

Living **50** Plus in *Cottage Grove*

Local artist looks to rejoin monthly Art Walk in CG



By Caitlyn May
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She didn't want to be a Johnson anymore. And as an artist, Susan Johnson wasn't a name that would get her noticed. So, she became Sujo.

Her studio doubles as her home, just short of being part of historic downtown Cottage Grove. For decades, she collected her jewelry, glass art, paintings and pottery and lugged it all to that downtown main thoroughfare, Main St. for the monthly art walks that take place every tourist season. And Sujo loves tourists. But that was before. Before it got to be too much and her good health too little. Now, she hopes to take part in the tradition a little closer to home.

"I'm going to display my art right here," she said. Here, is her studio on 9th St. Her living room is lined with covered bridges, scenes from Madrid, stained glass windows. Nearly everything in the room was made by her hands and everything, or nearly, is for sale.

"The kids next door are going to help me and we're going to have a show here on the same day as the art walk," Sujo said.

The art walks take place the last Friday of every month starting in the spring and offer residents and tourists alike the chance to pop into local businesses on Main St., and interact with local artists while taking in the music of local musicians. Sujo plans to display her art for June's Art Walk.

Sujo has been a resident of Cottage Grove her entire life with a short, 12 years break while she moved with her husband, who was in the armed forces, from base to base. It was during her time at one of the

bases that she took up painting again and would find inspiration from the old buildings in town. Eventually, she settled in a job with the city of Cottage Grove but always kept her art as a hobby.

"I never made a lot of money from it," she said. "Not here in Cottage Grove but I was happy to be able to have a job that allowed me to continue with my art."

Her art has taken many forms over the years. From pen and ink renderings of the city's covered bridges, to tissue-torn illustrations of her travels to jewelry to postcards, her talents run the spectrum.

"I've had to stop doing pottery with my breathing but I loved doing it. But I have enough pottery now," she said.

She's done enough to fill her home and think about selling the majority of it during the art walk. But there's still more she wants to do. The Friends of the Cottage Grove Carousel have enlisted her to create their logo and other promotional items as they prepare to raise money to bring an antique carousel to Main St.

"When the effort first started before, the horses were kept in a barn and we could go and paint them," Sujo said of the carousel restoration. "I understand the school has some of them now but I would like the chance to paint another." Two of the horses she restored are now in shops on Main St. as part of the fundraising campaign.

Sujo's art will be on display and available for purchase the last Friday of June at 657 N. 9th St.

Heat stroke signs to watch for as days heat up

Summer means school's out, barbecues are starting up and community activities have residents out and about. However, the beginning of hot temperatures also

means the risk of heat stroke. Be on the lookout for the following symptoms:

1. Throbbing headache
2. Dizziness
3. Lack of sweating
4. Red, hot, dry skin
5. Rapid heartbeat
6. Shallow breathing
7. Muscle weakness
8. Vomiting

If you experience these symptoms, seek medical attention right away. Those over the age of 50 are most likely to suffer from heat stroke and should be aware of the symptoms.

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