



'Sunset Seagull' by James Tweedie, featured in 'Sidekicks: Visions of the Pacific Northwest'

Continued from Page 4

"It's a human statement. It says I care," he said. "These are difficult times, everything seems to split up and everyone's angry. It's nice to set it aside and write a poem."

Connected by poetry

The book opens with a preface that states, "Both artists scratch at the surface of the road less traveled, because interpretation also remains flexible and definable to each person's private reflections."

The pair's different backgrounds influenced their relationship to poetry. Tweedie is a pastor and Campiche a potter. They reflect on their experiences through writing.

Campiche started writing poems in high school. He has spent 60 years since practicing. Campiche said the similarity between pottery and poetry is that they

both take years of practice. When writing, he often references a lesson he learned from the famous ceramic artist Toshiko Takaezu — you'll need to throw away the first 10,000 pieces you make.

Tweedie also began writing poetry in high school. He was able to practice in ministry, mostly writing song lyrics. He's recently taken poetry more seriously. Within the last five years, he started publishing his work through his own press, the Dunecrest Press. "Sidekicks" is Tweedie's third collection of poetry. He has also published six novels and a collection of short stories on Long Beach, Washington.

As for their friendship, Tweedie said "as long as he keeps cooking me breakfast," they'll get along just fine.

"Food leads people to good friendships. So does good wine but this is a different front altogether," Campiche said.



'Koi fish in pond with leaves' by David Campiche is included in 'Sidekicks: Visions of the Pacific Northwest'

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