

# WAC NEWSLETTER

November 2023 Issue 26 | info@willametteartcenter.com | 503-365-3911



## emptyBOWLS

Saturday, November 18 | 9:00 - 5:00 pm

Cascade Hall | Oregon State Fairgrounds

Yes, Empty Bowls 2023 is on the way! Once again, one of our sponsors, Oregon State Fair, has generously donated the use of Cascade Hall for our annual fundraiser, the sale proceeds benefiting the Marion Polk Food Share and our community.

All the details inside on:

- Volunteering
- Raffle Items & Artists
- About Empty Bowls
- Sponsors

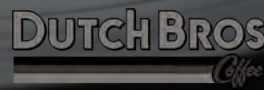


With gratitude for  
hosting this event



A special THANKS  
for TOT funding  
CITY OF *Salem*  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Artists!

Fall is a beautiful time of year in the Willamette Valley. The rainstorms and waning daylight hours inevitably draw me into the studio to play with clay. The Willamette Art Center is a great place to be during all seasons, but especially during the wetter months.

The upcoming term will be a time of change in our little studio, as we welcome Lisa Joyce as our new Executive Director. Lisa is an experienced non-profit executive with years of experience recruiting and managing volunteers, raising funds through grants and donations, running special events, and managing complicated organizations like ours. I encourage you to introduce yourself to Lisa and welcome her into our community!

I am excited about the possibilities for the future of the organization with Lisa at the helm. Do you have any ideas or suggestions? What offerings or features of the Willamette Art Center are important to you? Please email me your thoughts, [wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com).

As always, thank you to all the wonderful people who keep the studio running. Thank you to our staff, teachers, monitors (seriously, we can't thank you enough), the Artisan Village volunteers, all of those preparing for Empty Bowls, the support staff for Family Clay Sunday, and every unseen person working behind the scenes. You are what makes the Willamette Art Center a fun, safe, and accessible place for the community to come play with clay. Lastly, a big thank you to our outgoing Executive Director, Doug Dacar. Doug has been a beacon of light in the studio over the past few years, and I look forward to his continued involvement in our community.

See you in the studio soon!

Sage Dunham  
President of the Board

Hello WAC community, I'd like to welcome our new director Lisa Joyce. I'm excited for the future of the WAC and the healthy growth of everyone involved. I am grateful to have been surrounded by so many creative and giving individuals that keep the wheels turning on a daily basis. Thank you WAC community, I look forward to seeing all of you around the studio as I continue to teach and share in practicing creativity.

—Doug Dacar

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

Hello WAC Community,

My name is Lisa Joyce and I have been hired as the new WAC Executive Director. I am a Silverton resident whose greatest accomplishment is that my children are working artists. I believe in art education as critical to the health of our community and the individuals who inhabit it. Most recently, I served nine years as Executive Director of Pentacle Theatre. There I worked to increase donation income through enthusiastic gratitude and donor stewardship, to elevate the visibility of the theater in the community and to support the creation of the Mid-Valley Theatre Network. Prior to my tenure at Pentacle, I worked in state government and volunteered at Children's Educational Theatre, including on its board. I begin at WAC on November 1, and welcome you to come by the office and say hi.



Lisa

When the doors swing open, the patrons swarm in and the pace is fast and fun! Cascade Hall gives us the opportunity to spread out and display to best advantage all the work that our amazing volunteers have produced the whole year long for our loyal customers.

Thank you for your amazing, creative efforts all year long to make this special Community event successful. It only happens because of you - and now we need that last little help to wrap it all up. **WON'T YOU JOIN US?**

## VOLUNTEERING

Want to help? Volunteering means success! It's your chance to see the clay and wood pieces lovingly selected, paid for, and headed out the door to new homes. Sign-up sheets are posted on the right-hand bulletin board by the studio exit doors. If you can't make it in to sign up in person, just call the monitor on duty at 503-365-3911 and ask them to sign you up for area you'd like to help.

### Options

- Help set-up - Wed. 11/15, Thurs. 11/16, or Friday, 11/17
- Help decorate, arrange, and curate the presentation of over 1400 items
- Quality control and pricing
- Cashiering
- Wrapping
- Receipt writing and holding table
- Customer assistance - walk around and check with shoppers asking if they need assistance
- Tear down, storage, and clean up

# EMPTY BOWLS INFO

**NOV 18 • 9-5**

by Margrethe Gregg, Empty Bowls Coordinator

## EMPTY BOWLS PRODUCTION

November is an exciting whirl of activity during final preparations for our Empty Bowls fundraiser, but 1,200+ bowls do not miraculously appear on the tables. Production begins in December with monthly scheduled clay-a-thons and continual bowl creation by dedicated volunteers throughout the year.

