

# OLY ARTS

An abstract collage artwork featuring a face. The face is constructed from various elements: two realistic eyes are pasted onto a textured, light-colored background. The nose and mouth are suggested with dark, charcoal-like strokes. A large, vibrant orange-red shape, possibly a piece of paper or paint, forms the lower right portion of the face. The background is a mix of textures, including cracked paint, torn paper, and various colors like yellow, green, and black.

Issue No. 26 | April/May 2023

2023  
SPRING **ARTS**  
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# OLY ARTS

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View more photos and exclusive content online at [olyarts.com](http://olyarts.com).

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Cover: "Portrait"  
by Gail Ramsey Wharton

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OLY ARTS is published by OlyWorks, LLC  
120 State Ave. NE PMB #304, Olympia, WA 98501-8212



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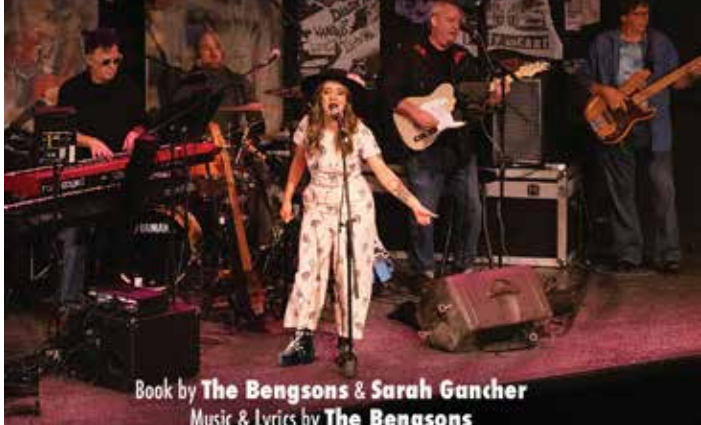


[olympiaartsnews](https://www.instagram.com/olympiaartsnews)

**"WILL TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY"**

- San Jose Mercury News

# THE BENGSON'S HUNDRED DAYS



Book by **The Bengsons & Sarah Gancher**  
Music & Lyrics by **The Bengsons**

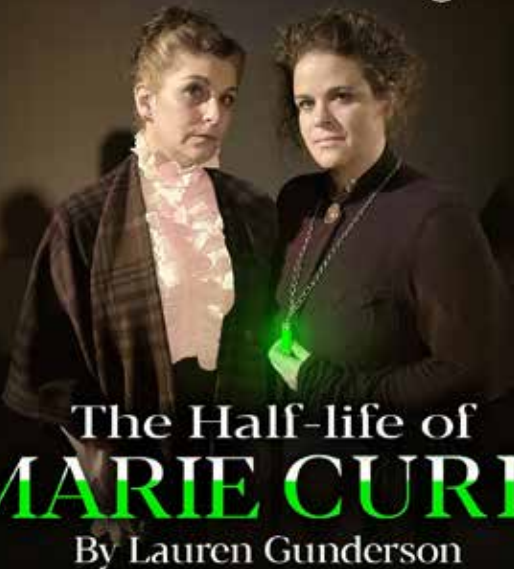
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## The Half-life of **MARIE CURIE**

By **Lauren Gunderson**

7:30pm: May 1, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27  
2pm Matinees: May 14, 28



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# Arts Walk is Back!

By Alec Clayton

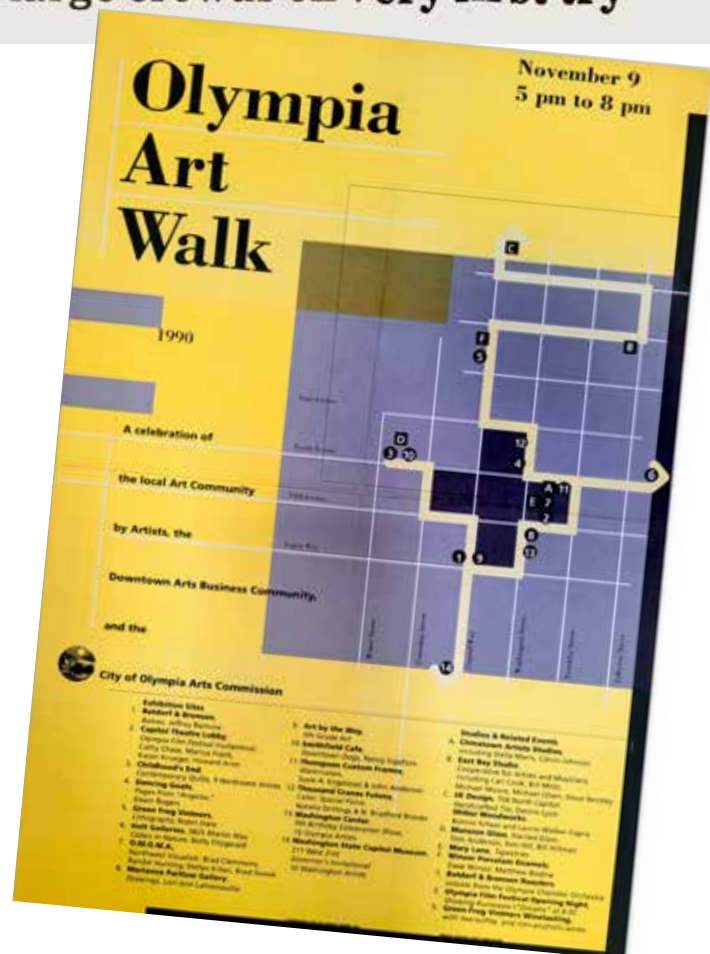
COVID never completely defeated Olympia's Arts Walk, but in the spring of 2020 it was changed to a socially distanced "Arts Watch," a virtual event. This year it returns, full blown — Arts Walk number 66. Artists and art lovers will swarm downtown Olympia, and shops, restaurants and businesses of all types will host artists and entertainers April 28-29. Unfortunately, the popular Procession of the Species will not happen this year.

