

Library features fiber art FRAA to host statewide poetry festival in May

FLORENCE — Siuslaw Public Library is exhibiting artwork by local artist Lauren Wold through May 14.

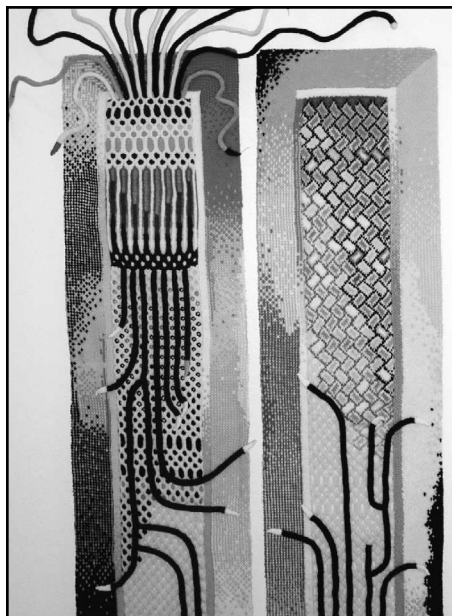
Five pieces are on display in various areas of the library's Florence location, 1460 Ninth St. These large-format abstract works demonstrate Wold's unique approach to using knitting techniques to create original fine art.

Wold describes her technique as reimagining the expressive possibilities of knitting to create fiber art.

"Knitting techniques can be used to produce works of art that have qualities of painting and sculpture," said Wold. "The versatile characteristics of knitted yarn allows one to explore color, shape, pattern and texture in a traditionally craft-focused medium."

Wold's mother taught her basic knitting techniques when she was 5 years old.

"Knitting has always been a satisfying activity for me. Over the years, though, I felt the need to go beyond the usual forms associated with functional knitting," said Wold. "I became intrigued with a wider artistic expression using the techniques with which I was familiar. Knitting, once



Fiber artwork by Lauren Wold

liberated from its constraints, allows for wide creative possibilities of pure artistic expression."

Wold's art will be on display at the Siuslaw Public Library through Saturday, May 14. For more information, contact the library at 541-997-3132.

FLORENCE — The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) has announced it is organizing a statewide poetry festival, Big Wave Poetry Fest, on May 7.

The major event is a Spoken Word Poetry contest or "slam" with a cash prize of \$500, the largest cash prize for poetry in the state. In addition, second place will receive \$250, along with \$100 for third prize.

The competition will begin at 6 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. in Florence.

Poets can register online at www.fraaoregon.org. Registration fee is \$15 and there is a limit of 40 contestants, so poets are urged to register early.

There will also be a Youth Spoken Word Poetry Contest, held earlier in the day at 2 p.m., also at the FEC. It is open to those age 18 and younger, with a \$100 prize for first place.

The top three youth will also perform at the main event that evening.

"This is just the beginning for this

event. We already have plans for additional events for next year in addition to the Spoken Word Poetry Contests," said Bettie Egerton, chairwoman of the poetry fest. "Some day, we hope Florence will be known just as much for spoken word poetry as it is for other art forms."

"If you have never heard spoken word poetry, you are in for a treat — it ain't your grandma's poetry."

Spoken word poetry is raw with emotion, full of real-life stories and struggles and most of all inspiration.

Sponsors for this event include Les Schwab Tires, Hoagland Properties (Old Town Inn and Riverhouse Inn), NW Inspection Services, Organic Pest Control, Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Linda Bishop, Jill Hardin, Bettie Egerton and FRAA.

A grant from Lane County Tourism Projects provided start-up funds for this first event.

For more information, go online to www.fraaoregon.org.



Community Chorus of Florence
presents

Irving Berlin
New Director: Jennifer Weier

meets

Uncle Sam




**Tickets: \$10 Adults,
Children Free**

Sunday, May 1, 2 p.m. at Florence Events Center

**Performance Guests: FloTones, Encore Dancers,
CROW Kids, Siuslaw High School Chamber Choir**

Anne

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Like Cahoon, this is his first LRP play, and he has reached above and beyond to relate with his character.

These three young actors are in the midst of many talented performers, who have offered mentorship on and off the stage.

Additional cast members include:

Otto Frank (Dana Rodet); Edith Frank (Kate Gibson); Mr. Van Daan (Jim Wellington); Mrs. Van Daan (Jackie Crave); Mr. Dussel (Grant Harmond); Miep Gies (Trudie Cahoon); Mr. Kraler (Paul Deemer); and Nazi Officers (James Bonisteel and Jamison Smith).

"The Diary of Anne Frank" will be performed April 22-24 and 29-30 at the Florence Events Center. Show times are 7 p.m. for Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. for Sunday.

Tickets are available now at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. Box office hours are Monday through



Brooklyn Cahoon, Memphis Gliewe and Kyle Hight in their roles as "Margot Frank," "Anne Frank" and "Peter Van Daan," respectively

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit www.eventcenter.org.

For more information, call the FEC at 541-997-1994.

HAVE AN EVENT OR ANNOUNCEMENT?

Send information to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

Deadline is the 15th of every month.