

## Art

## ONDA: art with a voice

BY DANNY BELL  
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

ONDA art gallery, located at 2215 NE Alberta, offers art that traverses a terrain from eclectic furniture to wood paintings of Ecuadorian folk art of rural Indians. Allan Oliver, a former ordained minister and missionary, has brought a unique perspective to Alberta Street — which is experiencing an emergence of art galleries, restaurants and other commercial enterprises.

Oliver, whose vocational background is in graphic design and fabric, says he focuses on the contemporary. He went into discussion about commercial art being "modern" which shares a commonality with popular art. His idea is that art may also be an investment economically and have broad appeal and yet be more on the cutting edge of how art is rendered. These are the kinds of pieces he

seeks out.

Drawing on his experience as a missionary based in Latin America, Oliver often utilizes his contacts there to exhibit Latino and sometimes Cuban work. In June, he had a showing of Ecuadorian wood paintings at very affordable prices. Another point of interest is that Oliver exhibits a lot of functional art such as beds, coffee and cocktail tables, pottery, and room divider screens. The screens in many cases are his own work in fabric. Recently, Oliver has moved more toward showing paintings. He recently exhibited a group by a young artist, Karn Piana, which made powerful social and emotional statements. Oliver observed that, even though there is an evolution of enterprise on Alberta, he hopes the neighborhood can retain its indigenous flavor similar to that of the Hawthorne area or the Alberta neighborhood of 40 years ago. True



Owner, Allan Oliver with a functional artwork clock — one of many items of artistic expression in his gallery.

to his socially conscious roots, he would like to see basically what is

evolving — a community that is reflective of an international

composition. ONDA and Oliver communicate through art a message that man does not live on bread alone, that the emotional and spiritual aspects in our lives also play parts in our well-being.

## Grand Ronde Tribes' gift to Portland Art Museum

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Calling it "a way to share the spirit of native peoples," the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced that it will donate \$500,000 to the Portland Art Museum through its Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The recent gift, and an earlier one for \$500,000, is being used to create the museum's new Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art, which is part of the museum's two-year renovation of the Hoffman Wing. The center will provide more than 7,000 square feet of exhibition space and state-of-the-art installations so museum visitors for the first time will gain a true sense of the scope and importance of the museum's Native American Collection.

"Art tells us so much about the people who came before us," said Kathryn Harrison, chair of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. "This is a wonderful way to share the spirit of native peoples. Since the termination of our Tribe in 1954, Tribal members have been working hard to reclaim and reconnect with our unique past. We welcome the chance to be partners with the talented people at the Portland Art Museum who also are committed to sharing the stories of native people. The Grand Ronde Center is part of the museum's two-year "Project for the Millennium," which includes a new Center for Northwest Art, new

galleries for special exhibitions, a community education center, a state-of-the-art auditorium, a newly renovated outdoor sculpture garden and an increased operating endowment. A Community Grand Opening Celebration is planned for August 19-20. A Community Day to celebrate the Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art will be held Saturday, August 26.

The Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art will feature exhibition space and installations conceived by Curator Bill Mercer and designed by Clifford Lafontaine. It occupies the entire second floor of the new wing, along with part of the third. Some 375 works of art, drawn from virtually every major cultural group in North America, will be placed on view. Two galleries will feature pieces from the tribes that lived along the Oregon and Washington coast, the Willamette Valley and along the Columbia River. Plaques will acknowledge all of Oregon's federally recognized tribes.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde created the Spirit Mountain Community Fund in 1997 as a way for Tribal members to practice their age-old traditions of sharing and giving back. Each year, the Community Fund distributes 6 percent of the profits from Spirit Mountain Casino. Since its inception, the Community Fund has given more than \$9 million to a variety of non-profit organizations. The fund has given \$2.4 million to

education, including major gifts to the Oregon Children's Foundation's SMART reading program, Oregon Public Broadcasting, OMSI, Western Oregon University and Young Audiences. A Community Fund grant allowed Life Flight to purchase a guidance system and build weather stations so it could answer emergency calls during inclement weather. In addition, the Community Fund recently gave \$270,000 to help Raphael House in Portland dramatically increase its capacity to provide shelter for abused women and their children. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is a confederation of the tribes that inhabited the valleys of Western Oregon from what is now the California border to present-day Portland. Its principal tribes are the Kalapuya, Molalla, Chasta, Umpqua and Rogue River, with several other smaller bands and tribes. The Confederated Tribes were formed in the winter of 1856 when the federal government forced member tribes to cede their ancestral lands and relocate to a 60,000-acre reservation in Oregon's Coast Range. The Grand Ronde reservation was decreased over the years until the U.S.

government terminated the Tribe in 1954. Through the hard work of Tribal members, federal recognition was restored in 1983.

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