



DRY CANYON
Arts
 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF THE REDMOND, OREGON, ART COMMUNITY
 MARCH 2024

Welcome to the March Issue of the DCAA Newsletter

By James Morris

As we step into the warmth of March, bidding adieu to the crisp air of February, the Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA) has been a hive of artistic activity and community engagement. Our community of artists and art lovers has seen a vibrant start to the year, and we are thrilled to share the highlights and exciting developments with you in this issue.

On February 2, we marked a significant milestone in the DCAA's journey with our first ever Artists Reception for the DCAA's Artist of the Month. This event, made possible by the generous support of Cascade Hasson Sotheby's Realty, was a resounding success. It was heartening to see such a fantastic turnout of fellow artists, art supporters, and community members, all gathered to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of our local art scene. The reception not only showcased the exceptional talent of Shireen Gastineau and Toni Morgan, our Artists of the Month for January and February, respectively, but also underscored the power of art in bringing people together.

Our innovative Lend Me Your Walls program continues to thrive, fostering unique partnerships between local artists and businesses. We are excited to announce that February saw a new rotation of artists at Grace and Hammer Pizzeria, Feast Food Company, and the Redmond Senior Center. Through this program, these venues transform into dynamic gallery spaces, offering patrons a taste of local artistry while providing our artists with a platform to reach wider audiences. We encourage you to visit these locations and experience the creativity and passion of our talented artists firsthand.

Highlighting this month's edition, we are proud to feature Susan Lees as the DCAA's Artist of the Month. Susan's paintings captivates and inspires, with her breathtaking wildlife paintings that speak to the soul. Her contributions to the local art scene and her undeniable talent make her a deserving recipient of this recognition. We invite you to delve deeper into Susan's artistic journey and her latest works, which are showcased in a special section of this newsletter.

As we continue to navigate through the year, the Dry Canyon Arts Association remains committed to fostering a thriving arts community in our region. We look forward to bringing you



more events, programs, and opportunities to engage with the arts in meaningful ways. Your support and participation are what make our community vibrant and resilient.

Thank you for being an integral part of the DCAA family. Here's to a month filled with creativity, inspiration, and artful encounters! •

DON'T FORGET!

March 1st is the deadline to renew your DCAA membership!

www.DryCanyonArts.org/membership-renewal



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

NATURE'S BRUSHSTROKES

THE ARTISTIC JOURNEY OF SUSAN LEES

By James Morris

In the quaint, vibrant world of Susan Lees, art and nature intertwine in a dance as old as time, yet as fresh as the morning dew on a rural farm. Susan, with a background deeply rooted in the pastoral serenity of the countryside, grew up surrounded by farm animals and spent her days riding horses, fostering an innate love for all creatures great and small. This profound connection with the animal kingdom guided her to become a licensed falconer in her late 20s, marking the beginning of a lifelong passion for the wild, the untamed, and the free.

Susan's journey into the world of art is as textured and layered as her paintings. Employing unique materials and techniques, she brings her subjects to life with a palpable sense of personality and presence. The pallet knife is her tool of choice, creating thick, textured strokes that add depth and dimension to her work. Her creative process begins with an acrylic wash, typically in bright yellow or sienna, over which she sketches her subject with a charcoal pencil. Shadows are either blocked in first or developed section by section, but it's the eyes she loves to paint first, believing they imbue her subjects with their soulful essence.

The themes and subjects of Susan's art are a testament to her lifelong love affair with the animal world. From majestic birds of prey to the humble beauty of rural landscapes dotted with old barns, her work is a celebration of the natural world. Yet, it's not just the subjects she chooses but the way she captures them that sets her work apart. Susan's art is a blend of impressionistic realism and painterly looseness, a style she is continually refining and perfecting.

This artistic voyage is not without its challenges, however. Transitioning to painting full-time after retirement, Susan found that maintaining the discipline to paint daily required the same

dedication she applied to falconry. Yet, her advice to emerging artists reflects a wisdom born of experience: to cherish the act of creation itself, beyond the confines of commercial success.

Susan's upcoming projects and exhibitions, including her involvement with "Fine Art America" and participation in local art walks and programs, reflect her desire to share her art with a broader audience. Her engagement with the Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA) stands as a testament to the impact of community on her artistic journey. The DCAA not only offered her a platform to showcase her work but also provided a sense of belonging and camaraderie among fellow artists.

A piece that holds a special place in Susan's heart is a painting of a black gyrfalcon, a tribute to her late husband's falcon. This piece, more than any other, encapsulates the deeply personal connection Susan has with her subjects, blending her passions for art, wildlife, and the memories of loved ones.

