

OLY ARTS

Issue No. 28 | Autumn 2023



YOUR GUIDE TO
AUTUMN & FALL ARTS WALK



We proudly support the Arts.

*Committed to community
arts and the people who
make it happen.*

TwinStarCU.com 1.800.258.3115



*Image #10, 2023, Down Road 264
by Mikaela Shafer*

OLY ARTS ISSUE No. 28

Autumn 2023

View more photos and exclusive content online at olyarts.com.

All contents copyright OlyWorks LLC. All rights reserved 2015-2023

Publisher

John Serembe • john@olyarts.com

Editor

Alec Clayton • editor@olyarts.com

Digital Publication Manager

Gabi Clayton • gabi@olyarts.com

Founder and President

Ned Hayes • business@olyworks.com

Contributing Writers

Christian Carvajal

Alec Clayton

Molly Gilmore

James O'Barr

Lynette Charters Serembe

Molly Walsh

OLY ARTS is a WA Not For Profit
120 State Ave. NE PMB #304,
Olympia, WA 98501-8212

OLY ARTS

Photo by Molly Walsh

EVENT



Fall Again
Arts & Entertainment

ART



Mosaic Artist
Jennifer Kuhns

THEATER



Danse Macabre
TAO's Poe Nocturne

ART



CATMA
Group Exhibition

ART



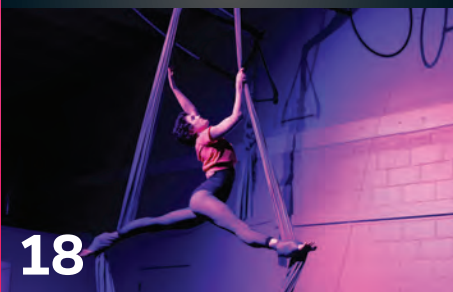
Our Cover Artist
Micaela Shafer

EVENT



Visit Community Print

EVENT



Airborne Arts

ART



Sandra Bocas
& Toni Lawrence

ANNOUNCEMENT



OLYARTS
is Now a Non-Profit!



OlyWorks, LLC is proud to be a certified **Thurston Green Business**. Please consider recycling this magazine when you have finished reading.



Join us at: OLYARTS.COM



olyarts



olympiaartsnews



Fall Again - Arts and Entertainment

By Alec Clayton

Fall is a time for rebirth, for rejuvenation, especially when coming in the wake of a scorching dry summer and a pandemic that refuses to go away. Children return to school, and there will be football — Friday Night Lights at area high schools and U-Dub and Seahawks on the telly. Fall marks the beginning of the new theatrical season, with Michael Parker's *Who's in Bed with the Butler* at Olympia Little Theatre Oct. 20 to Dec. 5, Harlequin's *Every Brilliant Thing* at South Puget Sound Community College in the Minnaert Center Black Box. Oct. 13 to 28, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* October 6-29, at Olympia Family Theatre, and more theatrical treats. Fall at The Washington Center offers such stellar entertainment as Patty Griffin and Todd Snider Oct. 28, and *Cirque Mechanics: Zephyr — a Whirlwind of Circus* Nov. 9.

And the biggest, most extravagant arts event of all: Olympia's fall Arts Walk October 6 and 7.

Olympia Arts Walk is a semi-annual community event celebrating all of the arts, but with an emphasis on visual arts when a majority of downtown businesses turn parts of their stores into art galleries. Since 1990, thousands have gathered in downtown Olympia every year in both the spring and fall for a festive arts experience enjoyed by Olympians and by art and entertainment lovers from all around Western Washington. Street Closures this year will be Friday from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.

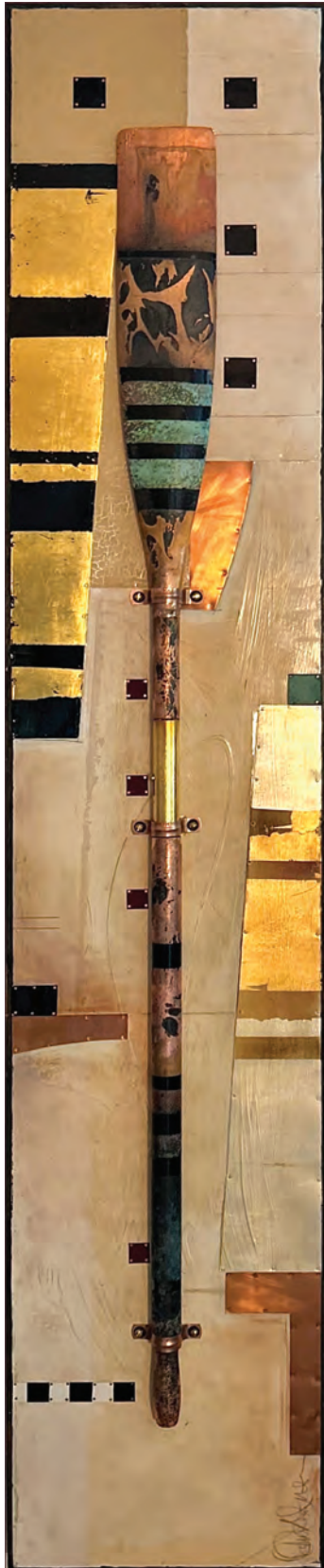
Up one flight of stairs above Bucks Fifth Avenue at 209 5th Ave., SE, Olympia calligraphy artist Sally Penley maintains her studio where she will be showing her latest works in calligraphy and sumi ink along with the art of Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team; Olympia Community Solar project illustrations; Joseph Moran, mixed media; BLIVID, lash artistry; and culinary arts from Sarah's Love Bites and Buck's Spices.

The art of high-flying aerial acrobatics will be on display, and there will be workshops and teen activities at Airbound Arts, 312 Columbia St. NW, Olympia. Workshops will be held Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 4-6 p.m. There will be a circus spectacular show Friday at 1:30 and Saturday from 4-6 p.m., tickets \$15.



