



Students and faculty at museum art unveiling. Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Students' glass-cast art featured at the museum

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The Museum at Warm Springs hosted an unveiling of artwork created as part of a glass-casting workshop last week.

The unveiling revealed pieces completed as part of the "Journeys in Creativity: Explorations in Native American Art and Culture" program through the Oregon College of Art and Craft.

Felisia Red Dog, 17, and Della Squiemphen, 19, both participated in the program and unveiled their artwork at the museum last week.

Red Dog said her father was a painter, and that is what prompted her to become interested in artistic mediums.

"I kind of just got into art," she said. Drawing is her chosen medium.

She chose to create her piece, which she calls "Star in the Night," because of the design aspect.

The piece is a square shape that features a geometric design in the glass. "My whole family is always working with designs," she explained.

Red Dog said her favorite part of the class involved creating the mold.

Squiemphen created a piece that features the head of an Indian girl with a feather. She calls it "Onward Toward the Sunset."

Squiemphen said she chose to create the piece because it represents "just the beauty of a Native girl."

Her favorite part involved taking the piece out of the mold to see what it looked like, she said.

Squiemphen mainly draws and paints. "I've always been an artist," she said.

In her opinion, the class offered a welcome change of pace.

"It was actually something different," she said. "It was something I'd never done before."

With the program, teachers and chaperones also had the opportunity to create artwork with the help of Scott Schroeder, an artist who works with glass.

The students traveled to the OCAC campus for two days of molding recently—but it's all part of a very long process, Schroeder said.

After that, the pieces had to spend a week being heated in a kiln. In fact, the students only finished their projects shortly before they unveiled them at the Museum at Warm Springs.

"The first day we had to think up something to make—which takes the most time," Schroeder said.

But after some hard work from the students, he said, "I was thrilled with how the pieces turned out."

While the program was originally only open to students from Warm Springs, it is now open to Native American students throughout the country.

The program originally began in 2004 after the late Apolonia Susanna Santos, an alumna of OCAC, decided to seek opportunities for local students interested in art.

This year OCAC will complete two programs: in addition to the advanced program in class casting, they will host another camp for students that will involve photography in October.

The pieces created in the workshop will be displayed at the museum throughout the summer.

News from Indian Country

Nez Perce to rebuild sweat lodge

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) — A Nez Perce Tribe sweat lodge damaged by a flash flood two years ago is being rebuilt with about \$80,000 supplied by the tribe, state of Idaho and the federal government.

"For us, it's really the recognition that the people that believe within the traditional circle of life, they still exist," Virgil Holt Sr. told the Lewiston Tribune.

The May 2005 flood caused about \$40,000 in damage to the sweat lodge and more than \$1 million in damage to Nez Perce County roads, bridges and culverts.

After the flood, President Bush signed a federal disaster declaration, a move that pro-

vided federal money for repairs.

Holt is working with the Spring Creek Society, a group of tribal members who want to preserve sweat lodge practices.

"It's a place where you go and cleanse, whether its physically, spiritually," he said.

Taking part in the project are the tribe, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Work also includes installing a new highway culvert system that will let fish move upstream.

"In terms of this kind of structure, I've never encountered a request from Idaho from one of the Indian nations,"

said Bill Bishop, director of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. "I was certainly pleased to support the tribes request in this regard."

Bishop said the new lodge is designed to be less vulnerable to floods.

The 50-foot by 50-foot sweat lodge is being designed in the manner of a traditional Nez Perce winter lodge. Holt said it will be stronger than the lodge that was destroyed in the flood.

"Flood, wind, this building hopefully will be able to withstand quite an impact from adverse weather conditions," Holt said. The area where the sweat lodge is being built has been the site of numerous sweat lodges in the past, Holt said.

Muscogee Nation gets \$3.8 million federal grant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Oklahoma-based Muscogee (Creek) Nation will receive a \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to be used for technology-driven regional education and economic development activities, U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said Friday.

The tribe, which has its headquarters in Okmulgee, is working with the non-profit Global Trade and Technology Corp. to improve education and career opportunities in the tribe's 11-county region in eastern Oklahoma.

No credit applications till August

The tribal Credit Department is not accepting applications through July 31, 2007, because of the current backlog.

The only exception is funeral loan requests.

Other applications may be turned in starting August 1.

Residents invited to fair event

Jefferson's County Connection invites the community to Girl's Night Out on July 17.

The event will take place at the Rodriguez Annex, next to the library, at SE E Street and 7th Street.

The event aims at getting ready for the county fair. The cost of attending is \$8.50.

For more information, call Patsy at 475-5713 or Sue at 475-3184.

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Legal Aid in Warm Springs

Legal Aid Services of Oregon, which provides free legal advice and representation to low-income Oregonians, is in Warm Springs the first Monday of every month, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Family Resource Center, 1144 Warm Springs Street.

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