Years earlier, according to Roxanna Groves, "Jeanne Allen had the original idea of staging a gallery walk like Seattle was doing at the time; which our small band actually pulled off in October of 1984." Instigators included Allen, Groves, Nancy Sigafos, Candy Street, Cappy Thompson, June Marsh, Tom Anderson and Mansion Glass, Mark Fuller, Tucker Petertil, Michael Dickter, Ron and Susan Carlson, Mariko Marrs, Corinne Landrieu, Susan Parish, Carl Cook and more.

Feature artists for each bi-annual Arts Walk are selected yearly and commissioned by the City to create a new, original work of art to be featured on the event poster and its other various publications. The two commissioned artists for this year's Arts Walks are Aimee Schrieber, featured this spring, and Jennifer Kuhns for the fall Arts Walk.

Schrieber's cover art is a painting titled *Unfold*. It is an 18-by-18-inch acrylic painting on wood featuring a garden tiger moth with a gold leaf halo and delphinium flowers. "I used local natural elements with high-contrast shapes and complementary colors to create visual impact and celebrate the expansive possibilities of spring," the artist said. "The Rilke quote 'I want to unfold . . . because where I am folded, there I am a lie' inspired the title for this piece and encapsulates my intention to use art as a means of understanding and connecting with myself and others. Like springtime, painting is a type of unfolding that brings to life previously unseen realities inside and around me."

*Continued on the next page.*



# Arts Walk is Back! *Continued*

"This Old World" photos by Sally Cloninger

As a self-taught artist and gallery director at *The Copper Wolf Tattoo Studio & Art Gallery* in Tumwater, Schrieber loves examining nature and says she is inspired by the lands, creatures, and cultures of the world. "Insects in particular have always fascinated me with their otherworldly colors, intricate forms, and evocative symbolism. These winged muses help me explore the energy of change and the interconnectedness of everything, and I enjoy elevating them with metallic halos, jewel-toned paint, and surreal scale. I focus on natural symbols of hope, transformation and possibility like moths and flowers because they show us that there is beauty, flight, and transformation on the other side of dark cocoons, dark winters, and dark soil. It is my hope that my artwork becomes a vibrant reminder to trust the transformational and creative process."

**Unity within diversity** is an almost sacred principle in all of the arts from film to dance to novels and painting. In life, unity within diversity is paramount, as people of all ages and colors and ways of life share this earth.

We see it in all aspects of Olympia's Arts Walk. In fine crafts works of all sorts from Arbutus Folk School on display at Olympia Federal Savings. Appropriately, the toy store Captain Little's displays of artworks by students at Eastside Cooperative Preschool. In Nathan Barnes solo show at the Washington Center. In Nikki McClure's folksy cut-paper art and calendar art at Browsers Bookshop. In the ballet and tap dance, Butah dance and divination, and flamenco (with audience participation) at the Olympia Center and Bandha Room. At Olyphant Art Supply's show of winners from its spring art contest "Hidden Details." In Harro Scharbau's metal patina and mixed media sculpture and Mark Solberg's photography plus artworks from a surprise guest artist at Octapas Cafe. In the gathering of the absolute elite of Olympia art: Marilyn Frasca, Susan Christian, Susan Aurand, Gail Ramsey Wharton, and films by Sally Cloninger at Childhood's End Gallery. And in readings from fiction, nonfiction and poetry with book signings at Courtyard Antiques & Home Décor.

There will be plenty of art and entertainment of all sorts from works by the youngest of beginners to experienced professionals on display all over downtown — to play on the recent movie title, it will be everything all over town all at once. 0

## WHAT

Spring Arts Walk 2023

## WHERE

Multiple venues in downtown Olympia, WA

## WHEN

April 28, 6-9:30pm

April 29, 12-6pm

## HOW MUCH

Free



Pier - Susan Christian



Harro Scharbau



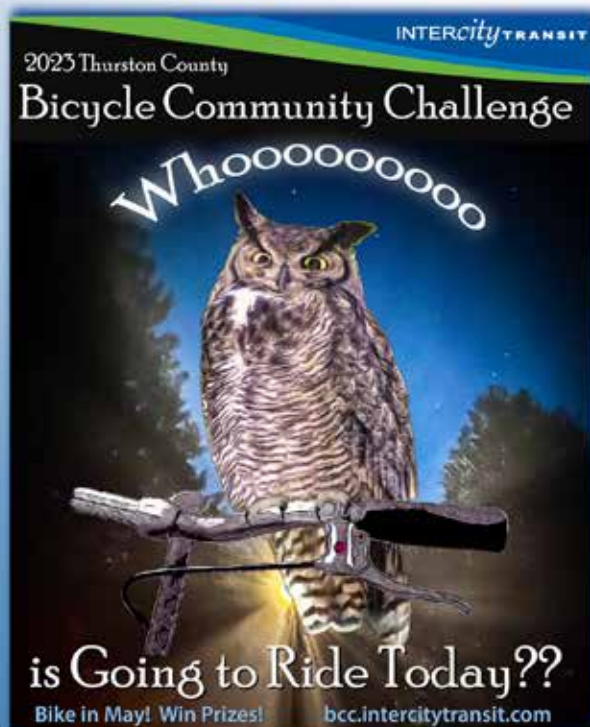
Stay Here - Marilyn Frasca



Sally Cloninger and Gail Ramsey Wharton



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# Something ‘Old’, Something New

By Molly Gilmore

“This Old World” photos by Sally Cloninger

For Arts Walk, Olympia’s oldest and newest galleries are hosting curated exhibitions that bring together artworks with intention. The shows, at venerable Childhood’s End and tiny upstart CaTMA, aim not just to display art but also to become art.

“This Old World” at Childhood’s End breaks new ground in several ways. Curated by artist Marilyn Frasca and filmmaker Sally Cloninger, “World” is the first show at the 50-year-old gallery to include video, and it will be the first time Cloninger will show her experimental short films in Olympia.

The films, Frasca’s drawings and the other work the couple chose for the show — paintings by Susan Aurand and Susan Christian and collages by Gail Ramsey Wharton — all inhabit the same world even as each artist’s work reflects her own worldview.