For those looking to follow in her footsteps, Susan offers a piece of advice that is both practical and profound: to join an art association. Such communities not only foster confidence but also provide invaluable opportunities for exposure and growth.

Susan Lees' story is one of passion, dedication, and the relentless pursuit of beauty in the wild and the everyday. Her art serves as a bridge between the human and the natural world, inviting us to pause, reflect, and appreciate the myriad forms of life that share our planet. Through her work, Susan reminds us of the importance of connecting with our surroundings, celebrating the diversity of life, and finding joy in the act of creation. •



DCAA BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

JAY LOWDES, EVENT CHAIR

By James Morris

In the vibrant tapestry of Dry Canyon's art scene, a new thread is being woven by Jay Lowndes, the newly appointed Event Chair of the Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA). With an infectious enthusiasm and a vision brimming with promise, Jay steps into a role previously held by the esteemed Bill Lind and Bill Hunt. "I have big shoes to fill!" Jay remarks, acknowledging the legacy of his predecessors and the high bar set for DCAA events.

Jay's journey to the helm of DCAA's event planning was not a path he embarked upon lightly. With over 30 years of teaching experience under his belt, Jay brings a wealth of knowledge in organizing and leading large groups toward common goals. "I figured that I have something to give back to DCAA," he says, driven by a blend of humility and confidence. His vision for DCAA is clear: to harness the collective creativity and passion of the community to elevate the association to new heights.

As Jay settles into his new role, his priorities are set with laser focus. The immediate task at hand is ensuring the success of the upcoming Spring Show, a cornerstone event for the association. Jay is also keen on maintaining the momentum of other DCAA activities, aiming for a seamless transition and minimal disruptions.

Anticipating the inevitable challenges of taking over an established series of events, Jay is proactive in seeking guidance and wisdom. "Picking up where others have left off is always a challenge," he admits. To navigate these waters, Jay regularly consults with Bill Lind, Bill Hunt, and Mel, drawing on their experiences and insights to forge his path forward.

Engagement and inclusion form the cornerstone of Jay's approach to revitalizing DCAA's connection with the local arts community. Through a strategic partnership with the Marketing Team, Jay aims to extend a warm invitation to artists and community members alike, encouraging them to participate actively in the association's events. "REACH OUT!" he urges, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in sustaining the volunteer-driven organization.

Innovation and creativity are also high on Jay's agenda. Recognizing the wealth of creative talent within DCAA, he is excited about tapping into the members' ideas to introduce fresh, innovative concepts to the association's events. Collaboration and partnership with local businesses and organizations are also pivotal in Jay's strategy to broaden DCAA's reach and impact within Redmond and beyond.

Looking ahead, Jay is particularly enthusiastic about the Spring Show, drawing inspiration from its previous success at the Fall Show, which attracted over 3,000 visitors. He is determined



to meet or even exceed this turnout, setting a high bar for his tenure as Event Chair.

On a personal level, Jay aspires to be a positive influence within DCAA, aiming to make meaningful improvements and continue the association's tradition of hosting exceptional events. He also dreams of a long-term goal for DCAA: securing a permanent location that would serve as a home for the association, complete with a gallery, office space, and meeting areas.

Drawing inspiration from the past, particularly the well-received Spring and Fall Shows, Jay sees the value in community involvement and volunteerism. He believes that the success of these events can be replicated and built upon, ensuring a vibrant future for DCAA.

Jay's advice to anyone looking to get involved with DCAA is straightforward and heartfelt: "Contact any board member!

We don't know who is interested in helping unless we hear from you." This open invitation reflects Jay's belief in the power of community and collaboration to drive the association forward.

As Jay Lowndes embarks on this exciting chapter with the Dry Canyon Arts Association, his blend of experience, vision, and dedication sets the stage for a flourishing future. Under his leadership, DCAA is poised to continue its legacy of enriching the local arts scene, fostering creativity, and building a strong, engaged community of artists and art lovers alike. •

WANTED!

**LOOKING FOR
An artsy *enthusiastic*
person to assist in super-
vising Dry Canyon Arts'
First Friday Art Walks**

**Meet new people, visit exotic lo-
cations, help the art community.**

If this is you please contact Laurel at
firstfriday@drycanyonarts.org

**We need your help!!
We are all volunteers.**

LEND ME YOUR WALLS

CELEBRATING ART IN MOTION

THE LEND ME YOUR WALLS PROGRAM'S LATEST ROTATION

By James Morris

The Dry Canyon Arts Association continues to weave the fabric of creativity and community interaction through its esteemed Lend Me Your Walls program. This initiative breathes life into local businesses and public venues by transforming them into dynamic galleries, where art from emerging talents is displayed. This month, we're excited to announce a fresh rotation of artists at familiar venues: Feast Food Company, Redmond Senior Center, Grace and Hammer Pizzeria, and soon, St. Charles Hospital in March.

