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'From ordinary to un-ordinary'

Barna of Votive Handcrafted Elemental Jewelry will be joining the tour for the first time this year.

"My works are contemporary and the designs are crafted using a lot of geometry, angles and natural patterns," Barna said. "Each piece is entirely handcrafted and organic."

Barna likes to play with angles, even if it's in subtle ways, such as making pieces asymmetric.

"Asymmetry can really create an artful bend on something that might otherwise be very simple," Barna said. "Or it takes it from ordinary to un-ordinary."

She works primarily with metals, such as sterling silver, bronze, 14 karat gold-filled and 18 karat gold.


Barna said simple pieces can take her less than an hour to complete, while "statement" pieces can take up to a full day or even multiple days.

Though this is not her first art tour, Barna said she is excited to be in the Astoria Open Studios Tour and see the many new artists.

She is part of a team that is opening a new makers' space downtown called "Astoria Makers," where people will have access to high-end tools, education classes and community programming around all things creative.

"It is a communal space for design, fabrication and education in craft," she said.

Eskelin took the Astoria Open Studios Tour as a spectator last year, and had a lot of fun having personal conversations with the artists, she said.

She recommends that people not limit themselves to checking out only the kind of art they usually like: "Go to the others — venture out and have fun!" 

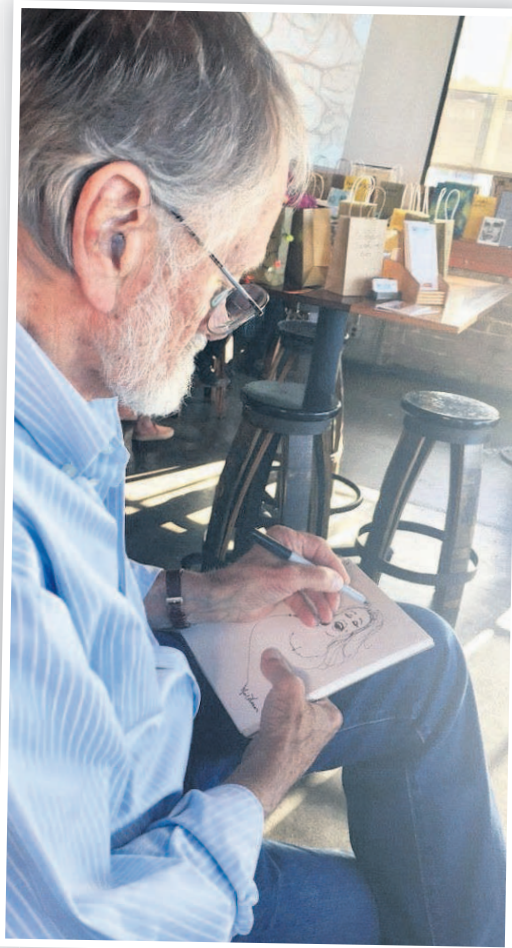
Maps of the tour are available at astoriavisualarts.org. The full tour guides can be picked up at RiverSea Gallery, Imogen Gallery, Old Town Framing, the Astoria and Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce and at most coffee shops in Astoria. The Coast Weekend pullout guide can also be used.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
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