At CaTMA (an acronym for Contemporary and Trans-Modern Arts), “Hard/Soft” is an exhibition of mixed-media and found-object sculpture by Travis Johnson and gallery owner/curator China Faith Star. “The show is about our works in conversation,” Star said. As the title suggests, the exhibition explores ideas about masculinity and femininity through objects associated with them.

Since the relationship among the works is key to both shows, an element of mystery will remain until the shows open, Frasca, Cloninger and Star agreed. Meanwhile, OLY ARTS brings you the story behind the shows.

## “THIS OLD WORLD”

“Somebody said to me, ‘Why don’t you just call it Five Old Women?’” Frasca said, laughing. “We’re all over 70. ... We’ve all lived in Olympia, and we’ve all created these worlds in our work.”

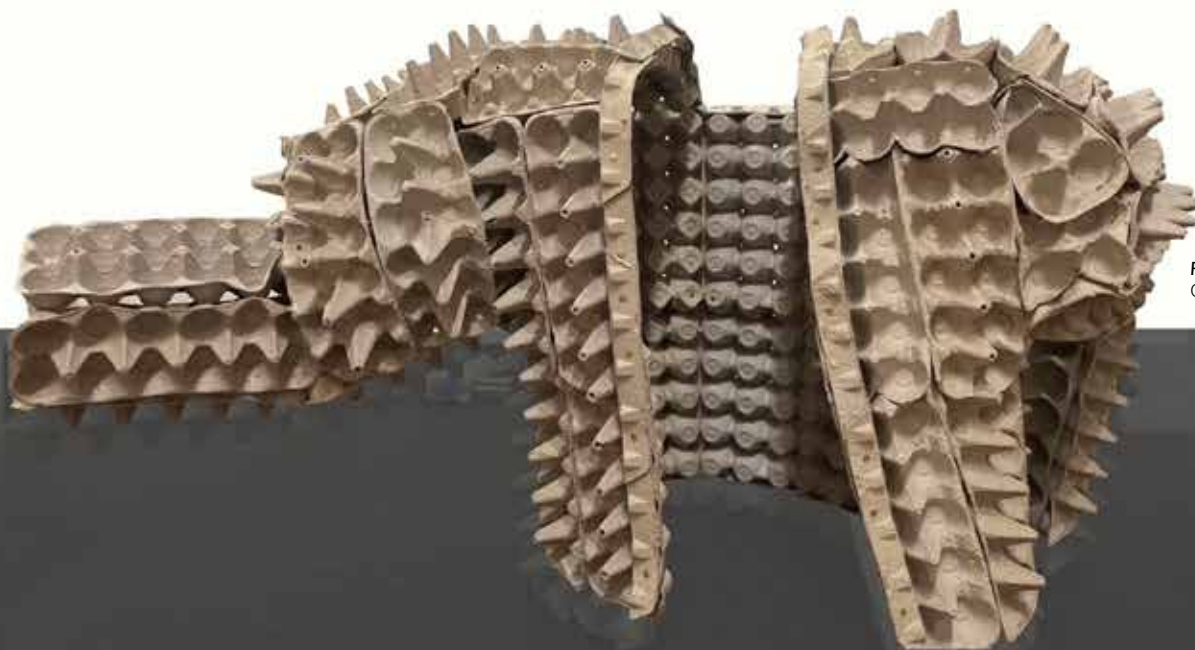
Of course, the title doesn’t refer to the age of the artists, all well known and well respected. Rather, the show takes its name from one of Cloninger’s evocative short films. The two-minute

“This Old World” evokes a sense of wistful wonder with moving images of water and weather, globes and maps, often overlaid with glimmering dots. “I wouldn’t call it nostalgia, but it’s a memory,” Cloninger said. “During this period, a lot of things I took for granted are no longer the case.”

Water, taken from footage she shot on her travels, runs through many of the films Cloninger will show in a temporary screening room in a corner of the gallery, “It is important to exhibit her artwork as she intended it to be presented,” said gallery manager Jonathan Happ. “While her work is not for sale, it is an integral part of the concept of the exhibit.”



While We Sleep (Film still) - Sally Cloninger



Fragility  
China Faith Star



Indeed, “This Old World” is at the center of it — the words as well as the images. The title of the film just felt right, Cloninger told OLY ARTS. “I think it was a combination of a feeling of ‘this old world is gone forever’ and ‘this old world is an interesting place,’” she said. “The question is: What comes next?”



Anna Manne, Miene, Mukke  
- Susan Aurand

“This Old World” is also the title of one Aurand’s paintings, in which a moth flies above a framed compass, set against a stormy and perhaps even apocalyptic background. “It was originally untitled,” Aurand said. “When Marilyn told me about the idea of doing a show on the theme of ‘This Old World,’ I knew that was the title of the painting.”

Water runs through many of the films that will be shown in a temporary screening room in a corner of the gallery, is a part of many of the works Cloninger

and Frasca chose. Sea and sky are perennial fascinations for Christian, whose home was flooded in one of December’s king tides. Her “Pier” shows the posts of a ruined pier in one corner of a blue expanse.

Insects are another recurring element. There’s a monarch butterfly in one of Frasca’s drawings, in which figures seem to arise from a collective unconscious, and a “River of Bees” in one of Wharton’s surrealist collages. “We are trying to hang the show so the pieces echo off each other,” Cloninger said. “This is not just a group show. This is an experiment.”

### “HARD/SOFT”

“What excites me ... is placing artwork together to create a larger dialogue,” said Star, who’s curated several two-artist shows since opening CaTMA in October. “This is a challenge when it comes to placing work that can sit together and speak to this greater connection without diffusing or overshadowing each individual voice.”

“Hard/Soft” came together when Star asked Johnson, whose work explores the cultural narratives associated with objects, to show at CaTMA. He saw some of Star’s sculpture, using found materials and saw a relationship between it and his own and suggested that the two show their work together. “Travis identified the other work, my own, as the missing piece,” Star said in her curatorial statement.

The exhibition will explore the complications with traditional binary gender roles, she said. She described her current work, including an elephant-like sculpture made mostly of egg cartons, as “a conceptual exploration of what it is to be considered discardable.”