Sally Penley *All You Need is Love*

Fall Again *Continued*



By Tom Anderson
inspired by the 30th Anniversary
of The Park Of The Seven Oars

Tom Anderson, master of diverse media and texture and mark-making will show his latest art in copper and mixed media at Art House Designs, 420 Franklin St. SE, Olympia. Also at Art House will be acrylic and ink work by Arrington de Dionyso, and the Steven Bentley Jazz Quartet will provide live music with fresh-funk fusion vibes and classical inspiration Friday from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The astounding painter Sandra Bocas will show a group of her stylized and powerful portraits at her studio at 317 4th Ave E, Ste 103 Olympia. Also at Bocas Art Studio will be local ceramic artist Toni Lawrence with her hand-built and colorfully ecstatic pieces.

Childhood's End Gallery at 222 4th Ave W, Olympia will have a show called "Autumn's Chorus" a fine-art and craft exhibition of crows, ravens, and the "Spirit of Autumn" featuring works by Kathy Anderson, printmaking; Mimi Williams, printmaking; Elizabeth Berrien, wire sculpture; Liza Brenner, oil paint; Boni and Dave Deal, raku ceramics; Loralin Toney, ceramic sculpture; and Judith Smith, mixed media.

Literary events during Arts Walk will include readings/discussions/visual arts from artist workers members at Orca Books Cooperative, 315 5th Ave SE, Olympia at 11 a.m. and literature and illustration by Corinna Luyken at Browsers Bookshop, 107 Capitol Way N, Olympia at 5 p.m.

Expect traffic to be insane during Arts Walk. Best bet: walk or catch public transportation, or leave home early and arrive downtown in time to eat at one of Olympia's many fine downtown restaurants before exploring the many art venues.



Arrington de Dionyso

Much more on Arts Walk and other fall arts in this issue of OLY ARTS.

WHAT: Arts Walk

WHEN: October 6-7. 6-10 p.m. Friday and noon-6 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Throughout downtown Olympia

LEARN MORE: For the full schedule visit the events page at artswalkoly.com/events

Where Happy Dogs Run Fast & Play Hard



Dog Daycare Extended-Stay Boarding

Approximate weight range 10-90 lbs

360-943-BARK

Classydogs@fastmail.com



706 Tumwater Blvd. SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

ClassyCanineCountryClub.com

"...heart-wrenching, hilarious play..." — The Guardian (UK)
 "...very charming...captivating..." — NY Times



DIRECTED BY AARON LAMB
 OCTOBER 13 - 28, 2023
 In THE MINNAERT CENTER BLACK BOX

HARLEQUIN

Visit: HarlequinProductions.org
 Or call: 360-786-0151



Scan
for
Tickets



Featuring Local Artist
 Elise Moore

IN THE OLY THEATER



20-min. plays for kids!
 \$5.00 Admission
 VISIT OLYTHEATER.COM
 FOR DETAILS



IN THE CAPITAL MALL

THEATER FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES



OLYMPIA
FAMILY
THEATER

All tickets ACCESS FOR ALL!

Buy online at a sliding scale of \$5-\$35.

FREE day-of walk-ups to every show!

www.olyft.org

Arts Walk Cover Artist Jennifer Kuhns Has Come a Long Way

by Molly Gilmore

Spring Arts Walk cover artist Jennifer Kuhns has been there before — and she's come a long way. Kuhns, well known for her glass mosaics, first had her work on the cover of the Arts Walk map back in spring 2007. This fall, she's done it again with *Olympia Reflections*, an intricately detailed glass mosaic lake that uses tiny pieces to create the effect of a realistic landscape painting.



Cover JK by Jennifer Kuhns

"This Arts Walk, it will have been 35 years since I moved to Olympia," she said. "Being selected to do the cover art feels significant. It feels big. It feels like an opportunity to show what has happened between the time I did the first cover and now." During the event, happening Oct. 6 and 7, Kuhns will be showing both the cover image and a retrospective of her work at Hot Toddy.

She'll also be celebrating the completion of the mosaic mural *Metamorphosis*, on a wall of Lloyd's Automotive that faces Fourth Avenue. The small butterflies that surround the mural's central winged figure were made by people in the community and beyond. The mural will be dedicated Oct. 7.

While the artist was excited to be chosen to do a second cover at what felt like an auspicious time, the opportunity also came at a particularly hectic one. "I was working on a big mural in a photorealistic style," she said. "The contract says I can't say who I was doing the project for, but it's the most ubiquitous company. It's an e-commerce company, and I was doing a mural for the offices in Redmond. That was a high-pressure job, and I was working on that during the day and working on the Arts Walk piece in the evenings. ... All winter and through spring, I was working every day till 11:00 at night."

Kuhns decided to use the same realistic style for the Arts Walk piece. "I was in that zone," she said. "I wanted it to be an autumn scene, and I wanted it to be an iconic Olympia autumn scene." She found a bunch of photos she'd taken on a beautiful fall day and picked her favorite. "It seemed like an interesting proposition to try to rend in mosaic," she said. "In the moment, it was like, 'Oh, that would be fun to do.' It turned out it was really challenging."

The piece for the company that shall not be named is simply one of the latest on an ever-lengthening list. In October, she'll start a new project, one she calls "the biggest and most ambitious of my career": the entire interior of a public restroom for West Central Park, the nonprofit community park on the west side.

She and park founder Alicia Elliott have a grand vision. "We want the restroom to feel like a sanctuary, with imagery celebrating the beauty of the Cascadia region," Kuhns said.

"Alicia has expressed that she wants it to feel like a chapel inside, to give people from every circumstance access to beautiful artwork without barriers. ... I want to make this an iconic, outstanding space that people will seek out when they are traveling in the area."

In the years since she started taking commercial projects, Kuhns has done pieces all over the state and across the country. Among her Olympia projects are sidewalk inlays outside The Washington Center for the Performing Arts and at the entrance to Childhood's End Gallery and a multi-faceted project at Swing Wine Bar & Cafe including the sign in front of the restaurant, a bar surround and inlays for a high-top table.