## SUPPORT

People ask if they can donate money designated for the cost of clay, glaze, and firing. Absolutely! We need help to cover production expenses. Your tax-free donation can purchase the following: a 25 lb. bag of clay, glaze, a bisque fire, and a gas kiln fire.

If you'd like to be a sponsor or make an individual contribution to this worthy cause, please go to [willametteartcenter.com/donate](http://willametteartcenter.com/donate) or chat with a cashier at the sale about a special WAC support donation. All donations, large and small, make a difference!

## LIFECYCLE OF AN EMPTY BOWL

**01** Bag of clay.



**02** Make the pot.



**03** Pot dries to leather hard.



**04** Trim the pot.



**05** Fire #1

**06** Glaze the pot



**09** One-of-a-kind pottery finds a loving home.

**08** Ready for sale.

**07** Fire #2



# empty BOWLS It's a Raffle!

Tickets  
\$5 EACH  
5 FOR \$25

One of the highlights of the Empty Bowls sale is the Raffle of some stunning artwork. Stock up on raffle tickets for a chance to win something very special indeed. Find the artist spotlights throughout this newsletter.

## **Platter** by *Brian Nicholas*

This breathtaking platter measures 18" across and 3" high. Brian threw it on the wheel and then with his engineering skills, hand carved the geometric patterns into the leather-hard piece. It's a one-of-a-kind collectors' treasure.

## **Platter** by *Karen Hackney and Jim Ransom*

This platter represents another successful collaboration between two of our most talented artists at the WAC. Jim threw the platter with benefit of his decades of throwing skill and Karen has created another dimension with her cityscape design. The platter measures 14" across and 2" high. Jim and Karen's collaborative pieces are the highlight of the Empty Bowl experience for a lot of our customers.

## **Ginger Jar** by *Jim Ransom and Karen Hackney*

Another successful collaboration between our Master Potter, Jim Ransom, and Master Decorator, Karen Hackney. This wheel thrown ginger jar measures 11" tall and beautifully shows off the thoughtful care Karen puts into her hand drawn designs. It's one of a kind and even more gorgeous in person.

## **Viking Ship** by *Greg Gregg*

Greg has a reputation around the WAC for his quirky creatures and monsters. This time he has gotten bigger and bolder with his hand-built Viking Ship crashing through the waves on its way to some serious marauding and pillaging. This piece was inspired by a class he taught earlier this year and has gained a lot of admirers along the way. The ship under full sail is 14" tall, 16" long and 10 1/2" wide at the base. Get a chance to bring this ship into your own harbor by buying raffle tickets.

## **Wood Vase** by *Marc Vickery*

Once again, the WAC has partnered with the Willamette Valley Wood Turners who will provide wood bowls and other vessels at the sale. Marc Vickery has created a beautiful wooden vase for the occasion. The masterful turning of the wood enhances its fluid wood grain and the eye-catching focal point. The vase is made from eucalyptus wood and stands 10" tall and 8.5" in diameter at the top. Be sure to save some tickets for a chance to win this beauty.



# With Gratitude

**James O'Shea** for his stunning Empty Bowls poster photo.

**Cindy Nelson** for grant statistics, class prep, and extra volunteer hours for Artisans' Village.

**Heather Skinner** and **Josie Hummert** for the terrific Empty Bowls poster design.

**Half Penny Public House** for their Artisans' Village sponsorship.

**Kevin Herzberg** for volunteering hours as Artisans' Village coordinator.

**Margrethe and Greg Gregg** for buying, donating, and distributing snacks each day during Artisans' Village.

**Sue Karnosh** for grant reports, arranging ED candidate interview days, websites updates, email notices, calendar, and election prep.

**Andrea Misbach** and her Chemeketa Community College students for volunteering for Artisans' Village.

**Doug** for terrific Artisans' Village Raku station prep.

To all **Artisans' Village** volunteers, a Tremendous Thank You! All your efforts created a great atmosphere for the fairgoers. Such great Raku results! Again, you are much appreciated!

*Kevin Herzberg, Artisans' Village Coordinator*

## Board of Directors

If you have ideas, questions or concerns feel free to connect with a board member. They represent you and want to hear from you.