“The feeling of being less valued is a psychological battle experienced by all genders presenting physically or through personality as traditionally feminine,” she told OLY ARTS.

“When I work with found objects, I am preoccupied with the pre-narratives that are bound up with a given object or the combination of objects,” said Johnson, whose sculptures include a boxing glove atop a hammer. “I am asking the objects to ... hold different narratives.”

“These objects are tools of a trade that is connected to violence, labor, Blackness and culture,” he said. “I am asking these objects to hold a personal history and a Black ontological placement.”

I am also asking the objects to be art and to be beautiful and to not be concerned with any assumptions.” 0



Travis Johnson

### WHAT, WHEN and WHERE

#### “Hard/Soft”

7-9 p.m. April 27 for artists,  
6-10 p.m. April 28, noon-6 p.m.  
April 29; on view through  
May 20 (open hours vary,  
so check online)

CatMA Gallery,  
416 ½ Washington St. SE,  
Olympia

<http://catma-contemporary-and-transmodern-arts.ueniweb.com/> | 424-228-6291

#### “This Old World”

5-9 p.m. April 28, noon-6 p.m. April 29;  
on view through June 11

Childhood’s End Gallery, 222 4<sup>th</sup> Ave W,  
Olympia

<http://childhoods-end-gallery.com> | 360-943-3724

# Small Creative Studios with Great Big Ideas

By Lynette Charters Serembe

Olympia has such a varied community which makes it a great place to be an artist. This article highlights three places that exemplify this spirit of community. Each does its part to enrich our city with a dynamic, questioning, and creative cultural identity.

## OLYMEGA MAKERSPACE

This amazing three-story workshop is a member-supported nonprofit. It has been around since 2009, and its members include inventors, product developers, artists, and craftspeople. I was shown round the shop of delights by Michael Rohdie, one of its 30-40 members. They created a safe place where people of varied skills and talents both socially and practically, can gather and see what they come up with. It is designed to cater to all strengths, and anyone can join in. Their goal is to: “learn from others, teach what you know, and make something!” They also work with other organizations around Olympia including Hands on Children’s Museum, Arbutus Folk School, and The Lacey MakerSpace.

Rohdie says: “The most important (and fun) thing about working as a group is sharing individual and group knowledge regarding a dizzying variety of topics including but not limited to science, technology, electronics, engineering, math, and art. More importantly, because of the wide knowledge and perspective of the group, people frequently find that the problem-solving involves not just particular disciplines but the interstices between the disciplines.”



“I have seen engineers designing an object get crucial advice from artists to solve/approach a problem or issue and vice versa. Many of our members have specialties but are not specialists in a limiting way. Our artists are frequently engineers, and our engineers are artists. Many of us build and develop the specialty tools that we might need for a particular project.”

He told some great stories of people who were uncomfortable with conversation for one reason or another, but after spending time and gaining skills and confidence were able to teach classes in their workshop. He said to participate, start by coming to their Thursday evening open house, 7-9ish. I say “ish” because he told me that quite often when they find a project to brainstorm, they don’t always leave at 9 p.m. A case in point is a small boat that hangs from the rafters of the first floor that he says is the result of a Thursday open evening when someone started to talk about boat making, someone





else had a plan to make a boat and another person had the tools to cut the wooden frame. On Thursdays they also have a show-and-tell where people can bring what they have made. They have a Repair Café every second Thursday. They work on a pay-what-you-can basis. Check it out, you never know where this will take you. Classes are announced at open house and listed on their Meetup site: [www.meetup.com/olymega/](http://www.meetup.com/olymega/)

Artists members will be showing artifacts along with Michael Rohdie's instruments made from recycled pianos and thimbles made from tagua nuts and Laura Glen's Dutch Pour Canvasses.

## OLYMPIA LAMPLIGHTERS

Just down 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue is Olympia Lamplighters, a non-profit creative space that started in 2019. I love this place. I was first introduced to the community when I hung a show in the Harlequin Theatre lobby gallery for one of its artists. Lamplighters has approximately 30 members. It is designed to provide a safe, inclusive space to members of the public on a pay-what-you-want basis. Many of the Lamplighters community members are queer youth and young adults but their regulars are diverse, and they have much older regulars also looking to hone their art skills, build community, and learn from one another. The space is open, welcoming, organized, clean and brightly lit with worktables and comfortable seating; artworks from the community are presented on the walls, salon style.

Iri Alexander (they/them) showed me around and explained what they have to offer; there is a sound studio you can rent, and private art desks, and lockers can be rented by the month. They have a free arts materials section, books for reference, and a free queer clothing closet in the back where people can put together outfits and explore their gender presentation (clean, gently used donations accepted).

There is figure drawing on Thursdays 6-8 p.m. for +18 year olds, and a figure drawing class for +11 year olds on Saturday 2-4 p.m. Alexander has many talents, they teach drawing and oil painting, they also teach a clothing care and repair class where you can repair and adjust clothing to fit, held on second Saturdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. Info and tickets for all classes can be bought from:

[www.olylamplighters.com/classes/](http://www.olylamplighters.com/classes/)

Spring Arts Walk artists listed include:

- **Michele Knox** (paintings)
- **Aruna Rowberry** (paintings)
- **Plastic Sniffers Toys** (craft)
- **Kei** (plushies)
- **Andri Chavez** (mixed media)
- **Lonnie Spikes** (mixed media)
- **Ellen Marsh Becker** (mixed media)
- **& Bambi Strong** (mixed media)



## WHAT, WHEN and WHERE

### Olymega Makerspace

Makers, engineers, geeks and artists

April 28, 6-9:30pm

April 29, 12-6pm

312 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Olympia

Learn more at: [www.olymega.org](http://www.olymega.org)

### Olympia Lamplighters

Artist creative space

April 28, 10am-10:00pm

April 29, 10am-11:00pm

211 4<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Olympia

Learn more at: [www.olylamplighters.com](http://www.olylamplighters.com)

## HOW MUCH

Free

# Small Creative Studios with Great Big Ideas (Continued)

## DOG BOG STUDIOS AT KNITTING MILLS

Dog Bog Studios are 3 artists within Olympia Knitting Mills on Legion Street opposite Fish Tale Brew Pub. Knitting Mills artist studios has been around for decades and was home to such artists as Nikki McClure, Stella Mars and Community Print. There are eight artists at the Knitting Mills in total, but the artists who are participating in Dog Bog Studios are Mikaela Shafer (she/her), (mixed media) Daniel Overstreet (he/him), (paper textiles) and David Overstreet (he/him), ("avant-garbage") and special guest artist, fifteen-year-old Ender Platter (they/them), (very accomplished digital art and drawings.) The group of artists met five years ago and began to collaborate as artists two years ago. They have been in the Knitting Mills for a year.

