

Astoria Visual Arts welcomes new artists to a-i-r program

ASTORIA — Earlier this month, Astoria Visual Arts' artist-in-residence program welcomed three emerging artists to work in downtown studios provided to them rent-free, with support from Albattross & Co., Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro, Astoria Co-op Grocery, City Lumber Co., Dots 'N Doodles Art Supplies, and Fort George Brewery.

The artists were chosen from a crowded field of highly qualified candidates, based on the caliber of their work and merit of their proposals. Their residencies will run from April through June.

Painter Meghann Hanour Sprague of Astoria will use the time spent in her studio in the Hobson Building on Commercial Street to work on a series titled "The Great Exchange." The series "illustrates the tender and exposed state we find ourselves in when we entrust another with our heart," wrote Sprague in her application essay. The acrylic paintings will be on large canvases, ranging from 5-to-8 feet in height.

Artists Rachel Jensen and David Plechl will be working together on a joint project, "collaborative work that encompasses the discoveries of a partnered dialogue," in their studio overlooking the Colum-



Submitted photo
Rachel Jensen is an Astoria native.

bia River atop Edison Bros. Fish Company.

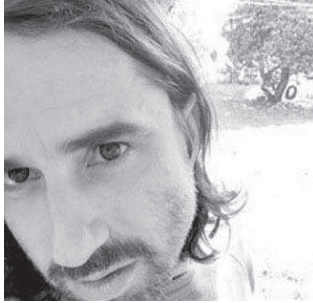
Born and raised in Astoria, Jensen studied visual arts at Marlboro College and Portland State University. Her recent paintings explore color and texture, the building up of layers that are later removed to expose what is underneath.

Plechl uses his background in photography, painting and printmaking to create visual artwork that explores themes of environmental reordering, material transience, and the improbability of meaning.

AVA a-i-r is designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and professional growth of emerging artists. While no exhibition, publication or performance is required of the selected artists, community responsibility includes a weekend open studio event before



Submitted photo
Meghann Hanour Sprague is an artist, mother, wife, baker, barista and student in Astoria.



Submitted photo
David Plechl will work on on a joint project with Rachel Jensen.

the end of each AVA a-i-r session. Finalists are chosen in a blind selection process on the basis of artistic merit by an independent panel of established working artists and arts patrons. For more information, visit astoriavisualarts.org

South Pacific County Humane Society celebrates 20 years of sheltering cats, dogs

CHINOOK, Wash. — In 1996, the Pet Protectors and Humane Society joined forces to create the South Pacific County Humane Society, a community-funded no-kill animal shelter in Long Beach. To celebrate 20 years of sheltering dogs and cats, the SPCHS is planning a party for the people and businesses that have made it all possible.

The "It's Raining Cats & Dogs" dinner and silent auction event will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 23 at the Chinook School, located at 810 U.S. Highway 101.

The irrepressible Dwayne Smallwood will act as emcee. Taylor Baker will perform live music, and talented Ilwaco High School students may too. A Pinup, a Pirate and a Pup will offer raffles and games of chance throughout the evening.

Special people who have been integral to making the shelter a reality will be recognized. There will also be a surprise for Oceanside Animal Clinic veterinarians Ed Ketel and Catherine Lindblad.

Dinner will be provided by



Photo by Joshua Bessex
Veterinarians Catherine Lindblad and Ed Ketel will receive a surprise at the event.

Sondra Eaton of the The Cove restaurant and will include: Italian pasta with special red or smoked razor clam sauce, garlic bread and sticks, and Italian salad. Enjoy chocolate cake or homemade cookies for dessert. A beer and wine cash bar will also be available.

The silent auction tables will close every 15 minutes; so don't be late. Items include:

four passes to Disneyland, a two-night stay at The Breakers; \$75 for the Bridgewater Bistro; a champagne basket; a signed hand-colored print by Noel Thomas; a signed original watercolor by Charles Mulvey; touring bikes courtesy of Dennis Company, complete with a bottle of wine and a fresh seafood bucket you can fill with \$50 of food at The Crab Pot; Dennis Company gift cards and bags of Blue Buffalo Pet Food; gift baskets from Brown's Coastal Corner Market; jewelry and needlecraft bundles; books; dog treats from Blue Dog Bakery; an electric saw; a basket from Harmony SoapWorks; custom business cards and more.

Tickets are \$25 each, and children under 12 pay their age. Pay at the door or in advance at beachpets.com. For more information, visit the website or call 360-642-1180

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