

LightBox opens 'Burdens of a White Dress' and 'Tribe'

ASTORIA — LightBox Photographic Gallery will open two exhibits with distinct focuses from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 12. "Burdens of a White Dress" is a series by Jen Kiaba, and "Tribe" is a group show, juried by Blue Mitchell of Diffusion magazine.

Kiaba is an artist and educator who grew up in an oppressive religious cult, the infamous Unification Church, and made her way out in her early 20s. Now an award-winning photographer who lives and works in Rhinebeck, New York, Kiaba believes that we experience healing and liberation when we access our inner voice and share stories, paving the way for others to find their own paths to freedom.

"Burdens of a White Dress" is a set of surreal self-portraits that reflect being born in a fringe religious movement," Kiaba says. "The project's title refers to the emphasis placed on a woman's role in my childhood. A woman's value was intrinsically tied to her purity and virginity; after marriage that value shifted into the realm of motherhood.

"Because this was my own

personal experience of leaving a repressive religious environment, I often use myself as a model. My body is then contorted or manipulated to demonstrate the internal effects of the struggle that it is to free one's mind from a controlling belief system and to demonstrate the repressed place that femininity had in my world."

The stark palette slashed with red explores the concepts of shame, evil, wantonness, and the blood of womanhood, birth and death.

Also opening in the gallery is "Tribe," a juried group exhibit of 25 prints. In this world of many species, the central group that binds us together and allows us to best cope with our existence is family. Peers, cousins, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, pets, neighbors — whatever central group we either identify with or are connected to by blood, however small or large, our tribe nourishes and protects. A person's tribe is central to identity. "Tribe" delves into how people find comfort with this most intimate, supporting and loving group.

The exhibits run from March 12 through April 5. LightBox is located at 1045 Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-468-0238 or visit lightbox-photographic.com.



Submitted photo

"At the Helm" by Jen Kiaba, an image in the exhibition "Burdens of a White Dress."



Submitted photo

"Bios" by Roberta Trentin is one of the entries in the juried exhibition "Tribe."



Submitted photo

Neal Maine will speak about the coastal temperate rainforest March 16 at Seaside library.

Neal Maine to explain 'How to See a Rainforest'

Go below the surface March 16

SEASIDE — Rain plus trees equals rainforest, right? Not really, says naturalist and photographer Neal Maine. That equation doesn't begin to capture the complex interactions among air, water, leaf, soil, microorganisms and all the other elements required to create a temperate rainforest.

Maine will lead a conversation in words and images about the forest native to this coast in the free presentation "How to See a Rainforest," at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 at Seaside Public Library. It's the third program in the 2016

Listening to the Land speaker series, which is focused on the theme of water. Refreshments will be served.

To begin to understand the local rainforest — past, present and future — you need to do more than follow the rain as it splashes on a tree's needles, runs down the bark, and reaches the roots in the soil.

"They look like a bunch of individual trees, but in fact they are literally all communicating with one another," Maine says.

Maine will take listeners below the surface, from how things seem to work to how — according to the latest science — they really work, plus what scientists still don't understand about the rainforest.

After a 30-year career as a biology teacher at Seaside High School, Maine became the first executive director of North Coast Land Conservancy. Since his retirement in 2010, he has pursued his passion of photography to develop greater public appreciation of living in what he considers paradise.

Listening to the Land is a winter speaker series presented by North Coast Land Conservancy and the Necanicum Watershed Council in partnership with the Seaside library.

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