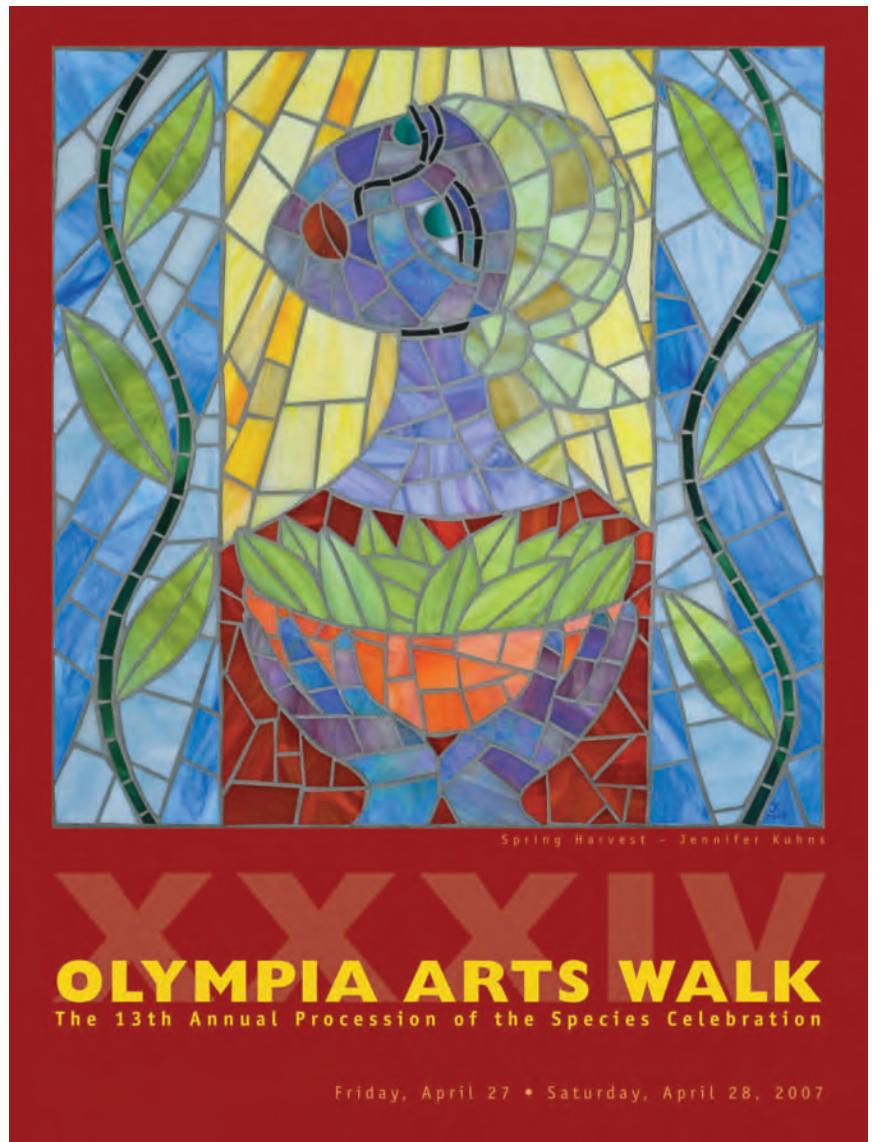
The mosaics in the bar-height table at Swing were tests that Kuhns made during the project, and Swing owners Nicole and Jim Butigan liked them so much they changed their plans for the space. “She inspired the design of the restaurant,” Nicole Butigan said. “We built a big table that lights up from below because we had those extra panels. ... Obviously, we really love her work. It’s a very noticeable thing you see when you walk through the front door. It has a bright, whimsical quality.”

The Swing project — Kuhns’ first commercial commission — came in summer 2007, just a few months after her Arts Walk success. She’d decided to get serious about her business and worked with Enterprise for Equity at the same time she was creating *Harvest*, a stained-glass style image of a woman holding a bowl of produce, face turned up to the sun.

“I had no idea that it was going to be such a big hit,” she said. “The cover art really seemed to speak to people and I got a lot of attention. I remember describing that Arts Walk as the most exciting moment for me since getting married, and it was the same kind of feeling, where all the people are coming to you and you’re getting congratulated.”

The enthusiasm confirmed her decision to make real money from her art and to focus on mosaic, something she stumbled across in her 30s after working with a variety of media in her 20s. At first, she would smash tiles and use the broken bits to create frames for other pieces. These days, she teaches others the techniques that she has continued to develop and refine.

The jury for this year’s Arts Walk covers was impressed by Kuhns’ skill, said event organizer Angel Nava. “Jennifer’s portfolio ranked highly in the jury process for her mastery of the mosaic medium and compelling use of the material to bring her images to life,” Nava said. “Jennifer’s current style and techniques are very different than the type of work she was creating in 2007.”



