

Local program recognizes art students nationwide

FLORENCE—Siuslaw middle and high school students have joined forces with Florence artist, River Gallery owner and TR Hunter Realtor Jan Jagoe to promote her endangered species project, which awards \$1,000 scholarships to high school art students nationwide.

Alicia Hoxie of Reno High School in Reno, Nev., received a \$1,000 art scholarship in November for her charcoal, pencil, watercolor and pastel drawing of a Mount Charleston Blue Butterfly.

Zoey Zhao from Tucson, Ariz., received a scholarship in May for her colored pencil drawing of a baby Ocelot.

Brooks Jones from Salt Lake City, Utah, received a scholarship in December 2015, for her pen and ink drawing of a southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

Jordan Merz from Bonners Ferry High School in Idaho received a scholarship in May 2015, for her graphite and charcoal drawing of a Woodland Caribou.

Paris Meyers, from Albany, Ore., received a scholarship in December



Jan Jagoe (left) presents a certificate to Reno High School student Alicia Hoxie for her artwork.

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2014 for her watercolor of a humpback whale.

Pictures of winning artwork are posted online at www.bethewhale.com.

High school students from Washington will submit their artwork during the spring semester of 2017.

The endangered animal chosen for Washington State will be announced in January, 2017.

The Siuslaw School District receives 10 percent of the funding received by the “BE The Whale” project. The funds will be distributed to classroom teachers and staff to buy classroom supplies.

In addition to 10 percent of the GO Fund Me account going to the Siuslaw School District, a portion of all proceeds will be donated to various endangered species projects.

Donations to help support this program can be made at Oregon Pacific Bank, 1335 Highway 101, Florence, Ore. 97439.

Checks should be addressed to the “BE the Whale” donation fund.

PORCELAIN SCULPTURE EXHIBIT CONTINUES AT CAM

COOS BAY — A show of porcelain sculptures by the late Elena Karina Canavier will be on display through Feb. 11.

Few people of Oregon’s South Coast know that we had a major ceramic artist in our midst. Elena Karina Canavier has works in important collections throughout the United States, including the Boston Museum, the Oakland Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution.

At the time of her death in 2010, Canavier was building a dream studio on a mountaintop south of Langlois.

Family members and friends have plans underway for shows in Los Angeles and New York, but since the work is currently here, they have agreed to have the very first showing of the finest pieces right here at our own museum in Coos Bay.

Says Coos Art Museum director Steven Brooks, “This is a very special opportunity for the people of Southern Oregon to see a show which normally would not find its way to our area; I am very excited about this exhibit, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Coos Art Museum.”

Elena Karina Canavier was born Sept. 2, 1931, in Tientsin, China, where her Russian father was chief engineer for the

construction of the Mongolian Railway.

The family moved to Los Angeles when Elena was young, and she studied art at the Jepson Art Institute, received her bachelor or arts degree in architecture and printmaking from University of Southern California, and her masters degree from California Southern University in Long Beach.

While there, she spent a great deal of time beachcombing, and her fascination with tide pools and marine creatures translated into her works of art.

In the 1970s, Canavier moved to Washington, DC, where she became Crafts Coordinator for the National Endowment for the Arts, and later served as special adviser for the Arts Office of Vice-President Walter Mondale from 1978 to 1980.

She taught ceramics in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., wrote for many publications including Art Week and Art News, and was a featured artist in many galleries, most recently at the prestigious Davis and Cline Gallery in Ashland.

John Davis said in a telephone interview: “Elena was a consummate artist; her work was visionary...She was a true master of the medium, as well as a delightful human being.”

Canavier became acquainted with Bandon artist and curator Victoria Tierney shortly after coming to the South Coast in 2001.

When she started AVK Arts with funds left to her by her aunt and uncle, Antonina and Vladimir Koulaeff, she approached Tierney and suggested that they might work together to promote the arts in Bandon.

“She was an ideal patron of the arts,” says Tierney. “She trusted us completely; I never had to write out long detailed proposals and apply for grants. She simply wanted to know what each show cost, and she paid for them.

“She sponsored over 50 shows. It was a great stroke of wonderful luck for Bandon.”

In gratitude for this support, Tierney has offered her services to curate this show at the Coos Art Museum.

“It is a labor of love for me,” says Tierney, who serves on the Exhibitions Committee of the museum. “I think people will be blown away by the quality of



“Acrobat” porcelain sculpture by Elena Karina Canavier

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the work. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the chance to see this show.”

The museum will also be showing important works from its Permanent Collection, as well as scientific illustrations of tidal pool animals done by members of the Oregon Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and low tide photography by members of the Willamette Valley PhotoArts Guild.

These will complement Canavier’s delicate porcelain creations inspired by tide pools and marine creatures.

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