

# ART IS THE WORD IN ILWACO

Galleries and businesses unite to cap the summer

By **PATRICK WEBB**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

ILWACO, WASH. — One simple three-letter word may spark a renaissance for businesses in downtown and waterfront Ilwaco.

Art.

That's the hope of Penny Treat and Marie Powell, artists and gallery owners who organize the Ilwaco Art Walks.

The fourth Art Walk of the summer takes place 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1.

Supported by the Ilwaco Merchants Association and Port of Ilwaco, the duo helped lure visitors to this summer's three prior "First Friday" events.

"It was like a watershed — people had been waiting for something like this to happen," Treat said.

They are hoping for a good turnout for the final art walk. Seven galleries are signed up, five on Howerton Way, the waterfront street at the Port, plus two downtown. As well as the gallery owners and the artists they support year-round, work by Wally Mann of Tokeland and David Campiche, of Seaview, will be highlighted.

Additionally, nine neighboring businesses, including several cafes, Ilwaco's bookstore and its yoga studio, will welcome visitors.

Powell, who splits her time between Ilwaco and New Zealand, is delighted the art walks have returned. She was involved in promoting them about 10 years ago before the peninsula's roller-coaster tourism/fishing economy took a dive.

"I am glad to see them

## IF YOU GO

### ILWACO ART WALK

5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 1

### GALLERIES:

Artport Gallery, 177 Howerton Way

Marie Powell Gallery, 177 Howerton Way

Don Nisbett Art Gallery, 167 Howerton Way

Purly Shell Fiber Arts, 157 Howerton Way

Schroeder Woodworking, 157 Howerton Way

Bill Atwood/A. Eskelin Studio, 114 Main St.

Jacob's Hammer Custom Metal, 114 Main St.

### BUSINESSES:

Riverszen, 177 Howerton Way

Time Enough Books, 157 Howerton Way

Olebob's Seafood Market and Cafe, 151 Howerton Way

Salt Hotel and Pub, 147 Howerton Way

Antique Gallery, 208 First Ave., S.

Serious Pizza, 103 First Ave., N.

Roots Juice Java and Salad Bar, 111 First Ave., N.

Olde Towne Trading Post Cafe, 108 First Ave., N.

Queen La De Da's, 124 Spruce Ave.

revived," said Powell, whose colorful monotypes on display at the Marie Powell Gallery are produced using layers of oil-based inks. "My main hope is that Ilwaco could become

an art destination. We have galleries here, and we just have to attract more artists. The art walk is one way to do this.

"The economy is picking up, and we are seeing more and more art buyers coming to the galleries this year."

Treat, a watercolorist and woodblock artist, operates ArtPort Gallery in conjunction with silversmith Luisa Mack and Barbara Mallon, who produces encaustic art using hot wax.

She, too, has high hopes that the art walks will help spark a revival of Ilwaco, which has some empty storefronts. "This could be something that transforms the community around a wonderful sleeping fishing village to somewhere sustainable," Treat said.

She is delighted that the city of Ilwaco and the Columbia Pacific Museum support continuing the concept next year. "We may try to get wineries or a brewery involved, and maybe do an art fair with even a street dance, like in the old days," she said.

Treat invites those attending this year's final Art Walk to enjoy a pleasant evening walk between the port and downtown while savoring the treats on tap. "There's uniqueness in every one of these businesses. There's something charming about them all."

And she believes that experiencing the beauty of art could have a therapeutic effect.


"Original art is for everyone — and art has a way of calming the nerves of many people," Treat said. "There is an undercurrent of sadness in the world, but the arts can take away sadness and transport you to another time and another place." 



PHOTO BY PATRICK WEBB

Penny Treat, one of the organizers of the Ilwaco Art Walks, describes her watercolor of wildlife on Willapa Bay at her Artport Gallery in Ilwaco, Wash. Also pictured is part of a steel sculpture of mother and child by Bill Atwood.

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