



Kathleen Ellvn/Chieftain

Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain Wallowa artist David Reinke puts finishing touches on a more abstract painting. Many of his paintings are commissions of

This watercolor of a scene in Wallowa County is an example of the pastoral work David Reinke enjoys doing

about working from a photo-

graph because his method is

to "connect" to something he

this guy, what does he mean

to the person who commis-

"I want to know, who is

That might take some

"I want to find something

Other times he's drawn to

that I relate to and that's what

the architectural construction

of the subject - even if that

construction is a natural for-

els he sold paintings in Taos,

Bend, Loveland, Colo., and

Over his lifetime and trav-

I put on the canvas."

mation in nature.

sees in the individual.

sioned it?"

time, he said.

people of places and are much more detailed.

Artist finds inspiration in county

## **By Kathleen Ellyn** Wallowa County Chieftain

Dennis Reinke is not exactly a new artist in the area he's a returned artist. Returning to the county is a theme for many here.

Twenty years ago, he had a studio and gallery behind Stewart's Jewelry in Joseph. And he was a well-known architect in the area at the time, as well. He worked for Bill Bronson of Bronson Log Homes and is the designer of the Creating Memories lodge, Lightning Creek Ranch house and guest quarters and other local landmarks.

"I still work every once in a while for Bronson's (now owned by Dean Hines)" he admitted.

But life carried him away to other locations, other galleries, new artistic communities and friends.

Once one begins to know artists, one finds that it's not that unusual for architects to turn to art. Reinke is one such character. In fact, Reinke was never trained as an artist. He was trained as a bricklayer and stonemason and architect

"I've always been more artistic, it's always been in the back of my head to do art," he recalled. "My goal was to retire by 50 and be an artist."

And when he turned 50 he began his art career in earnest.

He is proficient in many styles including hand cast paper bas reliefs, bronze sculpture, abstract acrylics and others, but enjoys plein air painting the most – and many of those pieces are done in watercolor.

"Because of my work in architecture it was an easy transition to watercolor," he said.

Nowadays many of his paintings are commissions of homesteads, animals and wildlife and some are memorial portraits or family portraits he is able to create either from a collection of good photographs or in life. He is not at all concerned

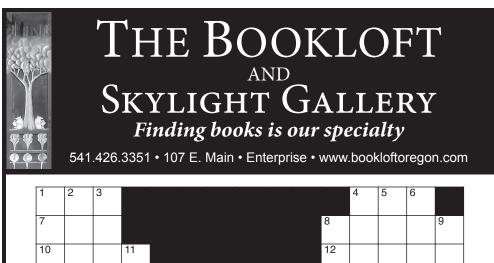


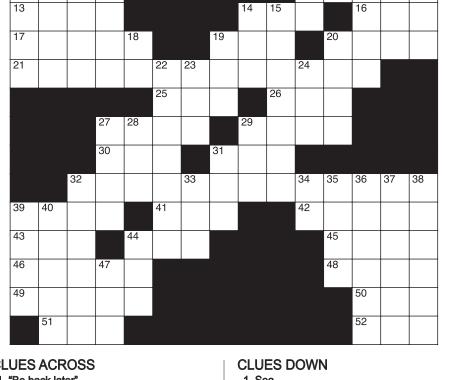
For a time he settled in Loveland, Colo., and opened his own gallery, "Grassworks Studio." Loveland, much like Joseph, was an art town with three foundries and a community of about 150 artists. In fact, most of the places he lived while he was away from the county were artistic places, and he found the community of sharing evident among artists was very important to him.

So, when he and wife Nancy decided to move out of Colorado and find a more remote location he began looking, not just for the wilderness he loved, but for a community of sharing where a man and woman could live "small" and be engaged in what mattered to them.

The Reinkes could have lived anywhere, but after they drove 6,000 miles looking for the perfect place, Nancy said, "let's look at that lot on East Second Street in Wallowa again.'

So the Reinkes came home in 2013. At first they lived in the old saddle shop on E Street in Joseph, and Dennis put his artwork in Kelly's Gallery. But soon they were in their dream cottage with a studio attached - one that Dennis had designed – in the city of Wallowa Now 76, Reinke is pleased to be at home in what he hopes is his dream location and life, "doing art just for the love of it." He has time for his studies on early civilizations.





"Did you know that Chief Joseph wore an amulet from

2042 BC?" he asked. He studies the Bible with an analytical eye, an anthropological understanding and a heart for spirituality.

"I love Bible study," he said.

He reads new books on social psychology.

He writes poetry.

And he continues to make art in a variety of mediums.

"I love doing paintings of the people and the landscapes of Wallowa County," he said. "It's not about the money. I don't have to make a lot of money - and I don't," he laughed. "I'm not out to make awards anymore (though he does win awards for his Wallowa County paintings). I've never been an elitist when it came to anything. I've been around a lot of sharing artists, (painter) Clyde Aspevig was a good mentor – and I see that sharing very much in the community of Wallowa."

Nancy fits in as well. She has an interest in small dwellings and has an international blog on small homes "Ajoyfulcottage.com."

She is also an accomplished crafter and makes tied rugs, which Wallowa Countians may have seen at the Joseph Christmas Bazaar last December.

You can learn more about Dennis and his art by visiting Dennis Reinke Artist on facebook or DennisReinke.com.

## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. "Be back later"
- 4. Hoover's office
- 7. Brew
- 8. Philo and Reglis are two ("Star Wars")
- 10. Actress Remini
- 12. Moghul emperor
- 13. Alaskan glacier 14. Constrictor
- 16. Prohibit
- 17. Ancient Brittonic tribe
- 19. Chinese pastry
- 20. Razorbill is of this genus
- 21. Beloved holiday decoration
- 25. Dutch football club
- 26. Aggressive dog
- 27. Small piece of glass
- 29. "South Park" creator \_\_ Parker
- 30. Leisure activity
- 31. Someone's story
- 32. Record-setting swimmer
- 39. Hillside
- 41. Unit of measurement 42. Famous for its potatoes
- 43. Insect secretion
- 44. Gate in Marrakesh
- 45. Cain and
- 46. A set of moral principles
- 48. Repair
- 49. Two-terminal semicondcutor device
- 50. Strongly alkaline solution
- 51. Former CIA
- 52. Satellite laser ranging

- 1. Sea
- 2. Cleans things
- 3. More skinny
- 4. Supervises flying
- 5. Talk rapidly and excitedly
- 6. Intestinal
- 8. Don't know when yet
- 9. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 11. Chinese and Vietnamese ethnic group
- 14. Wild cattle genus
- 15. Rock formation
- 18. Makes up
- 19. Resembles a pouch 20. Having an aerial quality
- 22. Windpipe
- 23. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- 24. Bitterly regret
- 27. Soft creamy white cheese
- 28. Renamed when EU was incorporated
- 29. '\_\_\_ death do us part
- 31. Sound unit
- 32. Men proud of their masculinity
- 33. Clergy member's vestment
- 34. Hello
- 35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls 36. Marks
- 37. Derived from benzene
- 38. Low-melting alloy
- 39. Lost blood
- 40. Quantitative relation
- 44. Academic degree
- 47. Many subconsciousses