These artists all came to Olympia for reasons we may identify with. Daniel says he and his brother David had family here, he loved the arts culture and the green of our natural environment. Mikaela says she had friends who lived here and loved the music, and the schools in the area appealed to her. Her youngest child attends Lincoln Options School and the eldest (participating in their Arts Walk event) is at Avanti High School.

Dog Bog is a hub of creativity. The artists gather with friends to connect, support, collaborate, bounce creative ideas off each other, share critiques, and provide a safe place to suggest new directions and push each other to experiment outside of their personal comfort zones to see what magic happens when curious minds gather. They also help each other with the logistics of putting up and taking down shows, often sharing child-care and home responsibilities so everyone gets a chance to succeed. Daniel says: "We're so entwined and invested in each other's efforts and progress that we see our collective success just as important as our own."

Daniel showed me the collaborative work he makes with his twin brother. Daniel's work is more traditional, but it has a juxtaposition of two different art sensibilities. He makes very accomplished stencil/spray paint work on a large scale and has worked extensively making murals for businesses. He also paints with brushes in a much more immediate style which is less finished. When these two styles combine there is an interesting tension. His brother David also works with stencil/spray paint art but in a more caricatured art style incorporating stenciled patterns. The two brothers collaborate their personal art styles with exciting results. The imagery seems to suggest a social commentary questioning cultural identity. Daniel's plans

are to refine his general practice with acrylics on canvas with the intention of getting back into mural painting and large format pieces. He also plans to practice liquid light shows in and outside of Dog Bog Studios.

Mikaela's work is much more abstract in style. She works in Acrylic and oil with bold strokes on sewn paper. Her work is very materials-forward and she explores landscapes. Her compositions are well balanced and flow well with stitches and layered colors, they suggest an internal light that holds one's attention delightfully. Many of them are landscapes but they could be easily interpreted as abstract indoor spaces. Her works are painted in series, they relate to each other visually like a story in pictures.



*Photo by Daniel Overstreet*

Mikaela's work is showing at S.B Art Studios in London, and will be featured in Aesthetica Magazine in April. She will be staying at Sou' Wester for a week, as part of an Artist Residency in July. Her next art shows will be in Bar Francis this August and at Thomas Architecture Studios in February of 2024. 0

### WHAT

Open studio

### WHERE

508 Legion Way SE, Olympia

### WHEN

April 28, 6-9pm

April 29, 6-6pm

### HOW MUCH

Free

### LEARN MORE

[www.facebook.com/olympiaknittingmillsartistcollective](https://www.facebook.com/olympiaknittingmillsartistcollective)



# Arts Walk Film and Dance

By Bryan Willis

Indicative of the vast art and entertainment to be found at Arts Walk, check out the OlyFilm and OlyAct film demo where You're the Star! That's right, it's your chance to see the filmmakers of OlyFilm shoot a 10-minute film in ten hours (the duration of Arts Walk) and maybe even appear in a scene with youth actors from OlyActing! RSVP ahead of time to be a participant — email [olyacting@outlook.com](mailto:olyacting@outlook.com) to register. And while those light, sound and camera people are setting up the next scene, visit The Olympia Ballroom's lounge to see "Ten," an exhibit by talented artist Cerilene Dula, age 10, who's collaborated with her talented mother/photographer/filmmaker Janice Liu.

Also at the Olympia Center is Flamenco. Enjoy a Flamenco performance and then join the fun with Flamenco "palmas" — rhythmic clapping and hand movements. Well known dance instructor Donna Pallo-Perez will also present basic Flamenco footwork. All ages are welcome. Join in, seated or standing; you'll be "moved to move"!

Plus Melodies in Motion and The Language of Hula, and for visual art there is Cerilene Dula (mixed media) and Janice Liu (photography). Melodies in Motion is a lively, multi-generational group of ballet and tap dancers who bring joyful entertainment to under-served populations and raise funds for worthy causes in Olympia. They will have a lively performance for the Spring 2023 Arts Walk with special guest artists. Please check out their website at [www.mimolympia.com](http://www.mimolympia.com) for upcoming classes.

Saturday at 11 a.m. you can join Language of Hula in the Olympia Center gym for a live performance of modern and vintage dance from the Hawaiian Islands. Students of all ages from the Olympia Parks Hula class will share what they've learned about "the heartbeat of Hawaii" in an engaging celebration of this traditional form of honoring the stories and history of the islands. Bring the kids, bring Grandma, bring yourself to what's sure to be an engaging performance.



## WHAT, WHEN and WHERE

**OlyFilm & OlyAct** (filmmaking)

**Cerilene Dula** (mixed media) & **Janice Liu** (photography)

Fri. April 28, 2023 | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sat. April 29, 2023 | 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Olympia Ballroom Lounge

513 Washington St. SE, Olympia

**Melodies in Motion** – Fri. April 28, 2023, 6:00 PM

**Flamenco Performance & Dance-Along**

– Fri. April 28, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Olympia Center Room A

222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia

**Hula Dance Performance by the Olympia Parks Hula Class**

Sat. April 29 @ 11:00a.m

Olympia Center Gym

222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia

# The Art of Sound and Motion

By Christian Carvajal

Photo credits: the artists

Note the “s” in “Arts Walk.” The word is plural because, in addition to so-called “visual arts” in all their forms and flavors, Olympia’s Arts Walk offers a variety of edifying entertainment from aerial acrobats to mesmerizing musicians. Five events are highlighted below, but dozens of performers promise to dazzle Olympians from stations all over the city’s downtown core.



