

Artists reclaim waste for artful invention

Astoria Visual Arts, Recology Western Oregon name two artists for residency

ASTORIA — Two regional artists have been selected to participate in the inaugural Coastal Oregon Artist Residency program, which was developed collaboratively by Recology Western Oregon, an employee-owned company that manages resource recovery facilities on the North Coast, and local arts nonprofit Astoria Visual Arts. COAR aims to support the creation of art from recycled, repurposed and discarded materials.

Sean Barrow, of Astoria, and Dawn Stetzel, of Seaview, Washington, were selected by a jury of arts and environmental professionals. Each will be provided with a monthly stipend, materials and dedicated studio space at Recology's Astoria Recycling Depot and Transfer Station over a three-month period, commencing July 11. By supporting artists who work with recycled materials, AVA and Recology Western Oregon hope to encourage people to conserve natural resources and promote new ways of thinking about art and the environment.

Barrow, an Eastern Oregon native, is a multi-media sculptor who works frequent-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Made of fabric, paperboard, housepaint and woodglue by Dawn Stetzel in 2011, "House-dress" was a sculptural performance piece with backpack straps that could travel with the artist wherever she went.

ly with metal and wood but is equally skilled in working with ceramics, leather, plastics and fabric. Barrow began his professional life nearly two decades ago creating photographs. He subsequently branched out into metal and woodworking, painting, stone-carving,



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"So Long and Thanks for All the Pollen" was a 2007 sculpture by Sean Barrow made of bent steel rod and tubing, springs and rough pin oak planks.

design and moving imagery. Barrow is keen to engineer new sculptural building materials out of recycled media. "I like to reach into the science of projects when I can, so I'm very interested to learn of the processes, the lifespans of the materials and what innovations are possible as a result," he says. "My goal is to complete a group of sculptures made

from recycled materials by the end of this residency."

Barrow received a Bachelor of Arts in industrial design, with an emphasis on sustainability, and a minor in sculpture from Evergreen State College in Olympia.

Originally from Iowa, Stetzel holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. She has done several artist residencies, including an invitational in China and a two-month residency in Brazil. After a residency at the Sitka Center of Art and Ecology on the Central Oregon Coast, she began a journey of exploring various ways of connecting to place. Her recent sculptures use the house as a metaphor for humans: a single house stands for an individual and a cluster of houses for a community. This gives the artist the opportunity to explore the intangible: Her feelings regarding a sense of community and her search for belonging.

In her sculpture "House-dress," Stetzel uses discarded materials to create house structures that, she says, are similar to shantytowns with shared walls and barely-held-together roofs to which she feels both a

connection and a profound separation.

"My process is to not just make art out of trash," says Stetzel. "There is a story to all the material that I collect, a strong connection to place and the people who live here. For me, this way of making is a life-path of stewardship and creative problem-solving that provides a connection to each other and the environment."

Astoria Visual Arts was founded in 1989 as a local nonprofit membership organization to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts in the Astoria area.

Recology Western Oregon manages municipal disposal processes and services that span the needs of urban, suburban and rural communities. Recology companies operating in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington specialize in integrated resource recovery and recycling. As an employee-owned company, Recology sees a world without waste. This is the vision of over 3,000 employees whose mission is to build exceptional resource ecosystems that protect the environment and sustain communities.

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