

# Cannon Beach Gallery opens 'Landscape as Perception'

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Arts Association gallery will hold a reception for its new show, "Landscape as Perception," from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11.

An artist talk is planned from 10:30 a.m. to noon June 18. "Landscape as Perception" is the Cannon Beach Gallery's contribution to the Plein Air & More festival, which takes place June 24, 25 and 26. The show runs June 11 to July 10.

The show is curated by Janet Bland, a talented landscape artist in her own right. She has selected the work of three artists — Jef Gunn, Joan Stuart Ross and Michael Southern — who each approach the representation of landscape in fresh and different ways: in image as well as medium and location.

"How we perceive is so individual — we bring with it all the emotions of the day," Bland said. "The same place is never the same painting. What artists do goes through a filter filled with emotion, history, experience and even the quality of their eyesight. Everything will be different

tomorrow, and the artist is 'recording/conveying' how it felt and looked today ... at this moment in their lives.

"My hope is the viewer, will walk away from this exhibit with an expanded view of 'what is landscape,' that your ideas and perception have been challenged and changed."

Jef Gunn was born in Seattle, and returned there following his studies in drawing and painting in California through the 1970s and a period living in Barcelona and Paris in the 1980s. He now lives in Portland. Gunn is a passionate student of Asian art, and his work draws on multiple lineages of art, culture and spiritual legend. His own family legend tells of his maternal grandfather being born under the floorboards during an Indian raid in 1890s Saskatchewan.

Gunn has taught painting and drawing in Seattle since the mid 1990s, has participated in multiple group exhibits at the Art Gym, Marylhurst University and Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, and had a solo show at Oregon State University in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Far Shore II," oil on panel by Jef Gunn.

1995. He was nominated for the 2013 Northwest Artist Awards, and is represented by the William Traver Gallery in Seattle, Cedar Street Galleries in Honolulu, and Augen Gallery in Portland.

Painter and printmaker Mike Southern studied intaglio printmaking, making his first etching in 1988 at Amherst College in Massachusetts. He obtained a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the University of Georgia in Athens in 1995. From 1995 to 2009 he lived and worked in Portland before uprooting and moving the wilds of New Zealand, until returning to Portland in 2012.

His landscape paintings

are imagined, representing no particular area and are created entirely in the studio. These paintings have evolved over the years as his research into the techniques and materials of the old masters continued.

"I see landscape as a metaphor for an ideal place," Southern said. "Painting is the physical act of constructing my home; a place of refuge. I want the art that I put into the world to be reminiscent of a better place and a more beautiful place (like the distortion of a dream or memory), but not so definable as to be specific or representative of a real place."

Joan Stuart Ross's work examines the spirit of phys-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Tiers" encaustic and mixed-media by Joan Stuart Ross.

ical, mental and emotional places, their metaphysical properties and mysteries, and how we inhabit them. Her non-linear narratives celebrate the transient nature of light and how it can make the opaque appear translucent.

"Some of my inspiration draws from the Great Basin's windy 'high lonesome,' the Northwest's fog and mist, the ecstatic race of surf and spume and the subtext of items from personal history," Ross said. "My work is obsessive and repetitive. I layer,

carve, scrape, assess and reassess. I combine painting and the intaglio process in layers of medium, embedded collage, and incised expressive lines filled with color. Layers of visual information, grids, tangents and trajectories connect, cross and convene to reveal what happens on and underneath the surface."

Ross is represented by RiverSea Gallery in Astoria, Ryan James Fine Arts in Kirkland, Washington, and WaterWorks Gallery in Friday Harbor, Washington.

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