

Forum: Noncommercial artists often have to cobble together a livelihood

Continued from Page 1A

“But I had my freedom, and I would not have received the recognition I received had I done that,” he said.

That recognition includes the 2012 American Watercolor Society Gold Medal of Honor, an award open to international artists and given out once a year to the finest work in the field.

Orange — an intuitive and largely abstract artist who also paints nonrepresentational landscapes, seascapes and local scenes — chose not to “perform to sell,” he said.

“I did that for a while, and I wasn’t very good at it,” he said, “and I felt it cheapened what I was trying to do.”

‘A huge discipline’

So where can an artist unwilling to sell out tap some reliable income?

“The art of understanding how to produce a painting, a good painting, is a huge discipline,” said Wiegardt, a graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago. “Understanding how to market it is another discipline, and it’s very complex and can get very involved, and you can go down the wrong path very, very easily.”

When he launched his artistic career after a stint as an engineer, Wiegardt was fortunate that his Ocean Park gallery stands in a well-traveled vacation area. But that didn’t make his situation easy.

“Back in the early years, I think the community felt sorry for me, and they all came and bought paintings,” he said.

To raise his profile and build a reputation, he entered national competitions, “not the biggest ones, but they



Darren Orange shows some of his mixed-media art pieces and talks about his process during the Columbia Forum dinner on Thursday. Eric Wiegardt and Orange spoke about their art and the business of art.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian

were in New York, and I let the local paper know, and they wrote those up, and that was very helpful,” he said.

Eventually, Wiegardt — who has now taught more than 5,000 watercolorists through his seminars — figured out that teaching helped broaden his exposure while upping his income.

And he freely admits that he had help, especially from his wife, Ann. The couple sells painters’ products, like brushes and videos, out of their Ocean Park gallery and online.

“I would not be here as an artist without her support,” he said.

Making a living

Orange — a graduate of Western Washington University who began using non-

traditional materials like tar, house paint and concrete and has lately branched out into acrylics — said it’s extremely difficult to make a living on art alone.

“I don’t know too many working artists who just do art,” he said.

While finding galleries that believe in their work and will aggressively push it, noncommercial artists often have to cobble together a livelihood.

Orange — whose paintings appear in collections around the world, including England, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and Canada — works as a house-painting contractor, a gig that offers him a flexible schedule and big blocks of time to create.

Much of his exposure as

an artist has come through exhibitions, competitions and commissions, he said.

His work appears as the album art for The Holiday Friends’ “Major Magic” and the jacket cover art for Pamela Mattson McDonald’s novel “Killed Again.” Recording artist Lindi Ortega commissioned a painting from Orange of her signature red cowgirl boots. And Elizabeth Pitcairn, a classical violinist, commissioned a painting of the world-famous “Red Mendelssohn” Stradivari violin (aka, the Red Violin), which she performs with.

The money made on such high-profile fine-art pieces, or even something as simple and short-lived as his chalk drawings on Fort George

Brewery’s beer menu, can help offset an artist’s expenses, Orange said.

And, make no mistake, art can be an expensive habit: “I mean, a 6-foot-by-6-foot canvas could have \$300 worth of paint on there very easily, or more,” he said.

‘I still suffer’

Long ago, Wiegardt and Orange decided to gamble on their gifts speaking for themselves, on their artwork finding an audience able to appreciate it the way the painters wanted it to be appreciated.

In avoiding the mercenary route, they remained untouched by market constraints that could have stunted their artistic expression and growth. They were allowed to develop at their

own paces, to change course and challenge themselves. And prevented their work from becoming boringly, numbingly easy.

“I still suffer,” Orange said. “As long as I’m suffering to some degree, I feel good and strong about that. I think if everything’s going too smooth, then I feel I’m not making progress.”

For Wiegardt, this creative freedom is the whole reason he became a painter in the first place.

“That’s why I don’t think it would work very well for me to be a commercial artist, where you’re just told what to paint, and how to paint it, and when it’s due,” he said. “A lot of money in that, but it’s not a real good situation for me.”