Sage Dunham - President  
Kevin Herzberg - Vice President  
Claudia Hill - Secretary  
Jesse Breon - Treasurer

## Directors at Large

Jennifer Beulgi  
Dave McConnell  
Jennifer Lassen  
Heather Skinner  
Pam Baldwin

## Empty Bowls Raffle Artist

### Brian Nicholas

Brian is an engineer who uses his CAD computer design program to create a template for the pattern that he creates. He then alters the curves and angles to change the designs and traces out the pattern onto a large leather-hard, wheel thrown platter. Next, he uses an Exacto knife to begin carving out the spaces. It is an extremely detailed and exacting process of cutting out the shapes to produce negative space in the platters.

For over seven years, fascinated WAC patrons have watched Brian Nicholas bring in and glaze large, intricately cut-out-platters. And every year, Brian has donated a finished piece to the Empty Bowls sale benefiting the Marion Polk Food Share. His generosity knows no bounds. The WAC community thanks you, Brian!



## Ways to Support WAC

- Bottle Drop - pick up blue bags and stickers from any Bottle Drop location.
- Memorial & Honorary Gifts - gifts given through planned giving or one time donations are accepted.
- Volunteering - general office and in-studio, events, and other opportunities are always available.

*Donations are tax-deductible. The Friends of the Visual Arts, dba The Willamette Art Center, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and a member of the Oregon Cultural Trust.*

# Family Clay

## When Will Family Clay Start?

Family Clay is starting soon, and we are so excited to be able to welcome our old or new friends and families again! Join us for a fun, relaxing family time in our studio learning new skills and playing with clay. We have experienced teachers and super volunteers ready to roll. We took the feedback from the last season and have expanded our dates and will now be open from noon to 3:00 pm. There will be two project sessions: the first class of the month will focus on beginning clay skills and the second will build on the foundations of clay that we have been learning. Everyone is encouraged to come to each class. We heard a desire for both simpler projects and more complex ones, and we are happy to offer those opportunities. The third class of the month will be glazing and pickup only. We are hoping this allows families to focus on their clay projects and not feel rushed. This third session will focus on beginning and advanced glazing techniques as well as the pickup of completed projects. Please plan to join us for some creative together time!

## COST

\$5 per person per session (*glazing included*)

## TIME

12:00 - 3:00 pm

## DATES

December 3, 10, 17	March 3, 10, 17
January 7, 14, 21	April 7, 14, 21
February 4, 11, 18	May 5, 19

(closed 5/21 for Mother's Day)

If you love working with families and playing with clay, please consider volunteering as a helper. We can always use extra hands to prepare the lessons, guide patrons, and clean up. Even one Sunday a month will be greatly appreciated. We are happy to work around your availability. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Matney at the Willamette Art Center.

—Kelly Matney, Family Clay Coordinator

## Empty Bowls Raffle Artist

### Karen Hackney

I attended my first Empty Bowls event in 2014 and immediately signed up for a beginning

wheel throwing class. It didn't take long to discover I not only didn't like my color choices, but I also sucked at it.

Through sheer persistence and determination, I started exploring

other options. That is when I discovered the world of color (underglazes) and my talent with a paintbrush. My throwing skills are still questionable, but I have no issues with taking someone else's beautiful pottery and leaving my mark.



## NEWSLETTER CONTENT WE WANT YOUR INPUT

Do you have some topics you'd like covered in the next newsletter? Any feature story ideas? Have you found some new techniques or forms that you'd like to share? We know there are hot new creations coming out of the kiln.

Send your pictures and ideas to:

Pam Baldwin – [pamwin4@comcast.net](mailto:pamwin4@comcast.net).

## Willamette Art Center

PO Box 7498, Salem, Oregon 97303 | 503-365-3911 | [willametteartcenter.com](http://willametteartcenter.com) | [info@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:info@willametteartcenter.com)  
Newsletter Team | Pam Baldwin, Editor — Josie Hummert, Graphic Design — Kelly Matney, Social Media



# SPOTLIGHT ON MONITORS

## HOW CAN I BECOME A MONITOR?

Have you considered becoming a monitor? We welcome new weekly and substitute monitors. Monitors cover one four-hour afternoon or evening shift a week, work with patrons checking in and answering questions, answer the phone, handle daily financial business, assure that the studio is kept clean and safe, and are the friendly face of the WAC.

Monitors receive:

- A 20 percent discount on classes, passes and clay.
- Training workshops with open studios offered to monitors twice a year.
- Open studio work time before and after the shift.

