

Jim Archer, 1942-2017



Long-time art faculty member and gallery director James “Jim” Archer passed away on Tuesday, November 28. He was 75 years old.

Archer grew up in Vancouver and received his Associate of Arts degree from Clark College before going on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in graphic design from Portland State University and his Master of Fine Arts from Washington State University. Afterward he returned to Clark College to teach. In addition to serving as gallery director, Jim taught art and art history at Clark College for 23 years.

Archer originally became curator of Clark’s art gallery in 1982, when it was still located within the Clark College Bookstore and was called the Index Gallery. Successful in attracting well-known Northwest artists, the Index Gallery became known as one the region’s top alternative venues for

contemporary artists. Archer announced his retirement in 1995. That same year, the gallery—which by then had been relocated to a larger space within Gaiser—was renamed in Archer’s honor. It moved to its current location in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building in 2005.

In 2016, Archer donated much of his private art collection to Clark College; selected works from the collection were shown in the gallery that bears his name, in an exhibit called “Archer @ Archer.”

Current and retired art faculty joined together to issue the following statement about their colleague’s passing:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jim Archer. Jim was the first director of the Archer Gallery, a position he held from 1982 to 1995. He established the traditions and mission that are central to the Archer Gallery. Under his direction, the gallery quickly gained a regional reputation for exhibiting emerging Northwest artists due to his prescient eye for recognizing young talent. Through the next several decades, significant regional artists could point to their initial exhibition in the Vancouver-Portland metro area at Clark College’s Archer (formerly Index) Gallery.

Jim was a passionate, sometimes fierce, man with strong opinions. The gallery exists in its present form because of the battles that Jim fought to shape it. All of his strength and determination was needed for his struggle with AIDS. Jim was diagnosed with HIV in 1987 and AIDS in 1994 before medications had been developed to manage the disease. In the winter of 1995 Jim became dangerously ill but survived and became an early successful recipient of the AIDS drug cocktail. The dignity, resolve, and humor with which he handled the treatments and advancing illness was inspiring. He never yielded to his illness and continued to live and enjoy life fully.

After his retirement from Clark in 1995, Jim continued to champion young artists: collecting work, visiting studios, and curating exhibits – including “Next/Now” (Littman Gallery, Portland State University) and “Modern Zoo” (St. Johns, Oregon).

Jim returned to his own studio work after retirement creating and exhibiting collage and painting on paper. Both his work and his art collection (much of which was donated to Clark College and the Hallie Ford Museum at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon) were featured in “Archer@Archer” in 2016.

Jim was a great friend, father to Stephen and Peter Archer, and Grandfather to Isabella (Bella) Archer.

There will be a memorial service on December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Holladay Park Plaza (1300 NE 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon), the retirement community where Archer lived until shortly before his death. Time and details are still being determined by the family; this article will be updated as details become available. The Archer Gallery is collecting cards and letters to give to the family during the service.

This article was updated 12/6/17 to reflect the new date of the memorial service. It was updated again on 12/11/17 to include the time of the service.

Photo: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

A year of talent

On May 16, the Archer Gallery was filled with visitors to the opening of the 2017 Art Student Annual Exhibition. This yearly event showcases the best artwork produced by Clark art

students in the past academic year. Students compete not only for a spot in the show, but also for awards sponsored by local businesses and organizations. This year's outside juror was Karl Burkheimer, head of the Master of Fine Arts program at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. Awards are listed below.