Harvest Shimmer Spring Arts Walk cover by Jennifer Kuhns

WHAT: Dedication of Kuhns’ Metamorphosis mural

WHEN: Noon Oct. 7

WHERE: Lloyd’s Automotive, 425 State Ave. NE, Olympia

LEARN MORE: jkmosaic.com

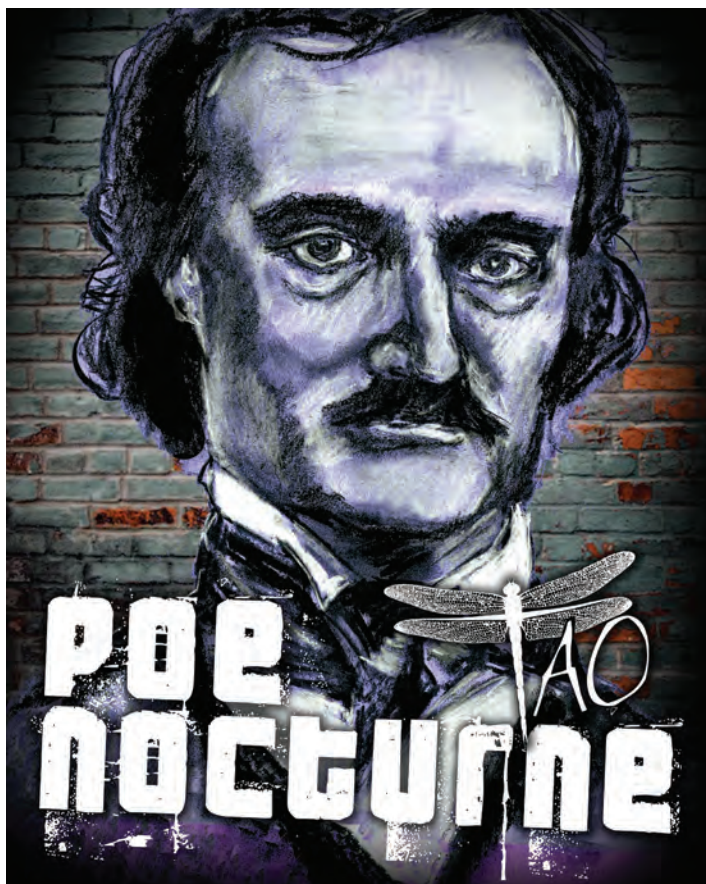
Danse Macabre

By Christian Carvajal

“Those who dream by day,” wrote Edgar Allan Poe, “are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.” If that’s true, we all have much to learn from the inveterate daydreamers of Theater Artists Olympia. TAO normally performs in a Capital Mall storefront a few doors down the concourse from Cinemark, but for four nights in late October, it’ll present material from the works of Poe himself as part of a spooky annual festival at Lakewold Gardens in Lakewood. Four of the Baltimorean horror master’s macabre tales will be presented under the collective title *Poe Nocturne*. If TAO’s success with such unsettling scripts as *1984*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Titus Andronicus* are an indication, he should feel right at haunted home.

Spouses John and Lynette Serembe visited the gardens on John’s birthday. When Lynette, a painter, expressed admiration of Lakewold’s art gallery, executive director Susan Warner invited her to show her work there. When that collaboration proved successful, Warner remarked, “We’d love to have some theater done here. Do you know anybody who’s into theater?” They do. John is a veteran actor and vice-president of Theater Artists Olympia (as well as the business manager of **OLY ARTS**), so he agreed to direct a production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the venue in August 2023. That production was a hit, so Lakewold recruited TAO into its All Hallows’ Eve festival program for late October.

That didn’t seem the right occasion for another full Shakespeare production, so John suggested fully dramatized versions of “The Tell-Tale Heart” and other Poe short stories instead. The venue’s rear-projection movie screen will serve as the backdrop for a collection of short plays set in various locations. The festival’s admission price will cover, not only the Poe material, but also a no-host bar and eerie, diverse entertainments in Lakewold Gardens. *Poe Nocturne* will be directed by TAO artistic director Pug Bujeaud, with a visual style similar to that of her recent storefront production of *The Mystery Plays*.



TAO’S *Poe Nocturne*

Some of the scripts will be excerpted from playwright Rachel Luann Strayer’s adaptation *The Poe Asylum*. Strayer allows for portions of her script to be presented as standalone one-acts. “They’re interestingly dramatized,” Serembe notes. “We may steal her style for some of the others, because ... we’d rather do a couple of other Poe stories that may have a little more humor involved. Hers are all kind of dire, and you have a black cat with its eyes being gouged out. We’re gonna skip that one.”

Because of the narrow rehearsal window between *Mystery Plays* and mid-October, TAO may be hand-picking *Poe Nocturne*'s cast instead of holding open auditions as usual. The show will be staged "in the Wagner House inside the estate," says Serembe, "because we never know about rain, right? We've cordoned off an area inside one of the bigger rooms, next to the fireplace." Serembe finds the space an apt setting for Gothic melodrama. "It looks like a museum on the inside," he continues. "It's got wainscoting, and it looks great. The whole place is gonna be decorated on the outside as well. They'll have lights in the trees and spooky music."



A Midsummer Night's Dream, directed by John Serembe
Photo credit: Shanna Paxton Photography

That brings us to the so-called "Lakewold Monster." According to the venue's website, "Rumor says it is a creature that evolved as the climate has changed and caused harm to Lakewold's native flora and fauna. Displeased with the treatment of its home by humans, the Monster is said to emerge from Gravelly Lake to seek revenge as the days transition from daylight to darkness."

Explains Serembe, "One of their staff will be on stilts in a giant monster costume, stalking around with a giant puppet head. I think it'll be an interesting, fun time."



The Lakewold Monster attacks!
Photo credit: Lakewold Gardens

WHAT: *Poe Nocturne* at All Hallows' Eve

WHERE: Lakewold Gardens,
12317 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW, Lakewood

WHEN: 6-9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 20-28.

HOW MUCH: Tickets: \$20 for adults | \$16 for students, seniors and military | \$10 for youth ages 5-17 (under 5 are free). Includes garden festival admission.

LEARN MORE: 253-584-4106, lakewoldgardens.org

CaTMA Gallery's Group Exhibition Explores Intimate Conversation Through a Unique Creative Process

by Molly Walsh

Described as a “response to the concept of intimate conversation,” CaTMA (Contemporary and Transmodern Arts) Gallery’s group exhibition, *Pillow Talk*, will explore this theme not only through paintings on display, but also through elements of mystery that shroud the creative process. And few in the public will know all that is contained within the *Pillow Talk* exhibition until evening descends on downtown Olympia on Fall Arts Walk weekend.

CaTMA Gallery curator China Star hand-picked local artists to participate in this experimental exhibition. Intentionally choosing creatives with different backgrounds and art styles, Star was curious how these artists might interpret a common concept.

“I like to curate artists who maybe don’t already know each other,” said Star. “Or, like small groups from different communities of artists, because we have a pretty diverse and broad scene where it’s not always overlapping with the same people.”

Star describes CaTMA Gallery as taking on a museum-like approach to a gallery environment.

The gallery’s interior transforms to accommodate each exhibit. And since the gallery’s beginning, Star wanted to craft a conceptual art space that didn’t already exist in the community, providing a unique opportunity for local artists to display their work.

