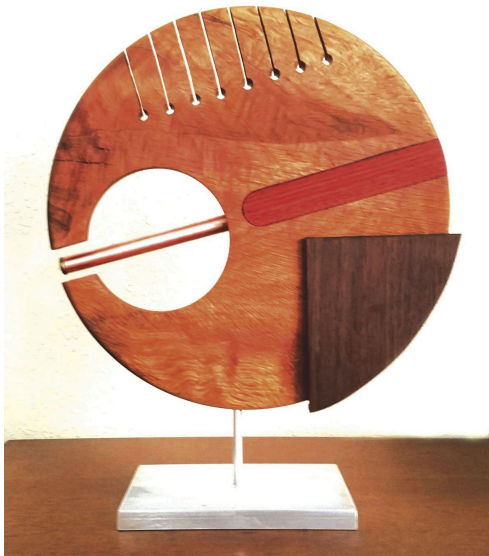
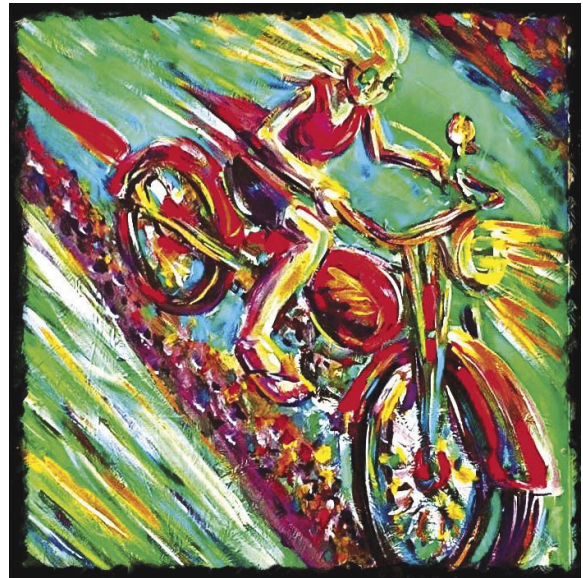


Region's artisans enliven ... Festival at stout park

August 2, 2019



Meet just a sampling of the 70 or so eclectic, creative craftspeople and artists displaying their talents during this weekend's "Festival of Art" in Brookings

Brookings painter Christina Olsen's art is prompted by continual inspiration by this locale, dreams and aspirations.

"It is a necessity to paint, in the same way that proper nutrition is to feed the body and soul," she said.

Her works in ink, watercolor and acrylic are Expressionist/Impressionist. She views her painting practice as a “fun and delicious hobby.”

For her, the challenge of being an artist is simply “not enough hours in a day.”

Olsen said “Festival of Arts” is the best such event she’s been part of because she loves “meeting the other artists. And just the nicest people attend it!”

Woodworker Brian Childers of Brookings has been drawn to art for as long as he can recall. He grew up in a house where art, music and learning were encouraged.

His work began as simple bow shapes, which have evolved into more sculptural pieces.

Childers acquires wood from local sources, as well as exotic hardwoods from Africa, Southeast Asia, South America and Mexico.

“I am drawn to working with wood because of two things,” said Childers, “the uncertainty of the medium and (that) anything can happen as the wood is worked and exposed.

“Secondly, the finish, the feel, the smell, the sound of a well-made wooden object is not only a joy to the senses, but actually a bridge to the natural world.”

Childers said “The Festival of Art” is a great opportunity for area residents and guests to find out how extensive and sophisticated the local art scene is.

Georgia Cockerham is both an author and painter. “Writing and drawing have always been a part of how I’ve communicated throughout the many chapters of my life,” said Cockerham.

At the festival, she will be featuring her most-recent Oregon coast murder mystery, “Murder Replete... for Now,” the third book in her series featuring fictional Brookings detectives Patty O’Toole and Rick Starker.

Also on display will be her whimsical paintings of animals and other water-related scenes.

For Cockerham, the event provides a place where “vendors and buyers can step away from the world’s problems, and simply enjoy time outside meandering through the park while listening to good music and viewing the results of an eclectic display of talent.”

Crescent City Rocks is the creative endeavor of sisters-in-law Cathy Bauer and Julie Lewis. Both artisans were enamored of the beauty of northern California’s rock-covered beaches, where they’ve found inspiration for their craft.

The result has been creation of a line of jewelry featuring locally sourced stones.

Their work is a collaborative effort, with Julie specializing in wire wrapping while Cathy handles the polishing and drilling.

“We are happy our business promotes the community and the arts, and (we) appreciate our customers,” said Bauer. “Our pieces include a tag that proclaims ‘Crescent City Rocks.’

“Since we don’t have a storefront, art shows give us the opportunity to expand our clientele.”

Julie Mueller-Brown of Crescent City’s Cinnabar & Indigo works with natural dyes and handmade beads to create scarves and ethnic jewelry inspired by African designs.

Her latest work includes West African-inspired, indigo-dyed scarves.

The Festival of Art runs today, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Stout Park in Brookings, next to the Manley Art Center and Gallery on Oak Street.