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Connection to the area

Millard's mother's family had property on the Long Beach Peninsula and Millard often came to the beach in the summer as a child.

Both Millard's parents were artists. Her mother grew up near Portland and graduated from the Portland Art Museum's Art School, now the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Her father was a ceramic artist and started the Oregon Ceramic Studio.

Millard was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas, and went to the University of Kansas where she studied the history of photography, which led her to a career as an arts professional focusing on prints, drawings and contemporary art.

Millard built a house in Washington in 2002 and

lives near Osterville on the Willapa Bay.

Astoria's art scene

Millard said there are more artists in Astoria now than when she moved to the area 20 years ago. She said opportunities have gotten better for artists.

"Ever since I got here I was amazed at the people and the level of work being done here," she said.

Millard recognizes that it can be difficult for artists to make art that isn't related to the beauty of the landscape or that challenges it.

She said it can be hard for artists to have their work seen even in a small town, and said shows like this offer an opportunity for viewers to learn about the AVA.

"I hope people will come away knowing that AVA is vital and exists and what it does for artists," she said. 



Betsy Millard admires a model train set and diorama display at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. Colin Murphey



Jonathan Williams

Betsy Millard, who is jurying Astoria Visual Arts' upcoming exhibition 'My Secret Astoria.'



Betsy Millard discusses a display in the museum. Colin Murphey

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