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“Momentary Collapse” is Trask’s response to living in Astoria near the Columbia River during the coronavirus pandemic, she said.

The installation is made up of two pieces, each 16 feet by 3 feet. Technically, that’s 32 feet of painting, Trask said.

To create the pieces, she used anything that was water soluble, including coffee, acrylic paint, graphite, ink and watercolors.

Trask started working on it about nine months ago.

Since Trask was young, words have been hard to come by to express feelings and emotions. She started painting in her late 20s. Abstract art helped her express feelings she had never been able to express before.

Dawn Stetzel, of the Sou’Wester, said Trask has been on the gallery’s radar for some time. The owners originally approached Trask to do a show before the pandemic started, but COVID-19 threw everything off. But now is the perfect time to install this new show, Stetzel said.

“We want shows that are specific to where we’re headed, as a culture and as a universe,” she said. “This is a nice launch to that theme moving forward.”

If You Go

‘Momentary Collapse’

On view now through Feb. 28 at the Sou’Wester Lodge, 3728 J Place, Seaview, Washington

The gallery is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday and by request. To schedule a visit, call the lodge at 360-642-2542. All visitors must wear masks. Entry is limited to one person, couple or family at a time.

Trask said she was drawn to make the piece based on the experience of being in the natural environment the Columbia River provides for the people of Astoria and surrounding areas.

Daily living during an experience like this one feels very traumatic, so Trask said she likes the juxtaposition of that feeling and the awe-inspiring natural environments of the area.

There is no other way for Trask to express those feelings than through abstract art, she said.



Kirista Trask works in her studio.



A piece shown in Trask’s ‘Momentary Collapse’ exhibit.

The Illahee Apartments



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