

HEARTFELT FELTED ART

Robin Montero's woolly creations on view at Cannon Beach museum through November

By **NANCY McCARTHY**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Poseidon awaits. His face is in profile, eyes focused ahead, his white hair flowing back in felted woolly waves, outlined against a black background.

"He's my favorite," said Seaside textile artist Robin Montero, who nods at the felted head of the Greek god of the sea.

"He's the one that told me I could do this," she said. "He's the one who gave me the confidence to keep going."

The bas relief sculpture, along with several other of Montero's wall hangings, all formed with felted wool, are on exhibit at the Cannon Beach History Center & Museum through November. She also has a show at SunRose Gallery in Seaside.

Her innovative pieces reflect Montero's imagination, skill and experimentation with a variety of techniques.

Montero, a former professional theater costume designer, knows how to work with fabric, but she had never encountered felted wool until she "stumbled" across it while talking to a woman in a fabric shop. After reading some books, she thought, "I could do this."

"When I discovered this, the very first thing I made was a sand dollar. And then I wanted to do something more dimensional. I thought, 'Well, I can draw faces, so why don't we try a face?'"

Poseidon hooked her.

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COURTESY CANNON BEACH
HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM
**Robin Montero textile
art of Poseidon.**