

# 'Fish-Work' chronicles commercial fishing lifestyle

Imogen Gallery hosts reception, exhibition by photographer Corey Arnold

ASTORIA — Imogen Gallery presents "Fish-Work," an exhibition by professional artist and fisherman Corey Arnold of Portland.

This is Arnold's second exhibition at Imogen, held in conjunction with the 2016 FisherPoets Gathering, an annual celebration of the fishing community that offers a glimpse into one of the oldest industries through stories and poetry written and recited by fisher folk.

Kick off a full weekend of scheduled events and learn more about Arnold's work, both photographing and fishing the waters of Alaska and Northern Europe. All are invited to attend a reception for Arnold and the FisherPoets Gathering from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Light bites and beverages will be provided by Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro. The exhibition will remain on display through March 8. This year there'll be an added dimension to the weekend's events with Arnold projecting his images onto exterior walls of downtown buildings, near

established venues for the event.

Arnold began fishing as a boy, about the same time he first picked up the camera. What began as weekend adventures with the family quickly became a permanent part of life, culminating into a successful dual career, one mutually supporting the other.

This exhibition will include photographs from the ongoing series "Fish-Work," a lifelong project that chronicles the commercial fishing lifestyle throughout the world. Arnold began fishing commercially in 1995 as a deckhand aboard various vessels and skiffs in Alaska. His career as a photographer has taken him from the waters of Alaska to Europe. The images included in this show are from more recent trips working aboard pollock and factory trawlers in the Bering Sea, a multi-month tour of European fisheries, images from his seven years spent on the deck of the crabber F/V Rollo on the Bering Sea, and Graveyard Point



Submitted photo

"Octopus" by Corey Arnold.

a seasonal salmon fishing community in Bristol Bay, Alaska, where Arnold captains a skiff every summer.

Arnold's work is without doubt a celebration of the lifestyle of the fisherman. He also hopes to convey a broader message, raising awareness to the challenges that coastal communities and the oceans are facing in the 21st century. Through his lens he captures the raw

and rugged reality of hard work, with brutal and honest images that depict both danger and beauty, sometimes in the same moment.

Arnold is not one, however, to overly romanticize; he is critically aware of the struggle of a rapidly changing global fishing industry. "Serious threats to small-scale fishing communities include fleet consolidation due to catch shares, poorly managed fisheries abroad, ocean acidification, fish farming, and watershed destruction due to urban development, mining and pollution," he says. "Closest to home for me is the proposed



Submitted photo

"Bound" by Corey Arnold.

Pebble Mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska. Backed by billions of dollars of foreign corporate investment, the Pebble Mine could be one of the largest open-pit copper mines in the world placed in the richest sockeye salmon watershed on earth."

Regardless of present challenges and demands on a struggling industry, Arnold states: "Although it's important to be aware of the challenges facing those who work at sea, the most essential message of all comes from the spirit of this way of life. Whether we are landlocked in the mountains, or out on a boat at sea, the hard work, passion, blood and guts of this profession speak to a vitality that I hope will inspire the viewer on his/her own personal journey."

Arnold, who graduated from the University of Art Academy in San Francisco has enjoyed a diverse and exciting career. His series "Fish-Work" was launched after receiving a commission from the PEW Charitable Foundation, taking him to Europe and photographing from aboard fishing vessels in eight European countries. He has also been awarded an American Scandinavian Foundation grant, which



Submitted photo

"Billie and Seabird" by Corey Arnold.

lead to the documentation of the work of fishermen in northern Norway.

His work has been exhibited in Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, and published in Harpers, The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Time, Outside, National Geographic and The Paris Review among others. Arnold has published two books of photography: "Fish-Work: The Bering Sea" and "Fishing with My Dad." He is represented by Charles A. Hartman Fine Art in Portland.

Imogen Gallery is located at 240 11th St. For more information, call 503-468-0620 or visit [www.imogengallery.com](http://www.imogengallery.com)

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