The exhibition is on display through June 16. The Archer Gallery is open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and noon to 5:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

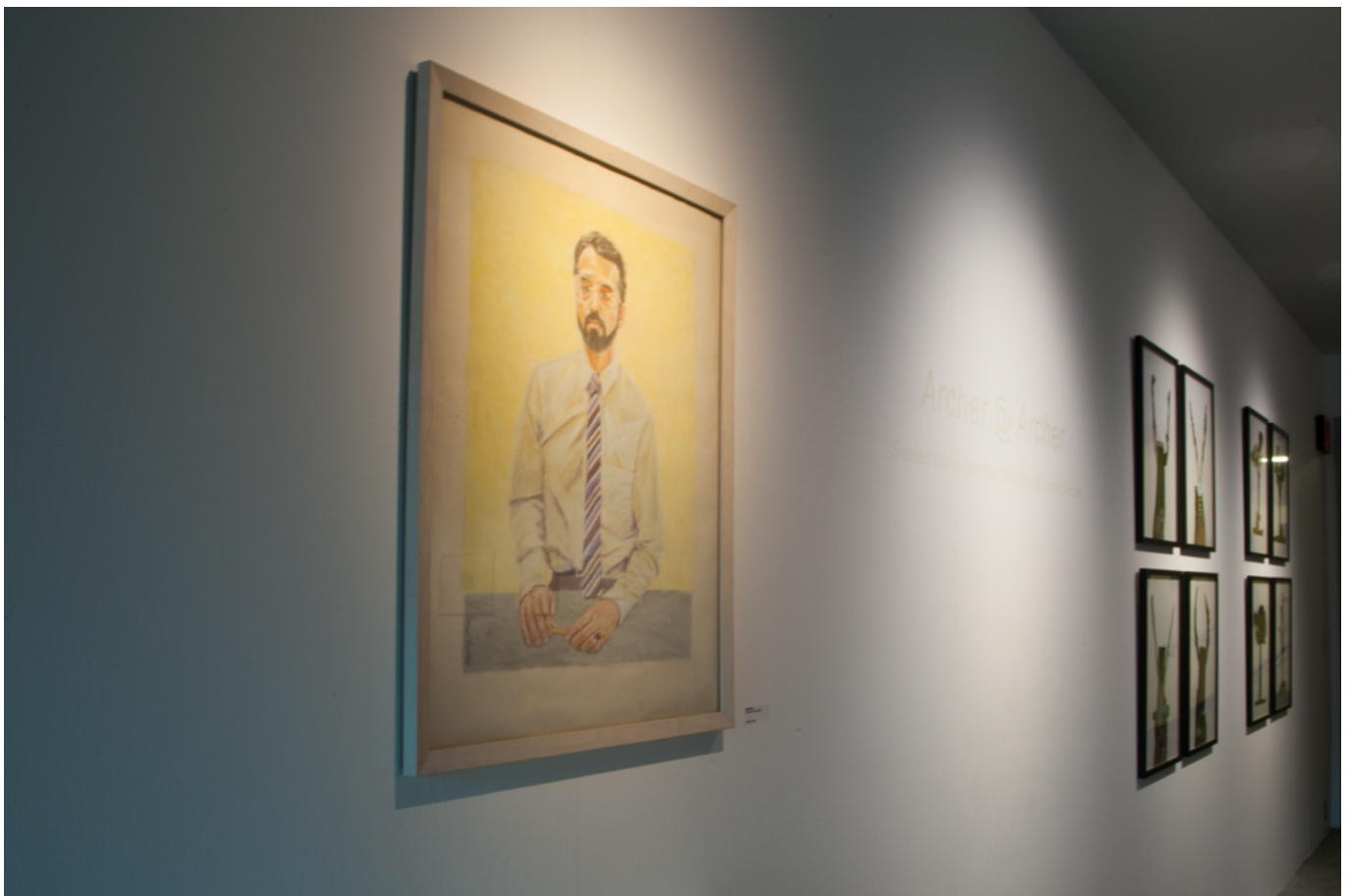
- **Best in Show**, sponsored by Blick Art Materials
Ana Stoumbos, *Figure Study*, oil on paper
- **Most Ambitious**, sponsored by Portland Institute for Contemporary Art
Meakia Blake, *Connect*, video
- **Solo Show Award**, sponsored by Niche Wine Bar
Matt Harmon, *Marsyes V. Apollo: Diana*, oil on canvas
- **Best Painting or Drawing**, sponsored by Clark Bookstore and Dengerink Art Supply
Leah Adams, *A Netherhole*, oil on canvas
- **2nd Place Award, Painting or Drawing**, sponsored by Clark