**Airbound Arts** will stage two performances during Arts Walk weekend, one on Friday, April 28, the second the following night. We spoke to Kylie Rench, show producer and rental coordinator for the group, who performs under the name Moonlit Marie. “The one on Friday,” Rench said, “is an all-ages show, and that one’s gonna have some group performances, some performances from younger students and aerialists, some circus, maybe some juggling. They’re real variety shows. And then the second show (will have) mature content, everything from aerial to burlesque.” The latter show is intended for audience members aged 18 and older. “The thing I enjoy most about performing,” said Rench, “is finding that creative expression through movement, and being able to convey some sort of meaning or feeling to an audience member in an abnormal setting.”

**PC & J**, aka spouses Pat Cole and Jamie Jenson, will perform Friday evening at Childhood’s End Gallery. The pair met at a “jazz jam” at New Traditions Fair Trade and have been performing together for nine years, married for almost a year. “We connected over all kinds of music,” Cole recalled. “We like everything from show tunes to jazz to folk to Joni Mitchell to rock and roll.” Their performances include songs from all those genres. “We play standards. We play a lot of Latin music, but we also play Bonnie Raitt tunes.” They expect their Arts Walk set to last about three hours. “We play tunes from every decade,” said Cole, “back to the ’20s.” They’re even throwing in some Stephen Foster, the composer whose work includes pretty much every song a typical American can name from the 1850s.

Jamie Jenson encourages festival visitors to swing by their show at Childhood’s End, but also to “support live music, especially your local artists. There’s a lot of really great talent in Olympia.” She notes the particular importance of musical exploration in 2023 now that “some of our venues didn’t make it through the pandemic.”

**Choro**, in which the “ch” sounds like an “sh,” is an instrumental genre of music that arose in Rio de Janeiro in the 19th century. The word means “lament” in Portuguese, but the music itself is usually happy and lively. Choro is true world music that inherits transplanted elements from African rhythms to carioca to polka and waltz, and it can sound a bit like klezmer to modern ears. Traditionally played on flute, guitar and a stringed instrument called a cavaquinho, it can incorporate horns, other woodwind instruments and the tambourine-like pandeiro drum. **Choro Tomorrow** is a choro ensemble founded and fronted by clarinetist Lisa Seifert, on top of her long hours each week as an immigration attorney. Seifert explained the allure of choro thusly: “It’s very fun to play. It’s virtuosic.” Like jazz, “there is some improvisation in it.” The band, which currently comprises six members including Seifert, will perform Friday evening at Fish Tale Brew Pub. “I have to thank Fish Tale Pub for being part of the resurgence of Latin music,” noted Seifert, who promised audience members will “see the whole band dancing around as we play. It’s really lively, happy music. ... They’re gonna make your eyebrows go up. It’s infectious.”

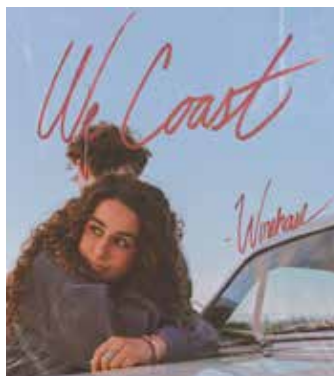




Jamie Jensen



Pat Cole



Winehouse



Chivanlim

In 2019, six years after the world was bombarded with earnest renditions of “Let It Go,” Walt Disney Animation Studios unleashed *Frozen II*. The snowy sequel earned more money than its lucrative predecessor and is currently the second-most-successful animated film of all time, exceeded only by *The Lion King*. At a sing-along screening of *Frozen II*, The Washington Center for the Performing Arts will give audience members a chance to test their mettle against the staggering vocal chops of Kristen Bell, Josh Gad, Jonathan Groff and Idina Menzel on such earworms as “Into the Unknown.” (Hey, good luck with that.) Encourage your little Arendellians to don full, ice-princess regalia, as the screening will double as a costume contest hosted by the luminous Lauren O’Neill.

No relation to the late singer-songwriter Amy, Olympia pop band **Winehouse** is managed by its lead guitarist, Chivan Lim. It assembled in 2018, and its latest single, “We Coast,” was released in mid-March. (Give it a listen at [winehousetheband.com](http://winehousetheband.com).) Appearing Saturday night at Rhythms Coffee, Winehouse began as “a thing to do with friends,” Lim recalled, but “it developed into a little bit of a mission, like, ‘Empower the youth.’ ... We would play with other bands in Olympia, but we sound quite different from them.” Winehouse now includes a saxophonist and a trumpeter. “It’s very ‘band pop,’” said Lim. “We’re all jazz musicians.” Their 2020 single *Pretty Lips*, for example, added humming sax and SoCal chill to a polished pop ballad tailor-made for weekend Spotify. Added Lim, “We’re excited for Olympia’s rising music scene. It seems like everybody I know is working on music or releasing an album. It’s good that it happened all at once, and I think it’s a different community, so it’s really keeping it alive. ... It’s new. I’m super excited for the future.”

So say we all! 0

## WHAT, WHEN and WHERE

### Airbound Arts Circus Spectacular

7 p.m. Friday, April 28 and 9 p.m. Saturday, April 29  
Airbound Arts, 312 Columbia St. NW, Olympia

### PC & J

6 p.m. Friday, April 28  
Childhood’s End Gallery,  
222 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. W, Olympia

### Choro Tomorrow

7 p.m. Friday, April 28,  
Fish Tale Brew Pub, 515 Jefferson St. SE, Olympia

### Frozen II Sing-Along and Costume Contest

6 p.m. Saturday, April 29  
The Washington Center for the Performing Arts,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

### Winehouse

8 p.m. Saturday, April 29  
Rhythms Coffee, 210 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. W, Olympia

## HOW MUCH

With the exception of the *Frozen II* screening, which runs \$10 a ticket, each event listed above is free to enter.