Fallout: Without Goodding’s testimony, it is the best possible outcome

Continued from Page 1A

Flores, 50, pleaded no contest to harassment Thursday in Clatsop County Circuit Court and was sentenced to one year in jail. With credit for a year

served while in custody, Flores was released.

Brown said the harassment conviction was not the result he or the victim wanted. Without Goodding’s testimony or any physical evidence, he said, it is

the best possible outcome.

“She is not happy with this case,” Brown said. “We, frankly, believe everything she said.”

Flores was indicted in April 2015 after the girl reported multiple sex abuse incidents

between 2008 and 2010. The girl, who was in the fifth grade at the time, was a friend of Flores’ daughter.

The abuse reportedly took place at Flores’ house in Seaside. The victim, now 17, spoke

at the sentencing hearing Thursday over the phone from her new home in Illinois. She is battling post-traumatic stress disorder from the incident and described suffering insomnia, night terrors and anxiety.

She has a job working with children in day care and is trying to move on with her life.

“This is one of the things that was holding me back,” she said. “I can now completely work on myself in moving past this.”



Dawn McIntosh for Circuit Court Judge

★ Experience ★ Vision ★ Dedication

We are pleased to endorse Dawn McIntosh as our candidate for Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge*



Leroy Adolphson
Brian Allen
Gretchen Allen, CPA
Brianna Anderson
Jodi Anderson
Randy Anderson
Whitney Anderson
Todd Atkins
Bill and Linda Backer
Hannah Bake
Mark and Michelle Baldwin
Michael Barber
Jamie and Lynn Barendse
Erin Barker
Jan Barnett
Nancy and Steven Barnett
Catherine Baumiller
Cindy and Jay Beckman
Jenni and Kevin Becker
Linda Berger
Lacey Biamont
Angie Bice
Aaron Birdeno
Peter Blodgett
Tannia Bohm
Cameron Brister
Hon. Paula Brownhill
Carole Burgher
Bob and Janice Burke
Brad Campbell
Linda and Steven Campbell
Doug Caples
Jane Cartwright
Paul Caruana
Stephanie Cervantes
Joy Chester
Kindra Cieslar
Lisa Clement
Nannette Cooper
Lori Corder
Natasha Corder
Cassandra Danielson

Jesse Darling
Gretchen Darnell
Rick Darnell
Lindsey Darnell
Dave Densmore
Deborah and Joel Dierickx
Rosalie Dimmick-Larsen
Travis Diebolt
Mike Donovan
Lisa Dooney
Neal and Stacy Dundas
Michael Easter
Jon Englund
Kurt and Sarah Englund
Mary Kay Erickson
Alan Evans
Rita Fackerell
Angela Fairless
Marilyn Falcker
Amy Finn
Tyson Finn
Ed Fleek
Cheri Folk
Nikki Fowler
Paul Frederickson
Dr. Neal Garhofer
Peter Gates
Meghann Gibson
George Gideon
Jeffrey Goldberg
Dane and Amy Gouge
Kim Gould
Ashley and Stuart Graffius
Justin Grafton
Alessia Granziero
Suzanne Green
Kristine Gwinner-Germond
Brian Habecker
Alex Habecker
Erin Halverson
Benjamin Harper
Jim Hart
Caron Hart

Don Haskell
Eric “Skip” and Sara Hauke
Tom Hecox
Frank and Leighland Heinrich
Karl Hellberg
Blair Henningsgaard
Norma Hernandez
Kimberly Hickok-Langston
Travis Hicks
Hon. Jonathon Hill
Chris Holthusen
Paula Hovden
Phil Hullender
Debbie Hunt
Rick Irish
Sheana Jaquez
Dr. Stephen Johnson
Lidia Jenkins
Dotty Johnson
Greg Johnson
Jeri Johnson
Michele Johnson
Larry and Sharon Johnson
Nicole Jones
Angelsea Kaim
Christopher Kaino
Ivan Karmel
Laurie Kautz
John Kawasoe
Jack and Mary Kerwin
Nick Kerwin
Breanna Kinder
Todd Kinder
Tim Kindred
Hilary King
Melody Klomp
Chanelle Kunde
Hon. Paula Kurshner
Stephanie Lucasta Poe
Sally Lusted
Amanda Laird
Mike and Margie Laird
Dr. Mary Ellen “Mel” Langston

