

# Meet two more artists joining Backstreet Gallery

FLORENCE — This month, come welcome the artwork of John Leasure and Judy Fleagle to Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St., in Old Town.

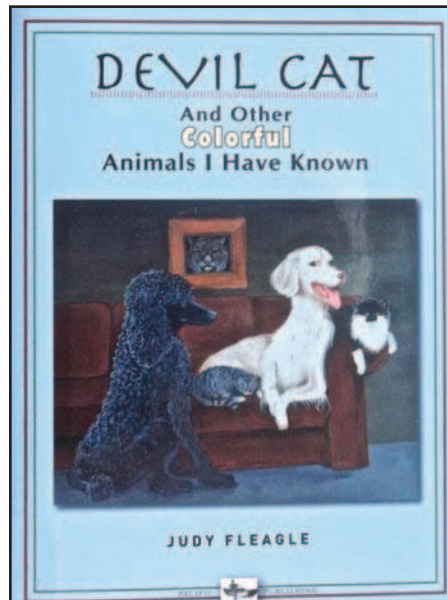
Originally from California, Leasure had an interest in painting at an early age. He is a self-taught artist. His exceptional oil painting style captures his subject in stunning light that strengthens the details of his painting.

He is an excellent teacher who leads his students to create high quality paintings.

“I like to bring a simple approach to creating colorful works of art,” says Leasure, who holds classes at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), 120 Maple St.

Through his cabinet-making business, Leasure’s artistic talents joined with his brother’s as they enriched homes with the beauty of wood.

Leasure is a board member of FRAA. His paintings can be seen at the Dunes Café, FRAA Art Center and on Facebook.com. His dynamic work has



COURTESY PHOTOS

“Devil Cat” by author Judy Fleagle (left) and artwork by John Leasure (right)

also been shown at the Florence Events Center and Peace Harbor Hospital gallery.

“I like to create, when possible, pictures that capture a higher plane in color, light and nature, than those memories of experience,” Leasure says. “My hope is that you see what I see.”

Author Judy Fleagle is the “Bridge Lady.” Her book, “Crossings: McCullough’s Coastal Bridges” and “The Crossings Guide to Oregon’s Coastal Spans” earned her that title.

These books cover the history and the building of the handsome bridges. They

also contain structural plans and stunning photos. Take one along to enhance your drive along the Oregon coast.

Her book, “Images of America Around Florence” is about our special city. After many citizen interviews and much research, Judy produced a history that spans more than a century of Florence’s growth.

Photos from 1876 to the present chronicle the development of the fishing industries, the lumber mills, the building of the bridge and much more.

Her latest book, “Devil Cat and Other Colorful Animals I’ve Known,” is a memoir of pets she has rescued. Discover how the Devil Cat fits in her story.

Fleagle is a captivating speaker thanks to her teaching years in Los Gatos, Calif. After teaching, she spent 21 years as an editor and staff writer for Oregon Coast and Northwest travel magazines.

Stop by Backstreet Gallery, where you will find the work of these talented new members.

## FEC’s ‘ARTISTIC VISIONS’ WINNERS ANNOUNCED

FLORENCE — The January exhibit “Artistic Visions” at the Florence Events Center featured a wide variety of 2-D, photography, and 3-D artworks in Galleries One and Five.

At the awards reception, first place winners received \$150 each, as well as a gold ribbon.

Silvia Trijillo won the 2-dimensional award for her painting “Equinox.” Stephanie Ames won the photography award for her photograph “Singularity.”

David Johnsen won the 3-dimensional award for his walking stick “Falling Leaves.”

Honorable Mention ribbons went to artists Collen Goodwin, Julie Strecker, Julie Ripley, Lin-Su Nordin, Ben Cahoon, Patricia Ball, Stephanie Ames, Stephen Jones, Patrice Lampton, Ken



COURTESY PHOTO

Liz Walker, Judge Susan Lehman, Claudia Brown, and photography first-place winner Stephanie Ames

McDougal, Amy Rickford and Mike Shoys.

Judges for the show were Susan Lehman from Bandon, 2-D; Mack Holman from Gardiner, 3-D; and Susie Morrill and Donna Gilhousen from Eugene, photography.

Coordinators of this awards show were FEC Gallery Committee members Claudia Brown and Liz Walker, and sponsors were the Friends of the FEC.