

# Artist talk explores 'visceral' new show

CANNON BEACH — Christopher Mathie, of Washington, whose exhibition "Seeking Balance" is on display at Cannon Beach's White Bird Gallery, will give an artist talk at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15. A reception takes place 4 to 6 p.m.

The studio had always been a personal refuge for Mathie, a place he painted by and for himself. But after 20-plus years as a professional artist, he began feeling he'd hit a creative wall.

He broke through by inviting others in.

The watershed moment came in the creation of a piece titled "A Strong Man," inspired by a friend of Mathie's in the midst of Stage 4 cancer.

"He's this incredibly resilient person," Mathie said

of his friend. "He's upbeat. His attitude is incredible." Mathie invited his friend into the studio to explore that resilience.

"He came and sat with me and we talked and talked," Mathie remembered. "And I was taking notes, but directly on the canvas. He would say something, and I would scribble."

Mathie wasn't just transcribing what his friend said but how it made him feel. "More than an interview," Mathie said, "it was a dialogue."

And then he started painting — on the same canvas where he'd scribbled the notes. Some of that text remains visible. Along with direct outside inspiration, writing on the canvas was another first for Mathie. Suddenly his process had evolved. The creative floodgates re-opened.

"Bringing people into the studio and interviewing them, I was bringing new energy and integrating their stories into my stories," Mathie said.

Mathie used the dialogue method for another piece in response to an ailing friend.

"I had this feeling what we were doing was healing each other," Mathie said. "Her pain and my pain were being addressed at the same time."

"I realized what I was painting wasn't just about her, and not just about me,"



COURTESY WHITE BIRD GALLERY

Christopher Mathie's 'We're Here to Heal Each Other.'

he added. "Pain and healing are universal. These would have a broader reach."

These pieces form the center and the spark of "Seeking Balance."

Mathie's talk will delve deeper into the methods and stories that revitalized his work. "'We're Here to Heal Each Other,'" Mathie said, "is a piece that combines all my skills: subject, color theory, balance, abstraction, symbols, emotion. Everything I've amassed in my

toolbox is in this piece."

But really, "Seeking Balance" is about an amplification of connection in Mathie's work.

"It became more visceral," Mathie said. "This body of work was coming more from my gut, more from my heart, than ever before."

White Bird Gallery is located at 251 N. Hemlock St. For more info, visit [whitebirdgallery.com](http://whitebirdgallery.com) or call 503-436-2681.

# Crossing Clatsop in the 1800s

FORT CLATSOP — Author Jerry Sutherland returns to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop, for the park's next "In Their Footsteps" event.

At 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, Sutherland will present "Crossing Clatsop in the 1800s."

After building Fort Clatsop on the west bank of the Lewis and Clark River in December 1805, William Clark and his salt-craving men blazed a trail across Clatsop to the ocean in search of a good place to boil sea water — a trip commemorated by the Fort to Sea Trail in 2005.

In the process of determining the trail's original route and its relationship to modern Perkins Lane, Sutherland learned of involvements by Clatsop Indians as well as summer vacationers taking wagons to Seaside after arriving at Clatsop Landing on stern-wheelers.

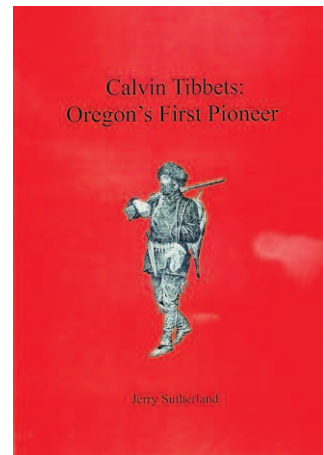
He was fascinated that the Neacoxie River's 1806 outlet into the sea, filled in soon after that by sand and diverted to the Necanicum River, had been pinpointed by geologists in 2004.

Sutherland will share all this using images of maps and original manuscripts. He will sign copies of his book and answer questions after the presentation.

Sutherland first researched early Clatsop transportation routes while writing "Calvin Tibbets: Oregon's First Pioneer" (2016).

Other upcoming "In Their Footsteps" speaker series programs include:

- Oct. 21: "Altho' no regular botanist" — Jefferson's Reference to Lewis by Carol Lucas
- Nov. 18: "John Colter,



'Calvin Tibbets: Oregon's First Pioneer' by Jerry Sutherland.



COURTESY COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

Author Jerry Sutherland.

Servant of the Corps" by Christopher Hodges

- Dec. 16: "Let's Talk about Hummingbirds" by Barbara Linnett

- Jan. 20: "Historic Winter Transportation" by Richard Brenne

This forum, taking place the third Sunday of the month, is sponsored by the park and Lewis & Clark National Park Association. These programs are held in the Netul River Room of Fort Clatsop's visitor center and are free of charge.

For more information, call the park at 503-861-2471, or check out [nps.gov/lewi](http://nps.gov/lewi) or Lewis and Clark National Historical Park on Facebook.

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Homemade crafts & baked goods sale, 10-5, Sept. 29

### Cannon Beach Library

131 N. Hemlock, Cannon Beach (503-436-1391)

Place bids & buy drawing tickets at library, Sept. 1-29