- Bookstore and Blick Art Materials
Ray Bennett, *Self-portrait in Ink*, ink on paper
- **3rd Place Award, Paiting or Drawing** sponsored by Clark Bookstore
Julie Foley, *Zelda Series*, metal
 - **Best Video or Time-based Art**, sponsored by Artist & Craftsman Supply
Ana Stoumbos, *Transit*, video
 - **2nd place Video or Time-based Art**, sponsored by Collage Art and Craft Supplies
Jonno Heyne, *Paradoxial Adventures of Grayman II*, ink marker and digital graphics
 - **Best Graphic Arts**, sponsored by the Art Gym at Marylhurst University
Tricia Davis-Payne, *Do You Know*, digital illustration
 - **Best Welded Sculpture**, sponsored by Clark Welding Department
Marie Perrin Ogier, *Untitled*, metal
 - **Best Photography**, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply
Isiah Huntington, *Expansivity*, digital photograph
 - **Newspace Scholarship Award**, sponsored by Newspace Center for Photography
Jennifer Avens, *Omnia Mors Aequat*, silver gelatin print
 - **2nd Place Photography Award**, sponsored by Pro Photo Supply
Dayna Bojanowski, *Under*, digital photograph
 - **3rd Place Photography Award**, sponsored by Blue Moon Camera
Matthew Philbrook, *Forgotten*, black and white photograph
 - **Blue Sky Membership Award**, sponsored by Blue Sky, the Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts
Kelly Pearce, *Pieces of Home*, photographs
 - **Best Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Clay Art Center
Lauren Duquette, *Blue Pitcher*, ceramic
 - **2nd Place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by Georgie's Ceramics and Clay
Aleks Dernovoy, *Mechanical Tulip*, ceramic

- **3rd place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by *Georgie's Ceramics and Clay*
Stephani Ueltschi, *Pressure*, ceramic
- **4th place Ceramic Art**, sponsored by *Georgie's Ceramics and Clay*
Colton Rasanen, *Planter*, ceramic

Photography by Clark College/Jenny Shadley. More photos on our Flickr page.

Archer @ Archer



As retired Clark College art professor James Archer stood in the gallery named after him and gazed at the works hanging on the walls, his expression was slightly wistful. Archer was

attending the reception for “Archer @ Archer,” an exhibit of selections from Archer’s private art collection, which he is donating to the college where he taught for 23 years.

“It’s pretty overwhelming,” he said, standing between two colorful abstract prints of his own and a row of prints made by a former student who is now an art professor himself. “Many of these works were done by young people whom I mentored over the years. Most of them, I never was able to frame, so this is my first time seeing them framed and hung as a collection. It’s a very emotional experience for me.”



Carson Legree, left, with Jim Archer at the opening on January 12.

The college has received many donations of art through the Clark College Foundation over the years, but this donation is unusual both because of its size and its historical significance. Archer is donating 129 works total, about 40 of which are on display at the gallery. These works include drawings, paintings, prints, and collage, many of them by Clark instructors or students. Not only do they form an impressive collection of regional art, but they also represent the artistic vision of Archer Gallery’s founding director.

Archer originally became curator of the gallery in 1982, when it was still located within the Clark College Bookstore and was called the Index Gallery. Successful in attracting well-

known Northwest artists, the Index Gallery became known as one of the region's top alternative venues for contemporary artists. In 1995, the gallery—which by then had been relocated to a larger space within Gaiser—was renamed in Archer's honor. It moved to its current location in the lower level of the Penguin Union Building in 2005.