“All of our exhibits and everything that we’re doing there is very much...as structured as it needs to be to actually accomplish what its goals are,” said Star. “It is also very free form and really creating a space for artists to kind of have their work shown in a way that’s like, elevated beyond what we have the opportunity for a lot of times in our area.”

Pillow Talk is set to be CaTMA Gallery’s 10th exhibition. During previous shows, Star said it has been common for the gallery to showcase the work of two separate artists whose work can inspire space for conversation. And *Pillow Talk* explores the idea of works in conversation to a much larger scale. When developing the concept for *Pillow Talk*, Star crafted a system where each participating artist was given brief directions and the necessary supplies to create a painting or art piece around the theme of intimate conversation. The completed pieces are set to be available for public viewing during Arts Walk.

“I’m very excited about it, particularly because we have artists that have been artists in this area for a long time,” said Star. “We also have artists that have not been here that long but really like, inserted themselves on the scene. And we have also a very broad range of demographic artists and also a very broad range of ages within the demographics.”



Photo from a previous exhibit.

Following this creative process means that the show’s pieces won’t be completed until September and because of that relatively tight creative timeline, not many members of the public will know what to expect ahead of the exhibition.

“Every artist involved was very, very open and amenable to...the whole mystery of the process,” said Star.

A major question posed ahead of *Pillow Talk*’s opening: how to market an exhibition that has such a mysterious creative process? Star said after all the final art pieces have been submitted, each artist will receive a press kit from the gallery containing basic details about the show, a flier and



a photograph of their individual piece so they can promote their work ahead of the show. But for the most part, many of the artists have been unaware of who else has created pieces for the show.

With around a dozen artists participating, a “painter’s dozen” according to Star, there is an expectation that there will be different interpretations of the theme of intimate conversation, with Star including artists who have a mix of illustrative and abstract styles.

“I asked some people whose work is naturally a lot more like, illustrative because...that led to some potential of them being able to riff on the theme in a more illustrative way,” said Star. “But...all the artists are not like, a similar style of art. Some artists are completely abstract and I have no idea what I’m going to get back from them on this theme.”

Star is also curious about the response from participating artists after all of the show’s final works have been submitted. Star said it will be interesting how the pieces will work together, or in contrast within the exhibit and a question still remains how or if participating artists will want to be involved in creating the layout of the final exhibition. And through that potential collaboration, whether a sense of community can be formed from that process.

“What really excites me about getting all the work back, just like as a curator who set this mystery in motion, is I’m

just really excited to see the community that can build out of putting this many artists together in this concept,” said Star.

The ideas around intimate conversation can take on many forms and Star said it has even started to take shape during the creative process. And as artists explore this concept in the work itself, Star believes the theme of this exhibition can also extend beyond the canvas.

“Just the conversation that artists have to the work that they’re producing, that in its own right is an intimate conversation,” said Star. “And so I thought that, you know, discussing something like that, that we don’t really actually talk about that much in our society.”

WHAT: *Pillow Talk*, a group show on the theme of intimate conversation

WHERE: CaTMA Gallery 416 1/2 Washington St SE Olympiad

WHEN: Friday, October 6, 4-9 p.m., Saturday, October 7, noon to 6 p.m., Sunday, October 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free admission

LEARN MORE: catma.art

Mikaela Shafer Recent and Past Work

By Lynette Charters Serembe

Mikaela Shafer is our OLY ARTS cover artist. Her beautiful and meaningful artworks will be showing recent and past works at Dog Bog Studios with her studio companions Daniel Overstreet and David Overstreet, also other Knitting Mills artists J. Hukee, Evan Clayton Horback and the ACE program artists, and guest artists Ry King, and Linemaker. This article will focus on Mikaela's artworks, her bicultural identity, and her struggle to reconnect with her Hopi roots.

Shafer's works are abstract in nature and very materials forward. They're open to us projecting our own interpretations, memories, and imagery onto the earth rich colors and swirling compositions; teamed with her beautiful poetry, we are directed to what they mean to her personally and the reasons she created them.

She recently won the prestigious LIFT grant from The Native Arts and Culture Foundation, designed to provide early career support for Native artists. She named her accepted project: *Down Road 264*, it is an art installation and immersive experience.

With the grant she will travel to the Hopi reservation in Arizona where her mother originates. She will stay with her mother and connect with family members and elders, spending time in her culture reflecting and journaling, after which she will create a fully immersive experience, serving traditional Hopi food. She wants other indigenous people to reconnect with their heritage and for others to experience her artistic and cultural journey. Her intention is to share her journey with people and to help others find a collective way back home, and hopefully share what it is like to be disconnected with our culture. The Hopi nation is necessarily very private about their culture because insights to their way of life have in the past been used against their purposes. No insights will be shared but the privilege of visiting this environment is not to be underestimated.

On a personal level she hopes to heal the relationship that distance has caused with her mother, and so enabling her to heal her relationship with her culture. Hopi culture is matrilineal, so this healing journey is very important to her. She knows this can be an imperfect process and drew attention to one of her poems:

Healing is knowing that
I can be a good mother
Healing is knowing that
I can be my own mother

There is a homesickness for something that was never available to her. Now getting older and with two daughters, and Hopi culture being matrilineal she is supposed to be passing down her culture to her two daughters. She will use art to reconnect with her culture and heal things that have in the past prevented her from reconnecting.

Shafer also has a social media agency named Maqa Collective specializing in brand storytelling, social media management, and coaching. She has been in the industry for 15 years, working for a fashion company, a restaurant chain, the tourism industry, and a bank, but for three years she has been running her own company so she can focus on treasured values of creating the community she wants to be a part of and helping others do the same. She helps brands, businesses, and artists tell their stories and build community online through engaging, educational, thoughtful, and inspiring content. She works primarily with brands that give back to their communities. She is currently focusing on coaching and consulting, which she finds fun. These are one-on-one sessions where she helps people get inspired and



focused, and stay accountable and on track with their goals, while giving them all the resources and promotions they need to succeed. Her business Instagram is a great resource for any business, she shares a lot of free resources, tips, and ideas. She also teaches online classes and has a social media 101 class for small businesses available online. It is a go-at-your-own-pace class, so people can fit it in whenever they have time.

