

Estill, Leasure featured at Backstreet Galley



From left, "Floral" oil painting by Caroline Estill and "Sunset Lighthouse" by John Leasure, featured artists at Backstreet Gallery for May

FLORENCE — Caroline Estill and John Leasure, new oil painters at Backstreet Gallery, team up for a May show in their honor.

The public is invited to a reception at the gallery, 1421 Bay St., on May 14, from 3 to 5 p.m., during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour.

From Texas, Estill says she is delighted with Florence. She has escaped bugs and heat while being inspired by the rich beauty of the Oregon Coast.

The mountains and valleys offer a never-ending canvas on which to focus, Estill says.

After studying traditional painting, being a commercial artist and teaching fine arts, she is now concentrating on her

beautifully executed oil paintings. Her favorite subject matter is landscapes. However one would never know that when enjoying the amazing fluidity of her seascapes and the rich vibrancy of her florals.

Estill captures a glow in all her work. With a flair of impressionism, light plays on the edges of her subject matter.

"Collecting, owning and viewing art gives me great joy," says Estill.

To that end, she loves to travel, especially when she is alone, so she can leisurely view art at museums and galleries.

Here in Florence, Estill has exhibited her work in the Kenneth B. Gallery.

Leasure's oils harness the energy of the

elements in his powerful seascapes accompanied by dramatic beams of light. While ocean scenes are favorite inspirations, his florals are also quite distinctive.

Leasure was instrumental in creating the Florence Regional Art Center and its ongoing operation as he serves on the board. You can sign up for the classes he teaches there.

He became interested in art at an early age when he visited a neighboring gallery.

A longtime resident in Florence, he's not only an adept oil painter. His artistry in cabinetry adorns many local homes. Adjunct to his wood working, he continued to show his oil paintings in Sharls restaurant until it closed.

He has shown work in the FEC, library,

hospital, Dunes Cafe and the FRAA Art Center.

With an interest in astronomy, he focuses his telescope on the vast northern skies studying stars, constellations, rings of Saturn, nebulae or the moon.

"Art should be fun," Leasure said.

Reception music is by "Tres Chic," cleverly named for the two Teresas.

Tres Eberhard, keyboard, and Terri Mihm, flute, have formed a musical partnership as accomplished musicians who like to mix it up a bit.

They'll play genres from classical to jazz, with tunes from the 60's through the 90s.

They're fun, talented and engaging.

FRAA offering schedule of monthly writing classes through June

FLORENCE — The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is continuing its exciting literary arts program this spring with "Writers on the River" workshops designed for all writing levels and genres.

These classes will present different topics to inspire writers and enhance their skills on the following Saturdays: May 14 and June 11, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

Every writing style requires some polishing. These fun, hands-on workshops

will show writers how to streamline their words and make them jump off the page, with easy steps from an Amazon book editor.

FRAA writing instructor Catherine J. Rourke will share professional revision and editing techniques from working at major publishing houses, national magazines and daily newspapers over the past 30 years.

No two workshops are ever alike and each is geared toward the participants'

specific needs.

Classes fill up quickly, so pre-registration is suggested.

Cost is \$20 for FRAA members or \$25 for nonmembers, payable at the door on the day of each workshop.

Call 541-708-2120 or email CJReditor@gmail.com to register.

Rourke is an award-winning journalist, editor and columnist with more than 30 years' staff experience at daily newspapers, national magazines and major pub-

lishers.

Educated at the City University of New York, Oxford University and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, she has also served as a book editor and jacket cover copywriter for Amazon and Random House, in both print and digital formats.

The former New Yorker resides in Florence where she is writing a memoir about her journalism adventures in a book titled "And Forgive Us Our Press Passes."