



Woodblock prints by Karina Andrews hang on the walls of Cambium Gallery in Astoria.

Photos by Lissa Brewer/The Astorian

CONNECTING ELEMENTS

Cambium Gallery connects art, coffee and community



By LISSA BREWER The Astorian

ambium Gallery's interest lies in the art of connection, at times an abstract process. The Astoria space opened its doors to quiet streets, scheduling virtual studio tours and artist talks amid the pandemic. Now, from a window seat beside a display of woodblock seascapes, the concept of connection solidifies. Ceramic mugs, crafted by sculptor and gallery co-owner Audrey Long, sit in rows by the gallery's front door. Sunlight pours into the open space, reaching back into its newest addition, a coffee shop. "It's an energy that you can share, whether it's a caffeinated beverage or a handmade cup, or a print," said Kirista Trask, an abstract painter who co-owns the gallery with Long. The two have plans to start a mug program, connecting regular customers with a handmade piece to reuse each time they visit. "There's something about drinking out of a handmade object," Long said. "You get to experience through somebody else's hands a beverage that's also made by somebody else's hands." The gallery has plans for a variety of signature drinks, "coftails" as Long describes them. "They're pulling from reminiscent cocktails that you'd order in a bar but they're nonalcoholic, so they're just completely coffee forward, like a coffee old-fashioned," Long said.



Woodblock prints by Karina Andrews sit on display at Cambium Gallery.

BREWS				
HOUSE COFFEE	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.50	
AMERICANO	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.50	
ESPRESSO	\$3.00			
CORTADO	\$3.50			
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A coffee cocktail known as The Cabin Door was named by a customer.



Ceramic artist and gallery co-owner Audrey Long stands by her handmade mugs.

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Kirista Trask stands beside her abstract painting.