Choro Tomorrow

# A Closer Look at Some of the Olympia Nonprofits Participating in Spring Arts Walk

By Molly Walsh

As the Pacific Northwest emerges from elongated nights and the perpetual drizzle brought on by the winter months, the spring Arts Walk is like a breath of fresh air for Washington's capital city. Arts Walk is a celebration of Olympia's longstanding creative culture, as well as an opportunity for attendees to connect with new facets of the community. And woven into the fabric of Olympia's downtown corridor are not only boutiques, cafes and waterfront attractions, but also nonprofit organizations that are vital to Olympia's social infrastructure.

While working to address pressing community issues like environmental education, support for low income families or access to inclusive creative spaces, these organizations also are helping to bolster the greater Olympia arts community. And through participation in the spring Arts Walk, many Olympia nonprofits are opening their doors for attendees to explore unique exhibitions, displays and interactive activities. Each nonprofit has its own story and mission, and Arts Walk is a unique opportunity to share creative works and to share its story with South Sound residents.

## ARBUTUS FOLK SCHOOL

Arts Walk Location: 610 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E, Olympia

Arbutus Folk School offers classes in a variety of traditions, including ceramics, woodworking, and fiber arts. During the spring Arts Walk, Arbutus Folk School will host a special interactive activity led by featured artists, Liz Frey and Wendy Clark. Both experienced fiber artists, Frey is a fine arts professor at Centralia College and Clark teaches spinning and fiber arts-related classes and is currently in training to become a master spinner from Olds College in Alberta, Canada.

Frey and Clark will be hosting a live demonstration at Arbutus Folk School, showcasing how wool is made into yarn and how fabric is woven on a loom. The fiber for the loom demonstration will be sourced from Clark's own flock of sheep. Attendees will be welcome to try their hand treadle at the spinning wheel, while also learning more about how natural fibers are processed and the benefits of using natural fibers over synthetic fibers in weaving projects.

"I will have already spun up the yarns for Liz to weave with and it's going to come from one of my ewes," said Clark. "Her name is Ashley, and she's a badger ewe and so

she has black, but she also has silvers and white. So we're going to graduate from black to silver to white. I'm going to bring some of her fleece with me so folks can touch the fleece. There's going to be spinning wheels there for them to sit down and just treadle."

A visit to this fiber arts demonstration at Arbutus Folk School may be of interest to people who are looking to take up a new artistic hobby but don't know where to start.

Attendees can learn more about the creative process for certain disciplines, like wool processing, spinning and weaving, while also learning about the programming available through Arbutus Folk School.

"I think there's just a really growing movement for people learning sustainable processes and how to be more self-sufficient," said Clark. "And that's the other piece I'm hearing from a lot of people, and I think a lot of people, too, don't know where to start. And so, having us out with Arts Walk, and being visible to the community, is really key to showing people what they could do and what they could learn."



## WEST CENTRAL PARK AT OLYMPIA FEDERAL SAVINGS

Arts Walk Location: 421 Capitol Way S, Olympia

Outside of Olympia Federal Savings on Capitol Way South, the West Central Park Project will host an interactive, pop-up edition of the Olympia Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG). First introduced to Arts Walk in 2022, the Free Little Art Gallery encourages participants of all ages and experience levels to stop by and explore their creative side through crafting small works of art. Thea LaCross, board treasurer for West Central Park said the gallery is a “make art and take art” style of participation, where all are welcome to create and display their art pieces in the special gallery display box.

“We will have the new art box, the new gallery will be there,” said LaCross. “And the main event really is just having lots of supplies and art things. And people just are invited to come in, sit down and make things.”

West Central Park is a community green space, located on the corner of Division Street Northwest and Harrison Avenue Northwest in west Olympia. Throughout the year, West Central Park is home to a series of events like farmers’ markets and concerts. The Free Little Art Gallery also has a permanent home at West Central Park. LaCross said the West Central Park Project is excited to share the experience of the Free Little Art Gallery for Arts Walk attendees in a downtown setting, as Arts Walk is a great way for the organization to connect with downtown neighbors and to further promote creativity for all members of the community.

“We interpret art pretty broadly,” said LaCross. “There’s the art of building community and there’s the art of making gardens. And landscaping happens, and the music. So, the Arts Walk, even though at first we were thinking . . . tangible, creating art and paintings and that kind of stuff. We realize it’s just really a lot broader than that. And we want to be part of that and invite that in our space as well.”

## PLUM STREET YMCA

Arts Walk Location: 505 Plum St. SE, Olympia

The YMCA on Plum Street is welcoming Arts Walk attendees to an open house, featuring interactive activities and youth art displays that are centered around a celebration of Earth Day.

The YMCA’s youth programs will be highlighted, and the art on display will be created by participants of YMCA youth programs, including from the Plum Street YMCA, Briggs YMCA, as well as from YMCA youth sports and teen programs. Mediums will vary but may include three-dimensional sculpture, papier mâché, paintings and drawings. Arts Walk attendees will also have a chance to participate in a community art activity.

“We’re going to have an entire wall of paper and, with table space, with crayons and pencils, so that visitors, who are also hopefully young people, can also participate in the art,” said Lesli Baker, health and well-being director for the South Sound YMCA. “So, they can just pick up a crayon and participate in our Earth Day theme along the wall inside the Plum Street YMCA.”

In addition to bolstering the arts for youth in the Thurston County region, Arts Walk is also an opportunity for the Plum Street YMCA to engage with the community, and allow attendees to explore the organization’s mission and programming. Especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, YMCA is glad to still be serving downtown Olympia and to participate in community events, like Arts Walk, from the Plum Street location.

“It’s important for us as a downtown community member to participate in these types of events,” said Baker. “Just to remain as part of our downtown community, because we really do love our downtown area.”

## HUMMINGBIRD STUDIO

Arts Walk Location: 112 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. W, Olympia

Hummingbird Studio is an arts space that aims to provide creative activities and programming to all members of the community, regardless of skill level, ability and income.