Shafer will also be one of the guest jurors for TCMoFA's Coast Salish Museum of Fine Arts' Indigenous People's fine arts show. She is excited to see all the indigenous artists connecting with other indigenous people and hoping to build some relationships from the experience. She is passionate about showing how diverse and creative indigenous artists are, and that indigenous artists don't only make indigenous art. Often, when people call for indigenous art, they are looking for indigenous craft makers but she's looking forward to seeing more diversity. They plan to donate a percentage of proceedings to @canoejourneyherbalists organization.

WHAT: Fine Art Show of Mikaela Shafer's work

WHERE: Olympia Knitting Mills. 508 Legion Way SE

WHEN: Friday October 6, 6-10 pm, Saturday October 7, 12-4pm

HOW MUCH: Free admission

LEARN MORE: Art and personal: www.instagram.com/mama0mouse/

Art Studio: [instagram.com/dogbogstudios/](https://www.instagram.com/dogbogstudios/)

Art Portfolio: [maqacollective.com/art](https://www.maqacollective.com/art)

Business: [instagram.com/maqacollective/](https://www.instagram.com/maqacollective/)

Website: [maqacollective.com/](https://www.maqacollective.com/)

Email: Hello@maqacollective.com



Shanna Paxton
Photography

Specializing in events and portraits.
(360) 529 9332
Visit www.shannapaxton.co

if I could do it all...

(circle the one thing you want to do most)

*an oldie but a goodie.
this is Keep Writing no. 167 March 2023
reprinting some of my favorite cards from the past
with updated designs and new questions.
why? after 14 years, there are a few
that deserve a second look.
originally inspired by a
middle school announcement sign:
I need this reminder daily.*

*for all things written:
hopeamico.substack.com
write back:
P.O. Box 86174
Portland OR 97286*

*opportunities!
now that I'm feeling 85+ me
(I'm still not ready to fly)
it's hard to say no, which is how
I almost returned to grocery delivery.
luckily, a snowstorm brought me
to my senses.*

YOUR TURN

*I like to think of all the opportunities
and then pare down to what I want to do
most, on the other side of this card, list all
your options! summer plans or bucket list
or job choices, whatever is too much, list
them all (it's cathartic!) and then circle
the one that is most important to you.
proceed from there! don't forget to tear at
the fold, and drop in the mail to me!*

THIS IS HESP WRITING NUMBER 167 MARCH 2023

**HESP WRITING
C/O HOPE
P.O. Box 86174
Portland OR
97286**

you can do
ANYTHING
but you can't do
EVERYTHING

Visit Community Print During Artswalk

by Molly Walsh

Each year, Fall Arts Walk lights up Olympia's downtown corridors, drawing thousands of people to shops, street attractions and to organizations that call downtown Olympia home. And amongst displays of paintings, music and theater performances, the exhibition from Community Print is slated to include more introspective themes, reflecting on local history, while also asking greater questions about life and community. This exhibition will include interactive elements and will invite participation from Arts Walk attendees.

For over two decades, Community Print has helped to bolster the art of printmaking in Olympia and surrounding areas. Geared toward education, local artists and community members have a chance to learn and practice different methods of printmaking from the shop's five letter presses and other printmaking equipment. Devon Damonte from Community Print said the shop is currently in a state of expansion, working to strengthen community interest and participation while also developing a co-op system for the shop.

“Mostly, we’re here to teach people about letterpress printing and mainly to get hands-on experience,” said Damonte. “To get your fingers on the lead and wood type and turn the crank and see the prints come out. So, we’re all about empowering people to make their own printing and to learn about the craft and the art of printing.”

During Arts Walk, the team at Community Print is set to welcome attendees to the print shop, where featured artist, Hope Amico, will be sharing portions of her long-term community art piece, the *Keep Writing Project*. Damonte said Arts Walk is an opportunity to see new facets of Olympia’s art community, welcome new visitors to the shop, and is a great way to become more involved in community happenings.

“I feel like it’s about experiencing art in all ways, both participatory and appreciation,” said Damonte. “It’s a really unique, fun way to get involved in both community and art.”

Amico’s *Keep Writing Project* centers around a monthly postcard that is designed and printed by Amico. Subscribers receive a postcard at regular intervals and each folded card contains a letterpress art print on the bottom half, and a question or prompt printed on the top half.

Participants are welcome to respond to the prompt as they see fit, through writing, drawing, or other creative methods. Once the response is complete, postcard subscribers can then send the top half of the postcard back to Amico to be included in the project’s collection, or they are free to keep the card for themselves.

At Fall Arts Walk, Amico will have a display of postcards and responses from the project’s archive for attendees to peruse. Attendees who visit Community Print will also have their own chance to be part of the project, as Amico will have postcards available so that community members can craft their own responses.

“My project...it requires participation,” said Amico. “So I was invited to have an art show in Olympia and it just made sense to have it during a time where people would participate and interact with the show.”

Amico is looking forward to showcasing the *Keep Writing Project* during Arts Walk weekend, and this display will be especially meaningful for Amico as she prepares to celebrate 15 years of the *Keep Writing Project* this coming autumn.

“It’s the 15th anniversary of the project in October, November,” said Amico. “And so it was like a good time to have a show and it seemed like a great way to get lots of people to be able to participate and see the show.”

In addition to the *Keep Writing Project*, Community Print will provide tours of the print shop, so attendees can view



the shop’s layout and printmaking equipment. Artists from Community Print will also be vending printed items including cards, prints, broadsides, tea towels, totes and more. Damonte said the shop loves to hear new project ideas and encourages people interested in the art of printmaking to stop by and explore the space during Arts Walk.

“Community Print is very open and welcoming to any wild things that anybody wants to do,” said Damonte. “It’s a very grassroots organization. In addition to the letterpress, we have a Riso printing machine, which are really popular right now. And then intaglio and relief press. We just had a Gelli plate printing workshop. So, we’re open to anything and everything. The wilder idea, the better. And we encourage people to stop by and check it out and get turned on to printing.”

