be included in this show.

RiverSea Gallery is located at 1160 Commercial St. For more information, call 503-325-1270 or visit riverseagallery.com

Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum presents a Tuba Christmas concert

ILWACO, Wash. — The public is invited to hear the rich sounds-of-the-season at the annual Tuba Christmas concert, beginning at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum.

This free concert will feature the Astoria Tuba Quartet, which will perform a variety of seasonal selections, jazz arrangements and a polka or two at this family-friendly event. Seating is limited.

The tuba’s versatility allows the Astoria Tuba Quartet to perform traditional Christmas selections such as “Sleigh Ride,” jazz selections by noted composer/arrangers Lenny Niehaus and Bill Holman, and the much-loved Evergreen Polka. Also performed will be an arrangement by Lee Stromquist, the quartet’s version of the “Dance of the Reed Flutes” (from “The Nutcracker”), playfully entitled “Dance of the Rude Brass.”

Astoria Tuba Quartet was formed in 1980, and its current members have performed together since 1997. Original



Submitted photo
The Astoria Tuba Quartet is made of Dennis Hale, Bob Joiner, Lee Stromquist and Brian Bergman.

member Dennis Hale plays F tuba, Bob Joiner and Brian Bergman play euphoniums, and Lee Stromquist plays double bass F tuba. Stromquist also arranges numerous selections for the group.

The Ilwaco Merchants As-

sociation is the sponsor for the 2015 Tuba Christmas concert. The Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum is located at 115 S.E. Lake St. For more information call 360-642-3446 or visit www.columbiapacificheritagemuseum.org

Hear live music at Sou’Wester Lodge

SEAVIEW, Wash. — The Sou’Wester Lodge will host live music at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Snowblind Traveler and Thayer Sarrano will perform.

Songwriter Matt Dorrien is Snowblind Traveler, a Portland-based musician who specializes in acoustic folk and blues-inspired music as well as piano-based music. His repertoire includes original songs as well as an eclectic mix of covers by artists from the ’60s and ’70s to the present day. His music is inspired by the rolling expanse of middle America; the fog and lichen-draped cathedral of redwoods of the Northwest; the lulling whisper of a New England blizzard; the sorely disappointed; the dearly loved; the true and honest; those who are lost and forgotten; the liv-



Submitted photo
Snowblind Traveler, left, and Thayer Sarrano will perform Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Sou’Wester Lodge.

ing, dead and eternal.

Thayer Sarrano is forging her own path into a Southern-psych dreamland, bottling up ghosts and bringing them to life through her ethereal desert rock hymns. The tones tremble and bend, layered in swirling atmospherics. Sarrano’s angel-

ic voice will pull you in close to share devastatingly beautiful and heart-breaking secrets, while shadowy figures dance in the background.

The Sou’Wester Lodge is located at 3728 J Place. For more information, call 360-642-2542.

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