

Community News

Blue Heron Gallery featured at Visitor's Center

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce features a different local art exhibit each month. Its current display of local artistry features a variety of works by local and Northwest artists from The Blue Heron Gallery in Historic Old Town Florence.

"Visitors will find a beautiful display of a wide variety of jewelry, sculpture and artwork in several mediums by locally-, regionally- and nationally-acclaimed artists," says Jack Butler, owner of the Blue Heron Gallery, Sticks and Stones Gallery and Wind Drift Gallery. "We are a contemporary craft gallery and we focus on American made craft."

Chamber executive director Bettina Hannigan said, "We are delighted to have a sampling of The Blue Heron's collection on display at the Visitor's Center this month. The Chamber is listed in the local art tour map because of our new monthly displays of photography, paintings or three-dimensional art by local artists and galleries. We know that our local art



COURTESY PHOTOS

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center displays artwork from The Blue Heron Gallery this month.

community is a major contributor to success in tourism."

"It's exciting to be invited to participate in the Chamber's monthly exhibit," Butler agreed. "We appreciate that the chamber supports our vibrant arts community."

According to Butler, Blue Heron Gallery, Sticks and Stones Gallery and Wind Drift

Gallery each offers something different for both casual and dedicated art lovers.

"The variety found in our shops, and the other great shops in Old Town, sets Florence apart from other communities where you can go into a half-dozen different shops and find the same thing over and over," he said. "There is a

tremendous diversity of work in our community."

The Blue Heron Gallery is at 1385 Bay St. in Florence. Its phone number is 541-997-7993 and its website is oregoncoast-galleries.net.

"It's exciting to see the Florence art community's profile growing. This area has always had an appreciation for art and an abundance of talent. With every new artist who moves to town they bring new flavors to add to our diverse offerings, and that keeps our local arts community on the upswing," Butler said. "Art is growing in its importance in enhancing Florence's tourism business, and that helps all businesses."

The Chamber's Visitor's Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, drop by 290 Highway 101, visit FlorenceChamber.com or call 541-997-3128.

APRIL FLORENCEFEST EXTENDS CALL TO ARTISTS

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is very excited to invite all artists to participate in the second annual FlorenceFest to be held at the Florence Events Center on April 27 and 28.

Last year's event drew more than 700 attendees, with FRAA selling almost 40 percent of the art selected. This year's event, which will feature two days of jazz, art and wine, will be highlighted by talented jazz musicians and outstanding wine from some of the best wineries throughout the state.

Selection for the exhibit will be made by Margaret Prentice, who is an accomplished painter and printmaker who has curated numerous exhibitions throughout the Northwest. She is currently Professor Emeritus in the Art Department at the University of Oregon, where she taught drawing, intaglio, and relief printmaking, papermaking and artist's books for 26 years.

She has exhibited her work

in over 250 collections nationally and internationally.

This year, FRAA will be expanding the awards. The selection committee will select three overall winners with cash prizes: First place, \$1,000; second place, \$500; and third place, \$250. In addition, three separate cash awards of \$250 each will be given for outstanding work in 2D, 3D and photography. There will also be a "People's Choice" selection, which will be awarded based on votes of those in attendance.

Selected artists can also continue to exhibit their work at the Florence Events Center in Galleries 1 and 5 through the end of May.

To submit an entry, visit www.callforentry.org. It is easy to register and there is no charge for artists to use Café's website.

The deadline for entries is March 18, 2018.

For more information, email FRAAFlorenceFest@gmail.com.



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