Allan LaPlante
Patrick Lavis
Ben and Megan Lawrence
Jackie Lewis
Roy Lloyd
Elizabeth Logsdon
Rita Lovegreen
Terry and Molly Lowenberg
Brad Lundberg
Porsche Lundberg
Gregg Lundberg
Kim Lundberg
Hon. Charles Luukinen
Buddie and Rosa Mack
Cheryl and William MacLean
Sonia Madsen-Nunnally
Tara Massey
Tawni Massey
Alexis Mather
Dr. Jennifer McCall
Scott McCullough
Jana McGill
Marissa McGuire
Darryl McKnight
Lacey Melo-Santiago
Brenda Mendez-Routh
Kate and Tom Merrill
Michelle Monroe
Gary Moon
Steve Moon
Christopher “Brad” Moore
Elizabeth Moore
Bob Morgan
John Morris
Cody Mullins
Mary Ann Murk
Lou and Beverly Neubecker
Rick Newton
Rob Nicholas
Patrick Nofield
Brian Olsen
Tammy Olsen
George Owen

Matt Owen
Lauren and Wyatt Oxley
David Pastor
David and Kathy Patch
Carrie Peeples
Larry Perkins
Christy Peschl
Steve Phillips
Jim and Shela Pierce
Michele and Paul Pierce
Tanner Pierce
Jeff Pike
Krystal Pike
Andy Pittard
Teresa Plowman
Larry Popkin
John and Kim Postelwaite
Steven and Christina Powell
Melody Price
Derek Price
Richard Proctor
Tatiana Queener
Brian and Karen Radditz
Craig Ramvick
Rebecca Ray
Kimberley Reef
Jeanne Reeves
Heather Reynolds
Dewey Rice
Tricia Rice
Lori Riser
Nissa Roberts
Stacy Rodriguez
Steve Roman
Peter and Pat Roscoe
Joel Russell
Lisa Russell
Jeremy Rust
Arthur Saito
Jim Sapper
Tammy Saucedo
Tiffany Schraeder
Jeff Schweitert

Hon. Paula Brownhill on why she supports Dawn McIntosh for Circuit Court Judge

“She is smart, she is analytical, and she knows the law. We should take advantage of this opportunity to elect a skilled lawyer who can hit the ground running.”

Darcie Shirk
Christy and Bruce Shoop
Michael and Meagan Shoop
Donald Smack
Melissa Smith
Gregory Soriano
Sarah and Sean Spalding
Jody Stahanczyk
Gene Stallings
Brett Stallings
Kelly Stearns
Ryan Steinfeld
Patrick Stephens
Melody Strite
Keri Sund
Valeria Tarabochia
Nancy Tinnes
Dr. Nick and Teena Toyas
Hon. Mari Trevino
Richard Trucke
Jodi Tucker
Christine and Don Udell

Esther Umphries
Darin and Cynthia Utti
Dennis Vaughn
Barbara Vistica
David Vistica
Russ Warr
Andy and Jody Weaver
Cravalynn Weber
Sally Welka
Ann Westerlund
Mark and Lisa Whisler
Kerri Whitten Hoagland
Jerry and Susan Widawski
Doug and Mary Jean Williams
Tami and Loren Williams
Jeffrey Womack
Jeff Wood
Casey Wray
Sharon Wucherpfennig
Michelle Wunderlich
Gary and Peggy Ziak
Christian Zupancic

For more information please visit www.electdawnmcintosh.com

Paid for by the committee to Elect Dawn McIntosh 818 Commercial St. #403 Astoria, OR 97103