“This donation is significant because it has a lot of regional pieces, many with a strong Clark connection,” said Clark art professor and current Archer Gallery curator Senseney Stokes. “There are works here from [retired art professor and former Archer Gallery curator] Carson Legree, from Jim himself, from [retired art professor] Jim Baker. But even beyond these connections, some of the work here is so strong, so beautiful. Jim collected some really great stuff, and we're lucky to have it in our campus collection.”



Professors bring art students to the Archer Gallery regularly as part of their instruction.

Clark's Art Committee will be deciding where to place pieces from the collection after the show ends February 20. Members of the college community are invited to provide the committee with feedback on placement of particular objects.

Asked why he chose to donate his collection to Clark, Archer explained that he was downsizing to a smaller home and that

Clark seemed the natural place to donate these works. "I'm an alumnus of this college, I worked here," he said. "I'm happy that they won't just be put in a closet here. People will see them, and react to them, for a long time to come."

Photos of the exhibit can be viewed on our Flickr site.

Photos Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Affairs of the Art



May 14 was a particularly artful day at Clark College, as the afternoon saw both the unveiling of the 2014 *Phoenix* as well as the opening reception and awards presentation for the 2014 Art Student Annual.



Mike Shank read his poem
“Small Things Cost the
Most.”

Phoenix staff distributed free copies of the award-winning annual arts and literary journal to students in PUB 161. Clark student Mike Shank read from his moving poem, “Small Things Cost the Most,” which earned Editors’ Choice Award for literary work in the journal. Afterward, guests headed downstairs to Archer Gallery to view works by student artists, many of whom also had work published in *Phoenix*. Seventy-five students showed a total of 127 works in the show, in media as varied as watercolor, photography, welded metal, ceramics, and video. Awards were announced and presented during the reception.

For more photos of these events, visit our Flickr albums of the unveiling and art show.

2014 Art Student Annual Awards

Joy Margheim “Gate”, welded sculpture

Best Welded Sculpture award

Sponsored by Airgas and the Clark College Welding Department

Irina Burchak “Self Portraits”, photography

Excellence in Photography Award

Sponsored by Knight Camera



The 2014 *Phoenix* staff.

Erin Merrill, "Columbia River Series", photography
Excellence in Photography Award
Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Shelby Warner "Drawing Room Chair", photography
Photography Award
Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Garry Bastian "The Act of Characterization", photography
Darkroom Photo Award
Sponsored by Blue Moon Camera and Machine

Anthony Abruzzini "There's Nothing Wrong with Having Only One
Eye...", drawing
Works on Paper Excellence Award
Sponsored by Frame Central Framing

Sherrie Masters "Greys", watercolor
Works on Paper Excellence Award
Sponsored by Frame Central Framing



Students at the *Phoenix* unveiling waited patiently until the end of the program to open the paper wrapping around the new publication.

Jenny Avens "Flour Effect", photography
Holga Camera Award
Sponsored by Freestyle Photographic Supplies

Lauren Dwyer "Organic Free Form", ceramic
Best Ceramics Award
Sponsored by Georgie's Ceramic and Clay Company

Luke Entwistle "Puntitled", painting
Muse Art Award
Sponsored by Muse Art and Design

Krista Zimmerman "Self Obstruction", painting
Muse Art Award
Sponsored by Muse Art and Design

Liz Alexander "Out of Place", video
Film and Video Award
Sponsored by the NW Film Center

Anni Becker "John", video
Film and Video Award
Sponsored by the NW Film Center



Director of IT Services, Phil Sheehan was the asked to juror the student show this year. He has been a supporter of student work throughout his time at Clark.

Riley Donahue, "The Day I Became a Man", installation
Best Contemporary Art Award
Sponsored by the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

Belinda Luce "Type in The City", typography
Best Graphics Award
Sponsored by Intel

Filip Popa "Matches", painting
Painting Award
Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Materials and the Clark College Bookstore

Jeremy Crane "Germ Evolved", painting
Painting Award
Sponsored by Dick Blick Art Materials and the Clark College Bookstore

Elise Cryder "Thank Your Mother", painting
Best in Show Award
Painting Award
Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore and the NW Film

Center



After the awards are presented, students had an opportunity to talk to each other about their work.

