



COURTESY MARK GORDON

Blown glass by Mark Gordon



COURTESY ANGELITA SURMON

"Morning Light Returns" by Angelita Surmon



COURTESY DEBORAH DEWIT

"Signs of Spring" by Deborah DeWit

"Your face is in the wind. From my house, we literally look west over the bay and the ocean. The weather is constantly coming our way," DeWit said. "There's something humbling about always being in the presence of the natural phenomenon."

Glassworks

For Bend-based artist Mark Gordon, inspiration is deeply rooted within the walls of Icefire Glassworks — the place that inspired his love for glass in the first place.

At Spring Unveiling, Gordon will add to his already consistent showing of colorful, abstract glassworks found in Cannon Beach



COURTESY MARK GORDON

Artist Mark Gordon makes works of fused glass.



COURTESY ANGELITA SURMON

Angelita Surmon is a Portland-based artist.

a position as an artist in the Bend gallery Glass Dancing, and has continued to come back every so often as a guest artist for the event he used to staff as a sales clerk.

"It's neat continuation. People who knew me when I couldn't blow glass to now ... they get to see me actually making something out of it," Gordon said. "Cannon Beach is kind of my second home. It's always been about supporting Icefire studio. If I can help that place grow that gave me my start, I'm happy to help."

'Look at things close up'


While some artists have cultivated a long relationship with the coast, others, like Angelita Surmon, will be presenting at Spring Unveiling for the first time.

A Portland-based artist, Surmon likes to explore the way light is perceived through various media, like watercolor and glass.

"I focus on the landscape close up, so it's more abstracted," Surmon said. "Quality of light in landscape is so important."

Surmon will be presenting a type of layered, abstract glasswork that requires multiple firings to create. When held up to the light, it presents as if someone painted the design upon the surface. In reality, each line, dot and stroke is made of 2 millimeter-wide glass pieces, bent and molded with intention.

In her first year, Surmon hopes to show art enthusiasts a different way of expressing, and appreciating, the landscapes around them.

"Here, there are so many grand vistas, but there are all these little places and details that are grand in their own way," she said. "I would invite the viewer to look at things close up, like you were a child." 

INFO BOX

What: Spring Unveiling Arts Festival

When: Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6

Where: Locations throughout Cannon Beach

Who: More than 30 artists will unveil new works at 15 galleries. Twenty restaurants will serve menu items inspired by new works presented at the festival. Demonstrations and unveilings will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Receptions will be held at various galleries between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday.

— a reality he never would have dreamed of when he responded to a newspaper ad for a job at the gallery 15 years ago.

"I just needed some work in my early 20s. I had just moved to the beach, needed something to do," Gordon said. "I think I was supposed to sell art. I had never sold art in my life."

But as he worked he became increasingly fascinated with glassblowing. Gallery owners Jim Kingwell and Suzanne Kindland started to show him the ropes, teaching him basics about styling and shaping glass. For six years he stayed, honing his craft in Portland art classes in his off time.

After a short break in 2009, Gordon got