

Demystify vino with Wine 101 class

CANNON BEACH — Destiny Dudley's relationship with wine is profound. She's been involved with every part of the process, from growing grapes to fermentation to sales and marketing. And while Dudley's connection to the fermented grape is deep, it need not be haughty.

"It's not rocket science," Dudley says of wine appreciation. "There's an element in certain circles that has an air of righteousness. And that, for me, is the biggest turnoff and debilitating element of the wine industry — just making it seem so unattainable."

In hopes of demystifying, Dudley presents Wine Tasting and Appreciation 101, Saturday, July 9 at Tolovana Hall in Cannon Beach.

There Dudley, a certified sommelier and longtime wine-educator, will lead a small group through an informational tasting session. Wine and palate-cleansing snacks will be provided.

As well as introduction to viniculture, Saturday's workshop will be an exercise

and sharpening of the senses. "Wine is a sensory experience," Dudley says. "Based upon sight, smell and taste, you have these indicators that lead you down a path with the goal to know where the wine comes from, what kind of grape it is, who made the wine, what vintage it is."

Saturday's workshop will focus on Oregon wines: three reds and three whites.

"The goal of the class is to help guests learn the difference between the varieties of grapes as well as being able to showcase and highlight the style of Oregon," Dudley says.

Developing one's palate and exercising one's senses has a spillover effect that extends beyond wine itself.

"I discovered my passion for food through my passion for wine," Dudley says. "Before that I didn't cook. I didn't know good food. I grew up in a family where everything we ate came out of a box or can. It was definitely wine that led me down the path of culinary arts."

On the coast, Dudley

works as sommelier for Jonathan Hoffman, two-time champion of Iron Chef Goes Coastal. The two met working a dinner at the James Beard House in New York City.

As well as a sommelier, Dudley is a Certified Wine Educator by the Society of Wine Educators. She has spent nearly a decade giving tours of Oregon wineries, as well as working in tasting rooms and organizing staff trainings for restaurants.

"As a sommelier, my particular drive is being an educator," Dudley says, "and breaking down the barriers of wine and making it not so inhibited and pretentious."

"The main focus of the class is to help people approach wine with an open mind, and to not be so intimidated by it," she says.

While there is no prerequisite for taking the class, wine aficionados too are encouraged to attend.

"Wine 101 appeals to all levels of wine connoisseurs," Dudley says, "from the person who has a glass of wine here or there to the

person who has a wine cellar in their home. It should be entertaining for all levels of wine knowledge."

"The purpose isn't to dumb wine down," Dudley adds. "It's to help people evaluate, appreciate and have better conversations about wine, as well to be able to walk into a grocery store or restaurant and have the confidence and the knowledge to navigate the wines without a Wine Spectator magazine in hand."

"Too many people rely on other people to tell them what to drink," Dudley says. "This class will instill not only the knowledge but confidence and refinement of your own palate to choose for yourself."

Tickets to the intimate, hands-on workshop are \$45, and space is limited. Registration is required in advance of the event, which takes place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. July 9 at Tolovana Hall, 3779 S. Hemlock St. Learn more at tolovanaartscolony.org, email tolovanaartscolony@gmail.com, or call 541-215-4445.

See the faces of Oregon artists at LightBox gallery

ASTORIA — In collaboration with Astoria Visuals Arts, LightBox Photographic Gallery will open the exhibit "Face to Face: 32 Oregon Artists" on Saturday, July 9.

The exhibit, by photographer K.B. Dixon, is a series of formal black-and-white photographic portraits of 32 renown Oregon artists. Dixon entered into their most creative spaces — their homes and studios — and tells the full story with their faces.

"A good picture tells a story, and nothing tells a story better, more eloquently, more efficiently, than the human face. The faces in this exhibition are those of Oregon artists. The story they tell, in part, is that of Oregon's cultural history," Dixon said. "They are the people who define the contemporary art scene — gifted and dedicated people whose work has enriched our lives and whose legacies are destined to be part of our cultural heritage."

The evening will start with an artist talk at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception from 5 to 8 p.m.

Joining Dixon will be artist Henk Pander and some of the other artists whose portraits are part of the series. They will discuss the art of the portrait, the artist's perspective, and the other side of the camera. To reserve a seat for this talk before the reception, contact the gallery at 503-468-0238.

"With each portrait it has been my hope to produce first a decent photograph, a truthful record, one that honors the unique strength of the medium, but I have sought also to produce a photograph that resonates, one that is more than just a simple statement of fact, one that preserves for myself and others a brief



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Lee Kelly" by K.B. Dixon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Katherine Ace" by K.B. Dixon.

glimpse of the being behind the image," Dixon said.

Dixon is the author of seven novels, including "The Sum of His Syndromes," "Andrew (A to Z)," "A Painter's Life" and "Novel Ideas" as well as the short story collection "My Desk and I." The recipient of an Oregon Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship Award, he is the winner of both the Next Generation Indie Book Award and the Eric Hoffer Book Award.

"Face to Face: 32 Oregon Artists" runs July 9 to Aug. 9. LightBox is located at 1045 Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-468-0238, or visit lightbox-photographic.com

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