

## THE ART OF PORTRAITURE

**Imogen artists  
featured in Clackamas  
Community College's  
'Local Portraits NW'**

By **WILLIAM HAM**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**T**he art of portraiture is almost as old as art itself.

Two ongoing exhibits capture the evolution of the portrait, from its origins as simply a way to record a likeness to its embracing a far broader vocabulary of form and image.

Locally, the Imogen Gallery in Astoria is presenting its third annual "Facing You: An Exploration of Portraiture" exhibition through Tuesday, Dec. 5.

And, in Oregon City, "Local Portraits Northwest," an invitational exhibit by 16 artists from Oregon and Washington, is on view at Clackamas Community College's Alexander Gallery through Saturday, Dec. 9.

What these exhibits have in common is the participation of two local artists — Timothy Peitsch and

Reed Clarke — with their own distinct approaches to portraiture.

Peitsch, of Astoria, considers the portrait to be "the purest subject matter, the most recognizable," he said.

His portraits evoke the varied strains of Astorian life through the faces of everyone from North Coast home-steaders and anonymous turn-of-the-20th-century prostitutes to contemporary members of the logging and waterfront communities.

"Timothy's work is very powerful," said Chris Dreger, "Local Portraits NW" curator. "I had seen some pencil drawings he had done of dockworkers in Astoria, which were very striking. So I invited him."

A portrait, Peitsch said, is the "most enjoyable platform for me to work from."

"I've always loved the viewer's reaction to them. It

**Continued on Page 15**



COURTESY REED CLARKE

Reed Clarke poses for a photo in his studio.