WHAT: Exhibition and Arts Walk events at Community Print

WHERE: 414 Legion Way SE Olympia

WHEN: 6-10 p.m. Oct. 6, noon-6 p.m. Oct. 7

HOW MUCH: Free admission

LEARN MORE: community-print.org



Airbound Arts

by James O'Barr

If you want to learn airborne arts, there are a number of skydiving venues around the state, or you can join the Army and go to the Jump School at Fort Benning, Georgia. But if it's aerial skills and circus arts instruction you want, then you need go no further than downtown Olympia, where Airbound Arts provides a training space and a performance venue in a private, volunteer/member-run gym.

Founded in 2016, Airbound Arts provides classes, workshops and open gym for people with aerial circus experience, and for people taking classes at their circus-arts partners' Sparrow Studios. Sparrow provides both adults and children with aerial, acrobatics, and circus arts instruction in multi-week classes on aerial silks, trapeze, corde lisse (aerial rope), hammock silks, and lyra (aerial hoop). They also offer flexibility classes, handstand, modern dance, partner acrobatics, and conditioning. Most Airbound members are students of Sparrow Studios, and many of their instructors and gym monitors also teach at Sparrow.



Airbound Arts has been a venue for other local circus shows, including Clown Chowder, Oly Clown Town, and Duo Finelli with Dulcito. Their Circus Spectacular, a monthly variety show, features both local performers and people from Seattle and Portland. Members of the Airbound community help run the shows, which provide a space and community support for new and experienced performers alike.

Whether a seasoned professional or a first-time performer, an aerialist, a contortionist, an acrobat, or a juggler, all are invited to be part of Airbound's Circus Spectacular. The all-ages Spectacular includes mature content. Doors open half an hour before the show begins.

WHAT: Airbound Arts workshops and Circus Spectacular

WHERE: 312 Columbia St. NW, Olympias, entrance in the alley behind Oly Taproom

WHEN: During Arts Walk, workshops at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 and 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7; Circus Spectacular 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7

HOW MUCH: Circus Spectacular \$15, \$5 11 and younger

LEARN MORE: airboundarts.com. Tickets at airboundarts.com/events

- DIRECT/BULK MAILING
- PRIVATE MAILBOX RENTALS
- MAIL FORWARDING
- SHIPPING
- CUSTOM CRATING/FREIGHT
- PROFESSIONAL PACKAGING
- SHIPPING SUPPLIES
- COPYING SUPPLIES
- NOTARY SERVICES
- KEYS CUT • FAX
- GREETING CARDS
- MOVING SUPPLIES

We can ship artwork of any kind, anywhere!

DAVE & KIMBERLY PLATT

FEDEX
AUTHORIZED SHIPPING OUTLET
U.S. POSTAL SERVICES

120 State Ave. NE
Olympia, WA 98501-8212
(360) 754-6800
(360) 753-6326 FAX
mailboxoly@gmail.com

Sandra Bocas and Toni Lawrence

Fine Art Show (with a side of Hot Babe Hotsauce)

By Lynette Charters Serembe

Sandra Bocas has traveled extensively and lived in many different parts of the world from her country of birth, Venezuela, to Trinidad, where she moved at the age of five and where her family lives. She went to boarding school in Wales in the UK, moved to and worked in New York City, then Düsseldorf, Germany, before finally making the PNW her home where she paints from her downtown

purchase award in 2022, and Viewer's Choice Award in 2021), and in many galleries around town during Arts Walks and studio tours, as well as exhibiting in Tenino. She is an autodidact, whose influences include Patrick Betaudier, Andy Warhol, Rafael Calzada and Boscoe Holder, with whom she shares the same beautiful color sensibilities and lyrical lines. The memories of the light and



Freya by Sandra Bocas - Photo Credit

studio in Annie's Artist Studios. Bocas is a woman of many talents, she originally began her career in the fashion, modelling, and makeup-art businesses, working for Vogue (photographed by the late Sir Norman Parkinson), Yves St Laurent, Zandra Rhodes and Meiling.

Bocas is a much-celebrated local fine art painter. She has exhibited her artwork multiple times at South Puget Sound Community College's Leonor R. Fuller Gallery, (winning



Sandra Bocas in her studio

colors of Trinidad and Tobago (her mother's birthplace) are her main influences in her play with color. Her profession as a makeup artist also plays a big part, the styles of which were often fine art-derived and theatrical. She says she looks for the person and the beauty behind the mask; her travels made her realize that beneath the surface we are all the same. She says our cultural differences are to be celebrated because they add spice and interest to life and make us richer.

You may also know her brand Hot Babe Hotsauces, she sells her sauce online www.HotBabe-Hotsauce.com as well as with various retailers all over Washington State; she is also the artistic talent behind the intriguingly soulful and colorful labels on the bottles.

She started making hot sauce in 2008 in Düsseldorf, Germany because she said she couldn't buy anything close to the traditional sauces she missed from her native land of Trinidad where, she said every family has its own personal recipe. Missing this custom, she started making it and sharing it with friends. Very quickly it became extremely popular. When she moved to Yelm in 2011, her hot sauce was so popular that her partner Fiona Douglas-Hamilton suggested they go into production, and so the Hot Babe Hotsauce was



Noah's Ark by Toni Lawrence

born. She started with ten bottles of medium heat Hot Babe Hotsauce and took them to businesses in Yelm. They now produce ten flavors and sell them throughout Washington State. It was also Douglas-Hamilton's idea to have Bocas' artwork on the labels. The free and fiery brushstrokes go well with the Hot Babe spirit.

Showing with Bocas will be local ceramicist Toni Lawrence. Bocas and Lawrence met at Olympia Farmers Market where Bocas sells her Hot Babe Hotsauce and Lawrence sells her ceramics.

