

# The influence of place

Potter David Campiche, painter Eric Wiegardt featured in joint art show 'Form and Fluidity' in Ilwaco

By DWIGHT CASWELL  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Two boys became men on the Long Beach Peninsula, shooting ducks, fishing Bear River, canoeing the Willapa and Naselle rivers, and oystering on Willapa Bay. Then they set out to conquer the world.

David Campiche studied art in Paris and New York, and Eric Wiegardt went to the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Then they returned to where they began, to live a few blocks from their boyhood homes.

Between leaving and the present day, Campiche and Wiegardt became masters of their art forms.

Campiche's ceramics range from deceptively simple bowls to large complex "spirit house" sculptures; all have complex textures and colors, and many are wood-fired. Wiegardt's recent work includes acrylics, but he is best known for his watercolors, for which he has received national awards.

A joint retrospective of their work will be held in the extensive gallery space of Ilwaco's Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. The show, "Form and Fluidity," opens 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, July 27.

Why a joint show of such disparate mediums? What do these pots and paintings have in common? The influence of place — "interest in the area, the environment," Wiegardt said.

Campiche agreed: "There is a commonality in space and time, the bay and nature. It gets under your skin."

## Artist evolutions

The show includes work from their middle school years through the present, so it's possible to trace the growing depth and skill of their work over more than half a century.

"You'll notice a change in style away from more representational and academic work," Wiegardt said, "a gradual push toward more expressionist, even non-representational work."

Like most artists, in the beginning Wiegardt was training his eye to look at the world and to set things down as he saw them. By contrast, his more recent abstract work, he said, is "from the heart, representations of ideas and thoughts."

Campiche became enthralled with art in his senior year of high school, and intended to become a painter until he met master



DWIGHT CASWELL PHOTO

Potter David Campiche, left, and painter Eric Wiegardt prepare their joint retrospective show.



COURTESY ERIC WIEGARDT

'Duckhunter,' a painting by Eric Wiegardt.



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A vase and teapots by potter David Campiche.

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