

Salem gallery shows Royal Nebeker art retrospective

SALEM — The Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University will present a major retrospective exhibition of the work of Astoria artist Royal Nebeker (1945-2014). Organized by John Olbrantz, the Maribeth Collins director, "Royal Nebeker: Dreams and Allusions" features 36 paintings and prints from public and private collections on the West Coast, opens Saturday, June 4 and continues through Aug. 28 in the Melvin Henderson-Rubio Gallery.

A variety of complimentary events accompany this exhibition. A conversation, moderated by John Olbrantz, at 5 p.m. Friday, June 3 in the Paulus Lecture Hall at the Willamette University College of Law, will bring together a panel of family, friends and colleagues who will share recollections about Nebeker. A reception will follow at the Hallie Ford Mu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROYAL NEBEKER ESTATE
"Shady Grove," 2006, mixed media on paper by Royal Nebeker (1945-2014), from the collection of Sarah Nebeker, Gearhart.

seum of art between 6 and 8 p.m. (RSVP for the reception by calling 503-370-6855.) Explore the exhibition with museum docents during free Tuesday Gallery Talks that start at 12:30 p.m. on June 7, July 5 and Aug. 2.

Nebeker was an accomplished symbolist painter and teacher who created highly personalized narratives based on dreams and memories, often embellished with words and notations that helped drive his narrative.

Born in San Francisco in 1945 to a Norwegian mother

and a Danish/Swiss father, Nebeker was fascinated with Norwegian art, literature, language and culture.

Throughout his career, he focused on the human figure. His work was strongly influenced by Norwegian painter Edvard Munch, the German Expressionists, and by the Vienna Secessionist artists Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and others. Although his early teachers encouraged him to embrace the tenets of Abstract Expressionism, he remained first and foremost a figurative artist.

The artist said of his work, "For me, this process of painting resembles looking through a night window. I peer out, observing and at the same time see the reflection of the interior conditions of my own reality. It is my intent that as the viewer peers into my painting he will not only see a visual record of meaning in my life but will discover the reflection of meaning in their own, as in a night window."

Over the years, Royal was the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He studied in California at the Claremont College and Otis Art Institute, and received a Master of Fine Arts at Brigham Young University in 1970. He went on to complete a postgraduate degree from the National School of Fine Arts in Oslo, Norway, in

1972. He served as an artist in residence in Norway in 1972 and 1975 and was awarded a fellowship to live and work in Edvard Munch's Oslo studio and research graphic art at the Munch Museum. He taught at Clatsop Community College between 1974 and 2014 and served as an Oregon Arts Commissioner.

At the invitation of the Norwegian Ministry of Culture in 2004, Nebeker received a residency and one-person exhibition. In addition, he received sabbatical and study grants to Japan and Germany and support grants for travel and exhibition from the Japan Foundation and Art Matters. Nebeker's paintings and prints have been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States and Europe and

are included in public and private collections in the United States, Norway, Germany and Poland.

This exhibition is supported by general operating support grants from the city of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

The Hallie Ford Museum of Art is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The galleries are closed Monday. General admission is \$6, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students 18 and older. Students 17 and under and children are admitted free. Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays. For more information, call 503-370-6855 or visit willamette.edu/go/hfma

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