

Before Time Began: paintings by Jesse Reno

COOS BAY — Coos Art Museum presents “Before Time Began,” a solo exhibition of paintings by Portland-based artist Jesse Reno, now through June 25.

Inspired by primitive art, mythology and the painting process, self-taught artist Jesse Reno creates large and compelling mixed media paintings.

Jesse’s painting style is exuberant and intuitive. He uses acrylic paint on wood and, sometimes, paper, putting down one

color and then another, often using his hands and fingers.

He lays down the colors without planning, putting one color next to another — and that, he explains, is the key.

Later, he reworks each section of the painting finding ideas in the media and process as each painting develops.

Quoting writer Rice Freeman-Zachery, “He does this over and over until he loves what he sees. It’s not enough for

him to merely like what he’s done; he wants to push past that until he loves it.”

A highly prolific artist, his work can be found in: fine art galleries, on city walls, skate decks, books, magazines and in private collections around the world.

In addition to many solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States he has exhibited in France, Mexico, Canada and Portugal.

“We are more likely to move with feel-

ing when we are not afraid, over time creating images and ideas beyond our own imaginations,” said Reno. “Something new and of ourselves. Something unexpected magical and original.”

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Museum admission is \$5 general, \$2 for students, veterans and seniors, and free to museum members.

SOUTH COAST HOSTS CELTIC, LOCH NESS FESTS IN MAY

COOS BAY — On Saturday, May 7, the sixth annual South Coast Celtic Fest will fill the Hales Center at Southwestern Oregon Community College with culture and fun from the Celtic nations.

This year’s festival features The Fire Inside, a Celtic band from the Seattle Area, and Two Rivers Morris, a group from Eugene that performs Morris dancing, a lively traditional dance form from the British Isles.

Starting at 10 a.m., there’ll be 19 hands-

on workshops in music, crafts and history. Try Scottish dancing, learn to play the bodhran or write your own pub song. Make a bracelet or learn how to travel off the beaten path in Ireland and Scotland.

Kids can listen to stories, learn a dance, make a drum or bring their violin and learn Irish fiddling.

The evening concert at 7 p.m. will feature a grand entry by the Oregon Coast Pipe and Drum Band, followed by lively dancing by Two Rivers Morris, singing

with Bill Mrkvicka and then the hot Irish and Scottish sounds of The Fire Inside.

There’ll also be free Celtic music all day, plus a jam session for all comers at 5 p.m.

Vendors and a Celtic buffet dinner will round out the experience.

An all-workshops pass is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children, and tickets to the evening concert are \$20. The Celtic Fest is a benefit for the South Coast Folk Society, Coastal Celtic Society and Soroptimist

International of the Coos Bay Area.

For complete workshop descriptions and ticket info, visit www.southcoastfolk.society.wordpress.com.

In addition, on Sunday, May 8, come to the Loch Ness Monster Film Festival at the Egyptian Theatre, 229 S. Broadway, Coos Bay.

Cost is \$5.

Movies will include: (4 p.m.) “The Water Horse” and (6 p.m.) Short films about Loch Ness Monster.

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