

NEW EXHIBIT SHOWCASES LOCAL INDIGENOUS ART

Works celebrate native culture in the Pacific Northwest

BY KATHERINE LACAZE

The voices and perspectives of Indigenous people, often underrepresented or excluded in the fine arts world, have been given a platform via a new exhibition in Astoria.

If You Go

Phot-Choch exhibition

Open to view from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and by appointment

Located at the historic Anita Building, 1312 Commercial Street

“The opportunity to literally be visible for an Indigenous artist is so big,” said curator Steph Littlebird. “It’s transformative in so many ways.”

The *Phot-Choch* exhibition, which opened June 12 at the historic Anita Building, will run through the summer. The show features a vast array of work by local artists.

Showcased pieces include traditional and contemporary art, including weaving, carv-

ing, beadwork, painting and photography. The exhibition honors members of the Chinook Indian Nation who identify the Columbia-Pacific region as their ancestral homeland. It includes the work of roughly a dozen Indigenous artists, most of whom are local.

Phot-Choch is the Chinook word for Fort George, a name applied by French-Canadian settlers. While this area is commonly known now as Astoria, it was originally Clatsop Chinook territory. According to Littlebird, the title for this show was chosen with guidance from Tony Johnson, chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation.

Developing the show

Funding for the *Phot-Choch* exhibition came from a Precipice Grant. Liz Harris, owner of the gallery space, and Patricia Vázquez Gómez, a curator and artist in Portland, applied for the grant and selected Littlebird to curate the collection.

They were familiar with Littlebird’s previous curatorial work with Five Oak Museum’s “This IS Kalapuyan Land” exhibit in

See Page 7



Art hangs along a wall in the exhibit.



A display inside the exhibit.




marie
POWELL
GALLERY

ORIGINAL FINE ART

on the waterfront
port of ilwaco, wa

marie-powell.com
360-244-0800

