

Linda Cromer's watercolor show opens at Pendleton Center for the Arts



Linda Cromer/Contributed image

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PENDLETON — An exhibit of Linda Cromer's watercolors is now on display in the Lorenzen Gallery at the Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. Admission is free.

Cromer started painting at her mother's knee, sitting on the floor dabbing at old canvas boards with her old worn brushes. While her materials have improved greatly, one thing hasn't — she finds painting to be great fun.

Cromer grew up in the Midwest dreaming of becoming an artist and living in Greenwich Village. After graduating from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), she moved west to Arizona, traveling through Mexico and Central America. She returned to New York and eventually to Greenwich Village, fulfilling the childhood dream. She painted still life and floral watercolors there until her recent move to the Northwest to be near family. Cromer's brother, Bruce Barnes, made special arrangements for the work to be available in Pendleton.

Cromer exhibits her work at traditional venues across the country and internationally, and she has also participated in a large number of outdoor fairs and festivals in and around New York. Working on very thick and sturdy 100% cotton paper in large format, she combines the organic forms of cut flowers with the flowing lines of rich textiles.

According to a PCA press release, still life painting dates to the Middle Ages and gained prominence as artists grew increasingly interested in creating realistic studies of everyday items. The genre often shares commonalities with botanical illustration. Edouard Manet once called still life "the touchstone of painting."

"Watercolor has virtues; the clarity of color being primary one, and to my mind, that is the whole point of painting," Cromer said. "It's all about color and the pleasure of the act of painting."

Cromer's work will be on view through Dec. 31. The center's hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and noon-4 p.m. on Saturday. More information is available at www.pendletonarts.org.

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