

ARTS & CULTURE



COURTESY PHOTO

“The Living Art” will feature a mix of creative expressions and performances over three days.

Experience The Living Art

October Art Walk is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 29 and its feature exhibition “The Living Art” will be on display from Oct. 28-30 downtown.

The work is a combination of paintings, music, dance, poetry, song, culture and stories put on by artist Tumelo Michael Moloi and featuring performances from Joshua Caraco, John Mambira, Ratie D and John Page.

The exhibition preview runs from 3 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 28. The Art Walk exhibition runs from 4 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 29, with a live performance from 6 to 7 p.m. The following day there will be an exhibition from 3 to 6:30 p.m. and live performance from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

“The performance part of it and the living part of it is the same,” Moloi said. “It lives in the same world.”

A hobby in miniature

BY SOPHIA EDELBLUTE
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There is something unique about the majesty of trains. The enormous scale of them, the tons of weight they carry, the click clack of wheels over tracks, the trademark whistling they make as they roll through towns and intersections. Kids look on in wonderment, and some adults do too.

The Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club is the place to be for those with an interest in trains, and it recently stopped by the Cottage Grove Armory to show off various models.

It takes nearly two days to set everything up and two trailers to haul all the models. But it’s worth it to show off the variety of displays and entice new members to join. This year during the Cottage Grove show the club gained five new members, two of whom were junior members, or kids under the age of 18.

“We have always been a believer in junior membership, because they are the future of the hobby,” said Lee Temple, the club’s president. “If we don’t have them involved, there won’t be anybody to keep the railroad hobby going.”

Temple has been a member of the club since its inception in the 1970s. He first found interest in model trains when his father brought home a circus set themed after the Barnum and Baily circus.

He held on to the hobby and in 1969 he came back to it as an adult and has been involved ever since.

“I wanted to have a hobby I could involve my kids in, that I could do at home,” he said.

When it comes time to show off, members of the club have a few options for displaying their models.

Since the show is primarily a showcase of the different sceneries and model designs, the club facilitates a way for people to create their own scene and place it along the tracks.

One big way to achieve that is through HO scale modular railroad. Though it may sound complicated it’s relatively simple to plan out ahead of time with sketches so members know exactly where their piece fits.

Each person is allowed to complete a four- or six-foot-long segment of railroad, a portion of front track and back track, and those segments are fitted together to create one long, seamless display. The club provides corners and the yard on the edges, but the space between the tracks can be designed and modeled however the owner sees fit.

This year, Michael Kruse, a junior member originally who has since joined up again, planned out his scene with his 7-year-old daughter, who is just starting to get interested in the hobby.

“She was able to run her train for the first time on a real layout,” said Kruse.

Not only is it great to get younger generations interested in the hobby, Temple said, but it also offers the benefit of a variety of skills, from engineering to electric work to construction and scenery creation.

According to Temple, quite a few of the junior members keep going with the hobby once they get older and he’s been able to see the different generations of people join up and become interested.

The club has also been an active member of Operation Life Saver, and educational program that teaches rail-

road safety for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists. It’s an especially important program in Cottage Grove, where tracks run in between our middle and high school, he said.

He emphasized that trains take a long time to stop, even in an emergency, and that teaching railroad safety can avoid unnecessary deaths.

“We’ve helped sponsor

that educational program and have worked hand in hand with them over the years,” he said.

For anyone looking to get involved with the club and the many things it provides, Temple advises checking out the website, which can be found by searching Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club. They can also be reached via email at willamettecascade@gmail.com.

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