“Hummingbird Studio is a free, inclusive community art program,” said Randi Miller, community programs director for Kokua Services. “We provide supplies, it’s an open studio concept. So we don’t have a lot of instruction. It’s mostly people just choosing what they want to work on and sitting down and working. It’s so much about inclusion, it’s about building community. It’s about making friends. It’s about providing a safe space for artists of all abilities to come in and play and be creative and not be judged.”

Created by the nonprofit Kokua Services, Hummingbird Studio has been an important thread in the fabric of Olympia’s creative community since 2015. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, though, many of the studio’s operations moved to an online setting. With hopes to resume some in-person programming, Hummingbird Studio’s recent challenge has been the search for a new physical location.

As a result, Hummingbird Studios has developed a partnership with the City of Olympia and the Evergreen State College, developing plans to move into the historic Ben Moore’s restaurant space on Fourth Avenue West in downtown Olympia. Hummingbird Studio and The Evergreen State College intend to share the space, both running programming out of this downtown locale. Miller said some light renovations are still needed to make the space ready for daily operations.

*Continued on the next page.*

## A Closer Look... *Continued*

During Arts Walk, Hummingbird Studio will host an open house in the new space, introducing the community to this new location, the partnership with Evergreen and new ideas for how the space will be utilized.

"I'm super excited to welcome the community," said Miller. "To share our vision and our mission with the community and to engage the community to be involved in some way. Whether it be to volunteer or just come in to be an artist, or donate . . . share our social media. So, I'm super excited."

### PEER OLYMPIA

Arts Walk Location: 522 Franklin St. SE, Olympia

Peer Olympia helps community members who are in recovery from chronic addiction, mental health or physical health conditions. Peer Olympia is part of a greater state-wide organization, Peer Washington, that provides referral support and opportunities to build community. Out of Peer Olympia's downtown location, there is a range of programs available, including peer coaching.

"We pair people up who are either contemplating, or are in recovery with folks that . . . have similar lived experience, similar goals, and are kind of at a later stage in recovery," said Dan Evans, peer services specialist for Peer Olympia. "And all of our coaches go through a national training model."

During the spring Arts Walk, Peer Olympia is inviting community members to their downtown location. Arts Walk attendees can take in art from artists and individuals who are in recovery, including Peer clients, employees and volunteers. The art on display may span many themes and mediums, including acrylic on canvas, ink drawings and pipe cleaner sculpture.

"We thought it would be really cool to just sort of have an open invitation to any members, staff and volunteers to join us in a sort of a collection or a collective of art, if you will," said Evans. "And we're calling it 'Artists and Works in Recovery.' Because we are artists in recovery ourselves, and really, any art we make is generally part of that. And so, we're kind of featuring all different mediums."

Since Peer Olympia is located in the heart of downtown and serves downtown residents, the organization hopes to further connect with local residents and strengthen downtown relationships through community-centered events like Arts Walk.

"How do we tune into those avenues and those community networks," said Evans. "And how do we get to be a part of that, where people cannot just come see art that we've

made, but come see our space? A lot of folks you know, have no understanding or minimal understanding of what Peer Olympia is and what it looks like. And so, it's going to be, for us, an awesome opportunity to open up one of our support group meeting rooms, fill it with art and make it about, you know, inviting the community in to come see our little community here and how we interact with downtown."

### POWER OLYMPIA

Arts Walk Location:  
309 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Olympia

POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare & Economic Rights) is a nonprofit based in downtown Olympia that helps to advocate for causes that support low income parents and families. The Alchemilla Feminist Economic Collaborative, a project of POWER, is an organization that is working to build a community of entrepreneurs from all walks of life. During Arts Walk, attendees are welcome to stop by POWER, learn more about the organization and how to become more connected with POWER programs.

"Our organization, our main thing is to raise awareness and build community with low income people," said Mary Vent, community organizer for POWER. "So, I think in these hard economic times, it's important for people to know people's actual lived experiences and not, you know, the common narratives which trash low income people."

During the spring Arts Walk, POWER will be hosting an exhibition of paintings and sketches from low-income artists of color, as well as street vendors from the Thurston County-based Bum Jug Collective of artists. POWER will also be displaying pieces from their project, Sock Monkeys for Social Justice, where artists tell their stories through the creation of a sock monkey figure. POWER's Arts Walk activities and displays will be family friendly, with coffee and hot chocolate available to visitors who stop by.





## PUGET SOUND ESTUARIUM

Arts Walk Location: 309 State Ave. NE, Olympia

The Puget Sound Estuarium helps the community to connect with the local environment, particularly, the environment of the Puget Sound, through educational programs and events. This includes student field trips and programs like Pier Peer, where participants learn



more about the marine life that finds a home under local docks, or Tiny Tides Storytime, where young students read children's books and explore marine creatures in the Estuarium's touch tank. In addition, the Puget Sound Estuarium is looking forward to participating in the spring Arts Walk to help promote learning and creativity in the greater Olympia community.

"One way nonprofits like the Estuarium contribute to our communities' arts and culture is through experiential learning," said Nora Prindle, communications and development coordinator for the Puget Sound Estuarium.

"Creativity plays a large role in these learning experiences, and we strive to provide a welcoming and engaging environment to promote learning. Arts Walks is a great opportunity for the public to interact with our current exhibits, as well as participate in a collaborative arts activity to highlight conservation concerns and celebrate local endangered species."

During the spring Arts Walk, the Puget Sound Estuarium will hold an early commemoration of Endangered Species Day by displaying submissions from the Estuarium's Endangered Species Art Contest. Community members will also be invited to participate in a range of interactive activities throughout Arts Walk.

"Guests will get a chance to explore the Estuarium for free and take a break to draw their favorite local endangered animal or vote on their favorite piece of artwork," said Prindle. "Additionally, visitors will get to participate in education games and a collaborative chalk drawing activity. And on Friday, we're excited to host the band the Jacked Lords in our parking lot for some surf rock jams!" 0

### WHAT

Spring Arts Walk 2023

### WHERE

Locations listed with the venue

### WHEN

April 28, 6-9:30pm

April 29, 12-6pm

### HOW MUCH

Free

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