



ABOVE: Gheri Fouts' 'Pilot Boat' is showcased in Trail's End Art Association. **TOP:** Gheri Fouts.

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From photograph to canvas

Fouts often carries a camera to remind her of the scene that prompted her to paint.

Many of her shots are captured in excursions to locations where Fouts takes a group of North Coast painters. They may visit the Astoria Riverwalk one week and the Uppertown Firefighters Museum the next. Even on foggy, rainy days, the artists might head to the Astoria Column.

While painting, Fouts always asks, "Do you see what I see?"

"We're all looking at the same thing," Fouts said. "We all live on the coast. We all have a slightly different interpretation

of our surroundings. When I'm painting, that's what I always think of: 'This is what I see,' and hopefully people who look at my paintings understand that. There's a message there."

Reflecting on the past

Fredrikson's work carries a message that reaches back to her childhood. She wants her audience to pay attention to what they might ignore.

"When I was young, I had an experience that was a spiritual experience," she said. "For a second I saw what was behind everything — the life force that fills everything. I went outside and felt like I had never seen anything before — I had never looked, everything was new.

I'm always trying to capture something that people cannot see. I want people to see what's under our feet that we don't notice."

Although she began as a calligrapher, Fredrikson, of Warrenton, said she always wanted to draw and paint. A teacher introduced her to watercolor.

"I went in that direction and never looked back," Fredrikson said. "I like the process. It's engaging partly because of the unpredictably, versatility and transparency."

Fredrikson likes to paint wild plants and flowers, like white trilliums with shaded green leaves against luminous, multi-colored backgrounds. Fredrikson's blue teapot with yellow pears is a homey

still-life she especially enjoys.

A joint effort

Both women credit other Trail's End Art Association members for encouraging them and instructing them. Fredrikson, in fact, was one of Fouts' early teachers.

"I've always loved the way she handles watercolors," Fouts said. "She does flowers — oh gosh, can she do flowers."

Fredrikson, who was influenced by local artists, including Lois Erickson and Jo Pomeroy-Crockett, calls Trail's End Art Association a "community."

"It's one of the few places where the minute you start painting you can show what you've done," Fredrikson said. "You learn a lot from other people."