

Art Center East welcomes back public with double opening reception

By Lisa Lester Kelly
Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — Art Center East on Friday, July 9, launches two exhibits with a double opening reception, welcoming back a community undoubtedly ready for more in-person encounters with art

"Strange Days," in the Main Gallery of the art center, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande, displays the work of Salem-based artist Bob Dodson.

"My work is an ever-changing representation of my journey through life," said Dodson, who chose the exhibition title, "Strange Days," in relation not

only to the COVID-19 pandemic but as a reflection of the general genre of his artwork.

"I fully embrace mystery and strangeness," he said.

Gallery visitors can expect a full spectrum of mediums, including pieces created out of wood, found objects, ceramic, metal and acrylics.

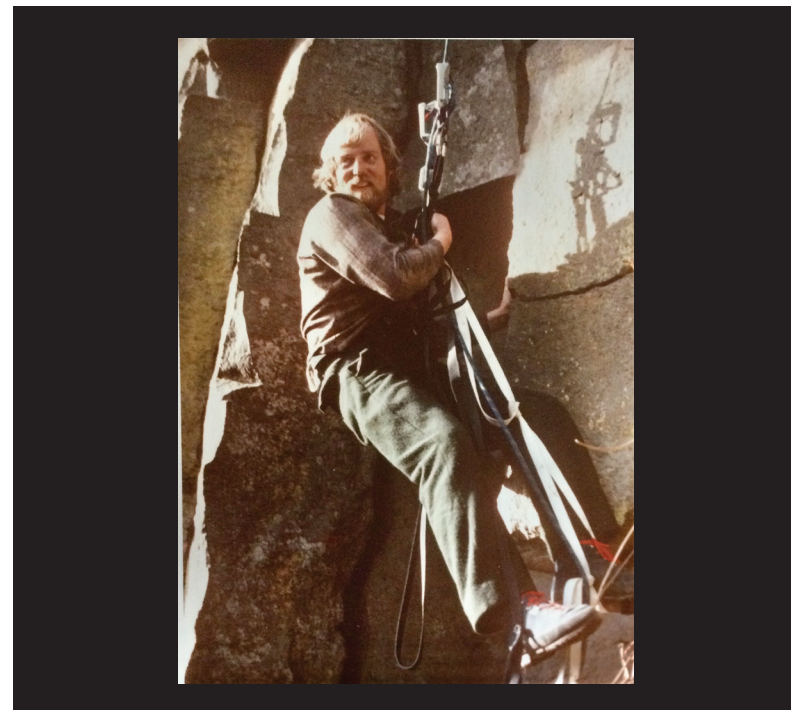
"I find some ideas and concepts cry out for a certain medium for execution," he said. Also opening at Art Center East July 9 is the "Canoy Benefit Exhibit" in the Co-Op Gallery, featuring work from the late artist Craig Canoy and other regional artists.

Dennis "Craig" Canoy was born in 1943 in Silverton, Oregon. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Canoy enjoyed hiking, backpacking, free-heel skiing, and rock climbing, including ice and snow climbing.

He earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon and taught art and design in the Hillsboro Union High School District for three decades. He relocated to La Grande upon retirement in the 1990s. He loved the Elkhorn Mountains, Anthony Lakes, and the Owyhee high country of southeast Oregon.

Often focused on depicting the beauty of the natural world, Canoy worked primarily in pastel. He exhibited his work in Oregon galleries including Portland State's Littman Gallery, the Kathrin Cawein Gallery of Art at Pacific University, and Peterson's Gallery in Baker City.

Upon his death in 2020, Canoy made a cash bequest to Art Center East. He left his art collection to ACE for the purposes of fundraising. Many of the pieces in the collection are his own work,



The "Canoy Benefit Exhibit," featuring work from the late artist Craig Canoy and other regional artists, opens July 9 at Art Center East. (Craig Canoy Family, Contributed Photo)

but he also was actively attentive to and collected the work of regional artists.

The Canoy Benefit Exhibit will pay tribute to Canoy's legacy as proceeds will go toward ACE's Youth Scholarship fund. The July 9 opening receptions for both exhibits will run from 6-8 p.m., and each will remain on display until Sept. 4.

Regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exhibits can also be viewed virtually at artcentereast.org thanks to a partnership with John J Howard Real Estate. Gallery admission and receptions are always free, open to the public and kid friendly.

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July 7	Walk-in-Wednesday Sessions: Adult 10a.m.-12p.m.
July 7	Wine Glass Painting: FREE 5p.m.-7p.m.
July 8	Watercolor Class: ages 5-8 from 10a.m.-11:15a.m. & ages 9-12 1p.m.-2:30p.m.
July 8	The Nez Perce Story: FREE 1p.m.-2p.m.
July 8	Making Animal Ornaments from Wrapped Wool: 6p.m.-8p.m.
July 13	Brown Bag Wallowa Memorial Hospital: 12p.m.-1p.m.

Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts: accepting submissions now until August 1

<https://josephy.org/festival-of-the-arts>

Art Center East has partnered with a local small business, Jameson and Pearl, to bring a fresh new take on exhibit reception refreshments.

Jameson and Pearl, owned by KayLynne Todd, offers charcuterie, cheese and breakfast boards created with specialty meats and cheeses, bread and crackers, fresh produce and nuts. Todd has created boards that are available only at ACE exhibit opening receptions. Order online at artcentereast.org/exhibit-refreshments-reimagined prior to the event.