Feast Food Company, beloved for its culinary mastery, is setting the stage for a new array of artists. The restaurant's ambiance, already rich with the aroma of delicious dishes, now also captures the imagination with its latest visual feast. Every three months, new artworks adorn the walls, offering patrons a novel dining experience that marries taste with visual artistry.

The Redmond Senior Center continues to stand as a pillar of community and generational bridge through its participation in Lend Me Your Walls. The art on display, refreshed every quarter, serves as a vibrant dialogue between ages, celebrating diversity and the collective creativity of our town. It's a place where stories are told not just through words but through the universal language of art.

At Grace and Hammer Pizzeria, the warmth of the oven is matched only by the warmth of the community's artistic spirit. With each new rotation of artists, the pizzeria becomes a canvas for storytelling, where every piece of art complements the artisanal fare. This ongoing showcase not only enriches the dining experience but also embeds the essence of local creativity into every visit.

In March, St. Charles Hospital will welcome its latest group of artists, reinforcing the belief in art's healing power. In a place where healing and hope are paramount, the rotating art exhibits offer moments of reflection, inspiration, and tranquility to all who walk its halls. This initiative highlights the essential role of art in wellness and recovery, bringing color and comfort to the healing journey.

The Lend Me Your Walls program is a testament to the power of community and creativity. By visiting these venues, you do more than view art; you participate in a larger story of support and appreciation for local talent. Each artwork you encounter is a beacon of the artist's journey, inviting you to explore, reflect, and connect.

Furthermore, this program is an open call to artists seeking a platform for their work. With a three-month rotation, there are ongoing opportunities to showcase your art to the community. Whether you're an established artist or just starting out, Lend Me Your Walls provides a space for your voice to be heard and your vision to be seen.

There are numerous reasons why artists should take

part in the Lend Me Your Walls program. Here are just a few reasons:

- **Continuous Discovery:** Experience new art with each rotation.
- **Community Connection:** Support and connect with local artists.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of our communal spaces.

Artists interested in participating are encouraged to reach out directly to the DCAA Lend Me Your Walls lead (see list below) for details on the application process. Likewise, venues wishing to join this cultural initiative can also get in touch. Together, we can continue to grow this program, enriching our community with the beauty of art.

Your involvement in the Lend Me Your Walls program enriches not just the spaces that host the art but also the fabric of our community. Visiting these venues and engaging with the art fosters a culture of appreciation and support for local talent, contributing to a thriving arts ecosystem.

So, let's celebrate this latest rotation of artists at Feast Food Company, Redmond Senior Center, Grace and Hammer Pizzeria, and St. Charles Hospital. Your visit not only offers you a glimpse into the heart of our local art scene but also plays a crucial role in sustaining the vibrancy of our community's cultural landscape. And for those with a creative spark, consider this a warm invitation to share your art with the world through future rotations of the Lend Me Your Walls program. Together, let's keep our community's walls vibrant, alive, and ever-inspiring. •

LEND ME YOUR WALL LEADS:

- **Grace and Hammer**
Laura Fouts, LMYW.GH@drycanyonarts.org
- **Redmond Senior Center**
Mel Archer, lmyw.sc@drycanyonarts.org
- **St. Charles Redmond**
Jill Fahnestock, lmyw.hosp@drycanyonarts.org
- **High Desert Vision Source**
Scott Larson, lmyw.hdvc@drycanyonarts.org
- **Birdies Brow and Spa**
Janice Tracy, lmyw.birdies@drycanyonarts.org
- **Feast Food Company**
Wendy Wheeler, lmyw.ffc@drycanyonarts.org

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

A TAPESTRY OF ART

DCAA'S PREMIER ARTIST OF THE MONTH RECEPTION UNVEILED

By James Morris

Nestled in the bustling heart of downtown Redmond, a unique celebration of creativity and community spirit took place at Cascade Hasson Sotheby's Realty, marking a pivotal moment for the Dry Canyon Arts Association (DCAA). The event was the inaugural DCAA Artist of the Month Artists Reception, an evening dedicated to celebrating the artistic achievements of local talents. January's honoree, Shireen Gastineau, and February's spotlight, Toni Morgan, captivated attendees with their distinctive artworks, drawing a constant flow of admirers throughout the night.

From the moment the reception began, it was evident that this gathering was a heartfelt showcase of artistic expression. The venue was transformed into a gallery of sorts, where Shireen Gastineau's vibrant watercolors and mesmerizing photographic pieces, alongside Toni Morgan's evocative oil paintings, were on display. Each artist brought a unique narrative to the fore, their collections offering a window into their creative worlds.