Mariah Lewis "Muse", painting

Painting Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Martin Stone "Still Life #2", painting

Painting Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Megan Ostby "30 Minute Pose", drawing

Drawing Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Jason Cardenas "The Island", drawing

Drawing Award

Sponsored by the Clark College Bookstore

Lauren Pucci "Botany", watercolor

Special Recognition Award

Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Grace Edwards "Sun Color", watercolor

Special Recognition Award

Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Sara Robison "Hipster George", digital illustration
Special Recognition Award
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater and Anna Banana's Café

Matthew Caravaggio "Abstract Revelation", drawing
Special Recognition Award
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater

Michael Jasso "For the Glory of Rome", ceramics
Special Recognition Award
Sponsored by Kiggins Theater

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

Creative Streak



Professor Kathrena Halsinger discusses her work with a student at the opening of the Art Faculty Biennial.

Clark art faculty spend their time at the college fostering and honing their students' creative skills. But what about their own creative work? At the Art Faculty Biennial in Archer Gallery, running through February 8, everyone has a chance to see what the college's faculty produce when they're not busy teaching.



Wind and Drive and *SIX6JEWELS*, archival prints

by art instructor Mariana
Tres.

The wide range of their creativity was on display during the show's opening reception on January 14, as faculty, students, and other visitors gazed at works that ranged from painting to ceramics to multimedia installations.

"I think it's a really diverse show, but everything still fits very well together," said art professor Kathrena Halsinger as she stood in front of her own contribution, a linked collection of digital prints. It hung between sculpture instructor Beth Heron's installation of aluminum and bright-blue glass and Marina Tres' striking, large-format prints of old watch gears.



All Fall Down, multi-channel
video by art professor
Senseney Stokes.

Many visitors paused at length before Professor Senseney Stokes' *All Fall Down*, in which a stack of vintage black-and-white televisions showed linked video footage of gravel falling through a tube that seemed to travel from one screen to the next. Stokes, who is on sabbatical to learn gallery management in preparation for becoming Archer Gallery's new director, said that she collected many of the old televisions years ago from thrift stores or just off the side of the road, but that these days they're almost impossible to find. "I had

to get the rest off of eBay,” she said with a wry smile.



Left to right, art faculty members Gabriel Parque, Carson Legree, Lisa Conway, Senseney Stokes, Grant Hottle, and Kathrena Halsinger.

Art professor emeritus Carson Legree, who is currently serving as Archer Gallery’s director this academic year, said that the Art Faculty Biennial is different from other shows that the gallery hosts, which often feature works by prominent artists in the region and the country. “This show really is about the campus, and about the students, and about faculty members’ relationships with each other and with their students,” she explained. “I think it’s interesting for students, because they see we’re all still working artists, we’re all still trying new things.”



Kelsey Lavin sketches her professor's work during the Art Faculty Biennial.

Student Kelsey Lavin confirmed Legree's statement. "It's inspiring to see more than one type of art, to see all the different styles," she said, pausing for a moment in her sketches of Professor Lisa Conway's ceramic flowers to point to instructor Ben Killen Rosenberg's watercolors on a free-standing wall nearby. "I have always respected the faculty here, and this [show] just adds to that."

Lavin, 23, has taken two art classes at Clark, and hopes to take more before her anticipated graduation in 2015. A first-generation college student, she is considering entering the college's Associate of Fine Art degree program, with the end goal of becoming an art teacher and working artist herself.

Legree said that she hoped that everyone at the college—students, faculty, and staff—would visit the show. "It gives the rest of the college a chance to see our work," she said. "We really do have a very strong and vibrant department."

To see more images from the show visit our [Flickr page](#).

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley