



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WAC?

No Open Studio

Because Thursday night is packed with students during Spring term with two classes sharing the studio, the Board has decided the studio is closed for Open Studio on Thursdays from 5:30pm to 9:00pm.

Wanted—Volunteers

The Great WAC Clean-up Day is Saturday, May 4 from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. Grab your gloves and join Fred Hamann (project leader) and others for a spruce up of the old kiln area and the Annex.

Saturday Market

Volunteers are needed to staff the WAC information booth at Saturday Market starting May 25. The sign-up sheet and details are on the hallway Information Board. Volunteers are needed for shifts from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. If you can't spend the whole day, just sign up for either a morning or afternoon shift. Other dates:

- June 1 and 22;
- July 6 and 27;
- August 17.

This is an entertaining venue! Help share the art center activities, fundraiser info, and class schedules with the masses of Market shoppers.

Clay-a-thon

The next Clay-a-Thon is Saturday, May 11 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Throw or hand build high quality bowls for Empty Bowls or create vases, luminaries, etc. for Artisan Village and Art Jam. If you are an inexperienced potter, we will have some easier glazing and decorating projects for you to complete. Door Prizes are awesome! Pizza and dessert provided. A future Clay-a-thon will be held Friday, June 7 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



Coming soon:

Specialty WAC firing tickets, with the same \$ value. Current tickets may be exchanged. Timeline TBA.

Oaks Gallery Art Shows

A Reception was held Friday, March 29th for the "Spring Tea Time" gallery theme.

Is that Jose?!?

Check out our own WAC cover-boy, Jose Hansen, gracing the front of Salem Magazine, available throughout Salem and by the front desk. Empty Bowls is a feature article inside.



The Animal Faire



"I went to the Animal Faire; the birds and the beasts were there...!! Let's roar with this show. The theme is all things animal and fair-like. The submission deadline for works to be displayed is April 30th. A reception will be held on May 3rd from 6-8:00 pm in the Oaks Gallery. The show will run through the month of May. Pick up items on May 27th unless other arrangements have been made. Please have all works labeled and, if they are for sale, please fill out a sales contract and inventory list.

Masked Ball

Halloween will soon be here, and it'll be time to create your disguises for the Ghoulish Ball! The theme is "Fun with Fiends and Friends"...bring your masks and have a ball! Submission deadline for works to be displayed is September 24. A reception will be held on Friday September 27 from 6 to 8 pm. The show will run through the month of October. Pick up items by October 29th.



Empty Bowls Donation Drive

November is an exciting whirl of activity during final preparations for our Empty Bowls fundraiser November 23-24 with all proceeds benefitting the Marion-Polk Food Share. 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. Each bowl must be made, trimmed, bisque fired, glazed, and glaze fired. Often people ask if they can donate money designated for the cost of clay, glaze and firing. Absolutely! We need help now to cover production expenses. Your tax-free donation can purchase the following:

- \$14 — 1 bag of clay
- \$25 — Glaze for 30 bowls
- \$50 — Bisque fire 25-40 bowls
- \$75 — Electric kiln glaze fire 40-60 bowls
- \$125 — Gas kiln glaze fire
- \$250 — 50 bowls (from clay to finished bowl)

All donations, large and small, make it happen! If you'd like to be a sponsor or make an individual contribution to this worthy cause, mail your check to: Willamette Art Center, PO Box 7498, Salem, Oregon 97303 or stop by the studio. As always, a huge thank you to our loyal sponsors: The Grand Hotel, John Gear Law Office, and Salem Electric. Our yearly goal of \$20,000 feeds 60,000 hungry people in our community!

Lifecycle of empty bowls:



Bag of Clay



Trimming bowl



Greenware



Glazed unfired bowls



PJ at wheel



Glazed bowls

Big Blue the Extruder:



New to the WAC studio equipment is Big Blue, the extruder extraordinaire. It hangs beside the slab roller and dyes can be found in the black tool box. Nikki Svarverud

recently challenged her hand- building class to create unique clay pieces from large extruded forms.

To extrude smaller forms, a hand-held extruder is available and stored on a shelf near the door.



Pit Fire Workshop

The anxiously awaited summertime Pit Fire with Instructor Fred Hamann is coming soon.



Saturday, June 1 — 1:00-3:00 Fred will cover pit fire best practices, including: clay choices, combustibles needed, bisque pot forms, and decorating techniques.

Saturday, June 15 — 1:00-3:00. Students will bring fuels, apply and decorate bisque ware and load the pit.

Sunday, June 16 — 10:00--. Plan to finish loading and fire up the pit. Bring goodies for a potluck lunch.

Monday, June 17 — 6:00 pm. Open and unload the pit.

Meet Tammy Rood



Welcome Tammy Rood who has been hired as our new WAC bookkeeper. Stop by the office and say, "Hi!".

ART JAM---Whaaa?



The Willamette Art Center is once again participating in the Marion County Fair from July 11th to the 14th, 2019. We invite you to join in the fun at Art Jam!

Booths will fill the lawn space on the west side of our building, tucked in close to the other Fair activities. We will have banner signs outside the Yellow and Red gates advertising the event, as well as social media and newspaper advertising through the County Fair and WAC.

- The booth fee for the four days is only \$100, and you keep all of your sales.
- Supply your own 10' x 10' canopy and tables.
- An electrical drop can be arranged for an additional \$45.
- Fairground security will patrol the area after midnight. If you have valuables in your booth, you are welcome to store them each night in the secure WAC studio building.
- The deadline for applying is May 31, 2019.

Applications can be picked up at the studio OR online at: willametteartcenter.com under Events/Art Jam.

Don't miss out on this dynamic opportunity to sell your wares and spend four days with other creative people. For more information contact:

Pam Baldwin
pamwin4@comcast.net
or
Margrethe Gregg
mudroom23@yahoo.com

What is it?!?



Could be an Aztec relic, fish symbol of water and positive life force? Wrong! These are sharp bisqued ware shards tossed into the studio bins of wet clay waiting to be recycled. Also unearthed, sometimes in half thrown pots, were strips of plastic (used to smooth edges of wet pots), small pieces of sponge, parts of tools, and even a string of black plastic off who knows what. We'd like to blame nighttime studio gremlins. But, no can do. These potentially dangerous bits belong in the trash, not in the future recycled clay used for Family Clay Sunday and various studio projects. Please be careful. Only unbisqued raw clay can be recycled. Before dumping your water buckets and trays, feel around the slurry for plastic strips and other bad stuff. Throw it away. Greg Gregg is our brilliant volunteer pugmaster who makes a valiant effort to find the bad bits before pugging, (occasionally requiring first-aid!), but it's an impossible task. If you spot something evil in the recycle bins, yank it out, throw it away in the trash, and enjoy a heroic moment.



WAC Outreach

Several individuals from Goodwill Industries and over 115 Salem-Keizer School District and private school students benefitted from our outreach programming in March and April. From visits to our studio to WAC staff co-teaching at Adam Stephens Middle School, to providing hands-on fun activities for young children, new clay artists have had rich opportunities to create!

Our Goodwill group events are scheduled every two- to three-months. Individuals sign up to come create a project with teachers Nikki Svarverud or Pam Prosise, then return to glaze their work. For April, Nikki facilitated the creation of beautiful spring vases using slabs, large rolls and texture. The experience builds community connections through conversation and support from our amazing WAC patrons who interact with our Goodwill artists.



The entire third-grade of McKinley Elementary School took over the WAC for a day in late March. Fifty-five students were divided into three groups and had the opportunity to make clay whistles with Jim Ransom and coil pots with Nikki, Mary Snyder, and Sue Allen. In the gallery, they joined Pam to marblize paper while completing a souvenir booklet about their day at the WAC. Enthusiasm was high, and the clay projects, which were glazed by WAC staff and Mary Snyder, came out beautifully.