Shireen Gastineau's work presented a harmonious blend of mediums, with her watercolors infusing the space with color and energy. Her subjects, rendered in a spectrum of hues, invited viewers into scenes that felt both intimate and expansive. Alongside these, her photographic pieces stood as abstract explorations of layer upon layer of diverse photos. This technique resulted in captivating visuals that were as hypnotizing as they were unique, drawing guests into a world of complex beauty.

In contrast, Toni Morgan's oil paintings transported attendees to various corners of the globe through her depictions of landscapes and architectural marvels. Her artistry, rooted in her travels, showcased a profound appreciation for the world's diverse beauty, with each painting offering a glimpse into her journey. The meticulous detail and vibrant life in her work spoke of a deep connection to the places she has explored, creating a narrative that was both personal and universal.

Unlike traditional receptions where artists might address the entire assembly, Gastineau and Morgan chose a more intimate approach. They engaged with guests on a personal level, sharing insights into their creative processes and the stories behind their artworks only when approached by individuals. This one-on-one interaction allowed for deeper conversations and connections, making the art experience more meaningful for those who sought out these moments.

The reception was not just an opportunity to view art but a celebration of the community's collective enthusiasm

for creativity. Cascade Hasson Sotheby's Realty enhanced the atmosphere by providing refreshments and appetizers, making the gathering not only a visual feast but a culinary one as well. The warm ambiance facilitated discussions, laughter, and shared experiences, enriching the evening further.

The DCAA's first Artist of the Month Artists Reception has laid a strong foundation for future celebrations of local talent. By spotlighting Shireen Gastineau and Toni Morgan, the event not only honored their artistic contributions but also underscored the significance of supporting and promoting the arts within the community.

As attendees reflected on the evening, the conversations were not just about the art displayed but about the artists themselves and their journeys. The personal interactions with Gastineau and Morgan added a unique layer to the experience, making the artwork even more resonant.



This event, a blend of artistic showcase and community gathering, highlighted the vital role that art plays in bringing people together, sparking conversations, and fostering a vibrant cultural landscape. As the DCAA continues to champion the arts in Redmond, events like these serve as a reminder of the power of creativity to connect and inspire.

In conclusion, the inaugural DCAA Artist of the Month Artists Reception was a testament to the beauty of artistic diversity and the strength of community support. Through the distinct lenses of Shireen Gastineau's watercolors and photographic abstracts, and Toni Morgan's global oil paintings, attendees were offered a glimpse into the vast world of art. Looking ahead, the DCAA's initiative promises to be a beacon for art enthusiasts and artists alike, fostering a thriving environment where art and community flourish together.

We warmly invite all art lovers and community members to join us for the next Artist of the Month Reception on Friday, May 1, from 4PM to 7PM, once again at the elegant Cascade Hasson Sotheby's Realty. This upcoming event will spotlight Susan Lees, our Artist of the Month, whose exquisite wildlife and nature paintings capture the breathtaking beauty of the natural world. Susan's work is a tribute to the vibrant colors and intricate details of wildlife, offering viewers a profound appreciation for the world around us. Mark your calendars and prepare for an evening of artful exploration and community engagement, celebrating another remarkable talent within our vibrant arts community. •

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	1 DCAA Membership Renewal Deadline FIRST FRIDAY/ Artist of the Month Reception	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 DCAA Member Meeting	29	30 LMYW - St. Charles Hospital
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

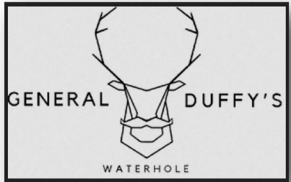
UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- March 28** - Memeber Meeting @ General Duffy's
- April 5** - First Friday Art Walk
- April 25** - Board Meeting
- May 3** - First Friday Art Walk
- May 4-5** - Spring Art Show @ Redmond HS
- May 23** - Member Meeting
- June 7** - First Friday Art Walk
- June 27** - Board Meeting
- July 5** - First Friday Art Walk
- July 27** - Member Meeting
- July 31-Aug 4** - Deschutes County Fair
- Aug 2** - First Friday Art Walk

- Aug 22** - Board Meeting
- Aug 23-25** - Art in the High Desert
- Sep 6** - First Friday Art Walk
- Sep 26** - Member Meeting
- Oct 4** - First Friday Art Walk
- Oct 24** - Board Meeting
- Nov 1** - First Friday Art Walk
- Nov 9-10** - Fall Art Show @ Redmond HS
- Nov 21** - Member Meeting
- Jan 2** - Board Meeting

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Our thanks also go to Roundhouse Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation and Deschutes Cultural Coalition for their financial support.

