

# SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLIC ART

## Noted public sculptors at Northwest by Northwest

By Lyra Fontaine  
Cannon Beach Gazette

Northwest By Northwest Gallery shined a spotlight on sculptures created by noted regional public artists, including Georgia Gerber and Ivan McLean, as part of its May Spring Unveiling festivities.

A new bronze collection by Gerber was unveiled at the gallery's event.

"I wanted to create a piece with the feeling of whimsy and emotion and tells a story and memories of our childhood to evoke a positive reaction," Gerber said about the process behind "Tug of War," one of the three new pieces she created specifically for Northwest By Northwest's Spring Unveiling weekend.

The sculpture of three rabbits playing the rope-tugging game took six months to sculpt.

Gerber, who created the Cannon Beach public display "Tufted Puffins," said she tries to "capture an emotion and life" inside the figures of her sculptures.

Among the sculptor's numerous works of public art is another recognizable figure: the iconic Rachel the Pike Place Pig in Seattle.

"It was at beginning of career and it was an open competition I applied for," Gerber said. "I just felt like I was the person for it because I love creating large-scale animal forms and trying to capture an essence within it to draw people to it."

Portland-based contemporary sculptor Ivan McLean — whose sculptures appear in Portland and California — unveiled work and did a demonstration in the gallery's sculpture garden.

McLean worked with the city of Cannon Beach to create sayings on



CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/SUBMITTED PHOTO

Georgia Gerber's sculptures are on display at Northwest By Northwest Gallery in Cannon Beach.

the trashcan lids throughout town. The event also featured oil painter Hazel Schlesinger, fine art traditional photographer Christopher Burkett and more. Northwest By Northwest's Spring Unveiling reception included live music and a wine educator.

"It's a lot of fun but it's like putting on an opera," gallery owner Joyce Lincoln said of organizing the event. "It's a really big show. We really want our clients to have an experience."

Gerber's sculptures remain on display at Northwest by Northwest Gallery, and her catalogue is available online for viewing. The gallery is located at 232 N. Spruce St.; 800-494-0741 or nwbynwgallery.com.



CANNON BEACH GAZETTE/SUBMITTED PHOTO

A new collection of work by noted bronze sculptor and public artist Georgia Gerber is on display at Northwest By Northwest Gallery.

## Landscape as Perception at CB Gallery

Landscape As Perception, a new exhibition, opening on June 11, at the Cannon Beach Gallery will examine the way that artists and viewers of art perceive landscape. Landscapes, real or imagined are always changing whether it be by nature, the artist's perception, or the lens that we examine them through - they are liquid in nature. The exhibit is curated by contemporary landscape and figure artist Janet Bland, and features the work of prominent northwest artists Jef Gunn, Joan Stewart Ross, and Michael Southern. The works demonstrate a range of media, each addressing the central aim of challenging the common perception of landscape as traditional or "old school."

The changing nature of landscape, how we perceive landscape, and how our memories recall the experience of being in particular landscapes, color our appreciation of landscape paintings. Painting is able to express more than the representation of a scene.

Gunn is a Northwest painter influenced by international art practices and is constantly seeking new techniques. He has studied drawing and painting in California, Barcelona, and Paris. He works mainly in oils and encaustics. He has curated exhibitions, had many solo shows, and has taught throughout the Northwest.

Michael Southern's work also seeks to communicate his experience of a landscape, what it means to him, rather than a representation of its physical reality. Southern works in several mediums, but began his career as a printmaker. He has been the recipient of several grants, has work in collections including Portland Art Museum, and has had many solo exhibitions.

The exhibit will open with a reception at the Cannon Beach Gallery on Saturday, June 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be an artists' discussion the following weekend, on Saturday June 18 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Further information about this exhibition can be found online at cannonbeacharts.org or by calling Jane Brumfield at 503-436-0744.

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