Our monitors give of their time to ensure the WAC daily operations run smoothly and the studio doors stay open for all to learn and grow in their chosen crafts. If you're interested in becoming a monitor, contact the studio and leave a message for Lead Monitor, Don Outland. He will contact you.

**TO ALL OUR MONITORS  
THANK YOU for  
keeping the studio  
clean and tidy, the  
patrons welcomed,  
informed, and happy  
— our community  
couldn't do it  
without YOU!**

## MONITOR THOUGHTS

**Claudia Hill** — Being a monitor is such a great way to contribute to the Willamette Art Center. Everyone who comes in is doing something they enjoy, and it is fun being around that energy. Some monitors cover the time when a class is in session, but my shift is during open studio. Seeing so many different styles of expression, through both glaze and clay, makes every day interesting. Sometimes I get to work on my own projects, but often my shift is busy with monitoring duties - everything from introducing new people to the studio to rescuing someone's special tool from the Lost-and-Found. I'm glad I signed up.

### Reminder

**All pots must be bisque fired  
before glazing.  
Only Cone 10 clay or WAC  
Recycled clay may be used  
and fired at the WAC.**

### *Empty Bowls Raffle Artist*

#### **Greg Gregg**

Having been a perpetual student in my younger days, I spent a lot of time taking art classes at the University of Alaska. Prior to discovering clay, all my sculpture experience was in stone and wood. Since then, clay has become a part of my daily life, from studying the footprints in the hall when I forget to take my shoes off at the door, to the buckets of heads, feet, arms, and legs that just didn't make it. I would call my sculptural work "the art of persistence". Over the years the buckets have not filled as quickly, and that is how I measure my success these days. I love teaching at the WAC because I get to see the thrill of discovering clay all over again in the artists who come to my classes.



# A PIG IN A TREE

by Rollie Smith

A few favorite questions from my time at Artisans' Village: Do you know what you're going to make when you start, what is the favorite thing you've made, how much lotion do you use?

The second was the easiest to answer; it was right next to me. That pot represents the best of the WAC for me. It is the *Pig in a Tree*. Three hands touched the making of that pot. Numerous others played a role in its making. Karen Hackney glazed the pot, and it is so deftly executed. The way she allowed the porcelain to show through for clouds. And the delicacy of the tones on the pig is stunning. Kuni did the Japanese calligraphy and is responsible for giving me that quote one evening: "Thank you, that's what I need—encouragement! I don't need to hear what is wrong."

I've received so much encouragement on my clay journey. I was able to throw and model that pot because of that encouragement. Nikki was my first hand building instructor, and she opened such a space of creativity through her gentle, "I don't know. Try it" suggestions. Ken Jacobsen was my first throwing instructor. He and Jim Ransom gave me such a strong foundation and kept pushing me to go a bit further. It was Hal Matthew who first dragged a reluctant me to the wheel and said, "Sit down and try this". Dale, Wendy, Ben, Doug, and so many others have encouraged me through word or action innumerable times. Even people I don't know. The seemingly offhand, "That's a nice shape" is always a marvel and encourages me to pursue and push my expression through art and craft a bit further.

And that is how this pig found himself up a new tree. Encouragement from Pam, Margrethe, Doug, Jan, and Kevin to consider teaching at the WAC. I was reluctant. Then I got a call from Doug. The WAC needed a last-minute fill in teacher. Would I consider teaching? So, here I am trying to climb another tree. I guess we'll see if I make it or not. But if I don't, it won't be from the lack of encouragement. So everybody Keep Making!

*BTW Proctor and Gambles (maker of Jergins Lotion) is trading at 143.21.*



## Empty Bowls Raffle Artists

### Jim Ransom

I have been working with clay since the mid-seventies. In that time, I developed a desire to make functional ware with a flair for shape and style. I would hope that my work is displayed and is also placed in an area where it is touched. Pottery has a permanence such that pieces over 2000 years old and more have been found. I don't think that is the outcome I desire. I would rather think that my work was handled and used to the point that it ultimately met its end from wear and tear. Please use the pieces I made, enjoy them for the time they are in your possession, and remember them fondly when they are gone.



### Marc Vickery

I've been turning wood since about 2010 and consider that the journey always has new things to learn. It is a fascinating hobby with lots of ways to express a relationship with wood. This year for the Empty Bowls raffle, I contributed a vase made of Eucalyptus wood. It has a wonderful shade of orangey red in the grain and of course a knot that adds to the character. My wonderful wife added the flowers which may help point a direction for decorators.





# CLASS PICS