Over the last several weeks, students at Stephens Middle School have been creating a group project that will become a permanent installation in the school library. Thanks to a grant from the William S. Walton Foundation and with assistance from Pam and Nikki and their teacher Gladys Jacobsen, each student designed a spherical divider and a larger piece. These pieces will be used in several multi-tiered sculptures based on representation of their self, family or community. Students built spheres, cubes or





extruded cylinders and used texture and sculpting tools and molds to decorate their pieces. Once the pieces are bisque fired, they will choose from a pallet of Mason stains that reflect their school colors to glaze their pieces, and then will problem-solve the final arrangement of pieces for the sculptures, which will be installed in mid-May. Two more WAC collaborative sculpture projects are planned, with a Walton-funded installation project beginning in May at

Claggett Creek Middle School and a Salem Foundation Charitable Trust grant project at Bush Elementary School.



On Saturday, April 13 Pam and Mary shared information and a fun clay experience with numerous families at the Birthday Party Expo at the Kroc Center. Children chose and painted a small decorated clay disc with acrylic paints. Then, once it dried, the WAC volunteers used colorful elastic to



make bracelets. Children also played about with a clay slab and stamps so they could see how the discs were made. It was a quick and easy way for children to take home a clay creation and for volunteers to share information about WAC activities and classes with an enthusiastic new audience.

—Pam Prosisie

Who's on the Board?

- Coni Raikes, President
- Karen Hackney, Vice President
- Jim Ransom, Treasurer
- Cindy Nelson, Secretary
- Pat Gruber, Director
- Mary Snyder, Director
- Kelly Lawrence, Director
- Deanna Edwards, Director
- Pam Baldwin, Director

If you have an idea to share, chat with one of these folks. These volunteers represent you and are committed to making the Willamette Art Center the best of the best.



Doug Dacar's Garden Art Class

Doug's students are busy creating hypertufa, clay and concrete functional and sculptural art for the Spring garden. They are using the new extruder along with other tools and techniques to make

these unique pieces. The art will be weather resistant and ready for years of enjoyment.



WOW! What happened here? Awesome!

Be sure to check out the remodeled and updated glaze area. Nikki Svarverud and Gordy Minten redesigned the placement of the bucket stands so it's easier to move around. You will also discover newly purchased clean, white glaze buckets. A huge thanks to Gordy for mixing and filling the buckets, an extremely time-consuming project. He also made new circle clay samples for each glaze, one and two dips, giving us welcome updated information about how each glaze fires in the new kiln.



"Mudtools sold exclusively at the WAC"



Wow! How does he do that?

Over the past year or so, WAC staff, volunteers and students have watched engineer Brian Nicholas bring in and glaze large intricately cut-out bowls. Last November, Brian donated one of his beautiful creations to Empty Bowls for a raffle that raised almost \$200.00, and in February he gave another bowl to the center to present to Kristi Reed, or the Grand Hotel, a longtime Empty Bowls sponsor.

In February, Brian demonstrated his methodology, which he calls "Devil's Work" for the detailed and exacting process of cutting out the shapes to produce negative space in his bowls. Once again, he insisted on making a donation, this time donating his time and expertise as a way of giving back to the WAC, where he creates and perfects his methodology, including the application of sprayed glazes. And so, the demonstration became a fundraiser for our Empty Bowls Clay-a-Thon events.

On a sunny afternoon in the Gallery, Brian showed the 15 registered participants how he uses his CAD computer design program to create a template for the pattern that he creates. He demonstrated ways to alter the curves and angles to change the designs, traced out the pattern onto a large leather-hard bowl, and then used his Exacto knife to begin carving out the spaces. Several participants took Brian up on his challenge to try their hand at continuing the cutting process. Finally, Brian provided a paper template and explained how his geometric patterns could be created without the need for the CAD program.

Although WAC participants are now able to understand how Brian makes his bowls, only a couple of potters expressed confidence in trying out the complex method. However, all have had their curiosity satisfied in what was an informative and generous demonstration of Brian's work. Now others at the WAC are asking when THEY will have the chance to watch how Brian makes those amazing bowls?

—Pam Prosize

Clay-a-thon Volunteers



Spring Classes



News Team:

Pam Baldwin—Editor

Sue Karnosh—Graphic Design

Jeannette Johnson—Photography