Lawrence is also well traveled, growing up in Rome. She started her working life as an actor in California, then took a ceramics class taught by Carol Glenn in 1976. She started on the wheel but her wheel broke, this proved to be a fortunate mishap, undeterred she started to hand build her ceramics and didn't look back. Working with ceramics was a hobby for Lawrence, until a store owner bought her entire inventory at an arts fair. From this, she gathered that her art practice must be a worthwhile avenue to pursue as a career. She moved to Olympia in 2005 and has been selling her work at The Olympia Farmers Market ever since. There she will be selling her work Fridays and Sundays in September, and Saturdays and Sundays in November and December.

Lawrence's influences are the impressionists, Chagall in particular. Her work is humorous, whimsical, and allegorical with a fairytale quality which she says is gleaned from her memories of stories she was told while growing up in Italy. Her collectors include celebrities such as Whoopi Goldberg and Emma Thompson.

Lawrence and Bocas' works both draw from impressionism with a fauvist sensibility. They share a love of bold gestures and vibrant color. The difference in media and texture keep things lively. It proves to be a great show.

WHAT: Fine Art Show with Sandra Bocas and Toni Lawrence

WHERE: Annie's Artist Studios, 317 4th Ave E, Olympia

WHEN: Friday October 6, 4-9 p.m., Saturday October 7, noon to 6 p.m., Sunday October 8, 11a.m. to 4 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free admission

LEARN MORE: Sandra Bocas: HotBabeHotsauce.com
Toni Lawrence: ceramicsbytoni.com



Supporting the Arts Locally for more than 20 years

www.parcfoundation.org
info@parcfoundation.org

360-352-0980

OLYARTS Is Now Non-Profit! By OLYARTS

OLY ARTS, the eight-year-old multiplatform publication focused on arts and cultural events in the South Sound, is excited to announce a transition to non-profit status, with federal 501(c)(3) tax exemption and certification by the State of Washington. The publication will still be based in Olympia but will now expand coverage to Tacoma and surrounding areas.

"I am excited to transition OLY ARTS to a great new non-profit team," said OLY ARTS founder Ned Hayes. "The newly formed board of directors of OLY ARTS brings deep experience in the arts and a true passion for arts promotion." Leaders of the new Oly Arts non-profit are well-known arts writer Alec Clayton, online publication expert Gabi Clayton, creative director John Serembe, and renowned visual artist Lynette Charters Serembe. Founder Hayes serves on the Board of Directors for the new nonprofit.

"We are overjoyed to be able to build on the wonderful legacy of OLY ARTS and continue to deliver cutting edge arts coverage throughout our region," said editor Alec Clayton. "We look forward to a long and meaningful future covering local theater, music, visual arts and all other art forms. We invite the community to join us in supporting this thriving publication!"

Olympia leaders welcomed this transition to non-profit status. "OLY ARTS has greatly enhanced the profile of our local arts and cultural assets, not only in Olympia but in the surrounding region as well," said Olympia mayor Cheryl Selby. "I'm happy to see the publication continue to grow with this new management team."

OLY ARTS has a storied history of generosity to the arts community. Technology entrepreneur and author Hayes founded Oly Arts in 2015, using royalties from his bestselling novel *The Eagle Tree* to fund the initial publication. In the early days, the publication launched online, mobile, and podcast media outlets, and created from scratch a regional audience of tens of thousands of readers for print and online versions of the publication. Hayes stepped back from day-to-day work with OLY ARTS with a move to Portland and transitioned the publication to media and marketing expert Billy Thomas. Thomas lifted OLY ARTS to new heights of engagement between 2018-2023.

Thomas and Hayes worked together to transition the publication to ownership by the new non-profit, also named OLY ARTS. In 2023, the new team brought out the first print versions since Covid-19: a special spring Arts Walk edition and a summer edition, both of which flew off the shelves into the hands of eager readers.

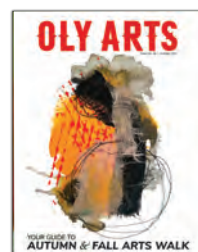
"I am excited to see what this new team can do with OLY ARTS – I'm glad the publication has a great future," said Thomas. During his tenure, Thomas created the premium print OLY ARTS magazine, a format which is being continued on a quarterly basis by the new OLY ARTS non-profit team.

Today, OLY ARTS serves southern Washington as the leading publication for arts coverage throughout the South Sound and has been recognized as the premier journalistic publication by peers and arts organizations throughout the region. The Seattle Times worked with the OLY ARTS team for coverage of theater events in the South Sound. The Washington Post also worked with OLY ARTS for regional media assistance and worked closely with OLY ARTS to write a comprehensive travel guide article about regional attractions.

OLY ARTS plans to continue premium arts coverage under the auspices of their new non-profit, and plans to expand and grow both its print and digital formats.

Website: OlyArts.org / OlyArts.com

OLY ARTS



We're on a ROLL!

Advertise with us!

We have a Tacoma writer! Starting in October - we will be delivering our print editions to key locations in Tacoma as well as all over Olympia!

Contact john@olyarts.com

OLYARTS.COM

The south sound's premier arts publication.



CAPITAL HEATING, COOLING & PLUMBING!



**HEATING
& COOLING**



PLUMBING



**REPAIRS &
MAINTENANCE**



Family-Owned • Community-Driven • Customer-Focused

Family owned and operated for three generations, Capital Heating, Cooling, and Plumbing is run by us, the Schmidtke brothers, Bill, Chuck and Dean. We are proud to carry on the family tradition of customer satisfaction and quality service.

In addition to our heating, cooling, and sheet metal services, we now offer **full-service residential and commercial plumbing** products and services in the South Sound. We hope you'll think of us for your interior residential and commercial plumbing needs: drains, water heaters, sinks, toilets, garbage disposals, and more!

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Water Heaters
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Leak & Drain Repair
- Plumbing Fixture Upgrades
- Water Treatment and Filtration
- Plumbing Inspections
- Gas Fireplace Maintenance & Repair
- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Heat Pumps
- Air Filtration
- Smart Thermostats
- Ductless Systems
- Preventative Maintenance
- Air Duct Cleaning

VOTED **The Olympian**
BEST
of SOUTH SOUND



SINCE

1937

CAPITAL™

HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING

CALL OR TEXT

360.491.7450

OR VISIT

COMFORTSINCE1937.COM