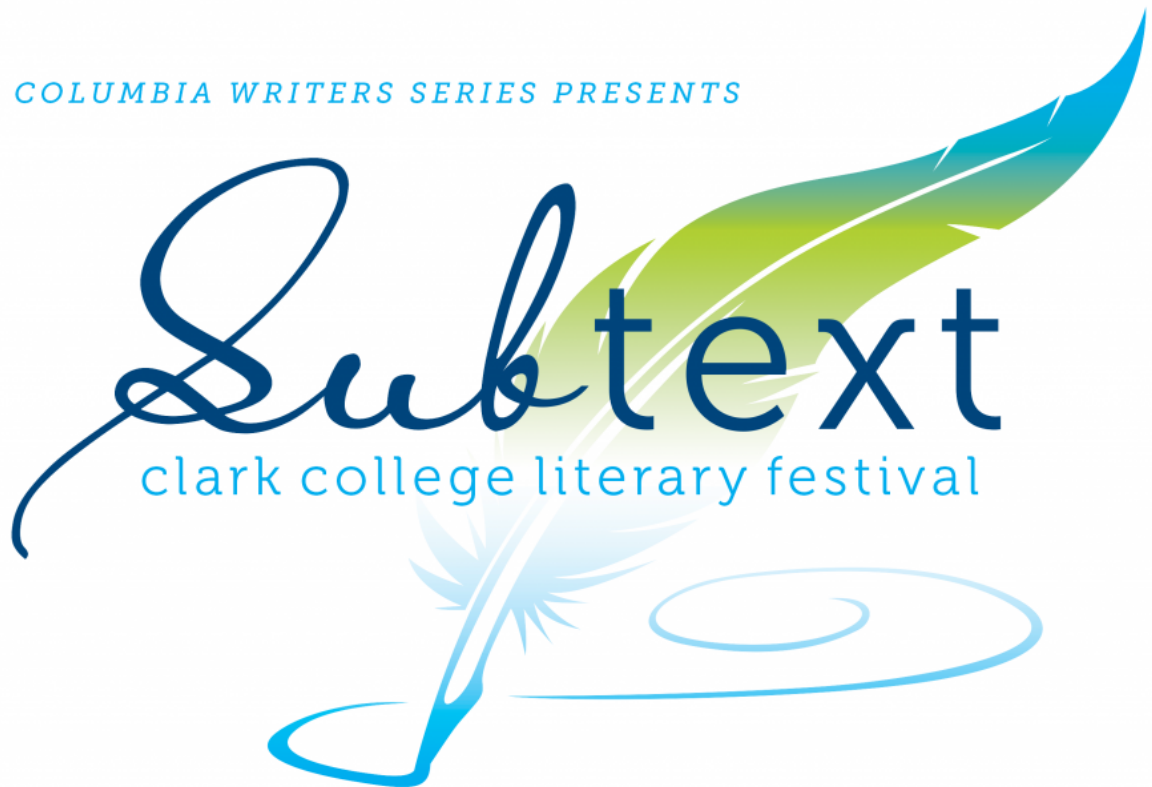


Exploring Subtext

COLUMBIA WRITERS SERIES PRESENTS



May 15-18, 2017

The Clark College Columbia Writers Series is offering a full week of writers, readings, and events on the college's main campus during its third annual Subtext Literary Festival. From May 15-18, the college will host well-known authors, as well as readings by Clark students and faculty.

All events are free and open to the public. Directions and maps are available online. Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event should contact Clark College's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark's Penguin Union Building.

The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Information about the Columbia

Writers Series is available at www.clark.edu/cc/cws.

Schedule

May 15, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., PUB 258B: *“Possible Utopias” Writing Workshop*

Arwen Spicer, an instructor in the English department, will lead this workshop, which will provide a fun opportunity to engage in guided writing and discussion about imagining bright futures for our world. Each participant will leave the workshop with a final piece of writing that outlines their vision for a better society. The workshop is free and open to the public. Although participants are encouraged to come for the full two hours, drop-ins are also welcome.

May 16, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., PUB 161: *Phoenix Unveiling*

Clark College’s national award-winning art and literary journal, *Phoenix*, will unveil its 2016-2017 edition with readings from student authors and free copies available for guests. The 2015-2016 edition of *Phoenix* just earned the prize for Best Design from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs—the first time the award has gone to a two-year college in a decade.

May 17, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 258A: **Clark Crossings Student and Faculty Reading**

Students and faculty will read from their own work or from the work of their favorite writers. Each reading will relate to the college theme of “Transformation,” and fiction, poetry, and memoir will all be included.

**May 18, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., PUB 161:
*Fiction writer Peter Rock***

Peter Rock is a professor of creative writing at Reed College. His most recent book is *SPELLS*, a novel-within-photographs that is a collaboration with five photographers and concerns shadows and bodies, the living and the dead, talking animals and all manner of shape-shifting. He is also the author of the novels *Klickitat*, *The Shelter Cycle*, *My Abandonment*, *The Bewildered*, *The Ambidextrist*, *Carnival Wolves* and *This Is the Place*, and a story collection, *The Unsettling*.

**Catching dreams, sharing
history**



Brent Learned talks about George Curtis Levi's traditional "ledger art" with attendees of the 2016 Student of Color Luncheon.

The winter 2016 Student of Color Luncheon was filled with history—some of it long in the past, and some of it being made right then. The event featured artists Brent Learned and George Curtis Levi, whose work is currently being featured at the Clark County Historical Museum, speaking about atrocities committed against their ancestors in the 19th century. It also marked the bestowal of Clark's first scholarship designated specifically for a Native American student.



Dream Catcher
Scholarship
recipient Channa
Smith

The Clark College Dream Catcher Scholarship was first announced at the college's annual Native American celebration in 2014. Clark student Channa Smith said she was honored to be its inaugural recipient. "When I first applied for the scholarship, I didn't think much about it beyond, 'Oh, it would be nice to have some money,'" she said at the reception. "But it's been really transformative. I didn't think how much it would mean to me to be recognized for my hard work."

Smith has been very active in the community, both at the college and in Southwest Washington. A Coast Salish tribe member, she helped start Clark's new Native American Cultural Club and has participated in local Chinook tribal activities since moving to the area.



Channa Smith was named the inaugural recipient of the Dream Catcher Scholarship at the 2016 Student of Color Luncheon. Multicultural Retention Manager Felisciana Peralta, *right*, presented the scholarship.

After the scholarship was presented to Smith, Learned and Levi spoke about creating the art that makes up “One November Morning.” This exhibit depicts the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29, 1864, when more than 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed in Sand Creek, Colorado, by U.S. Army soldiers.

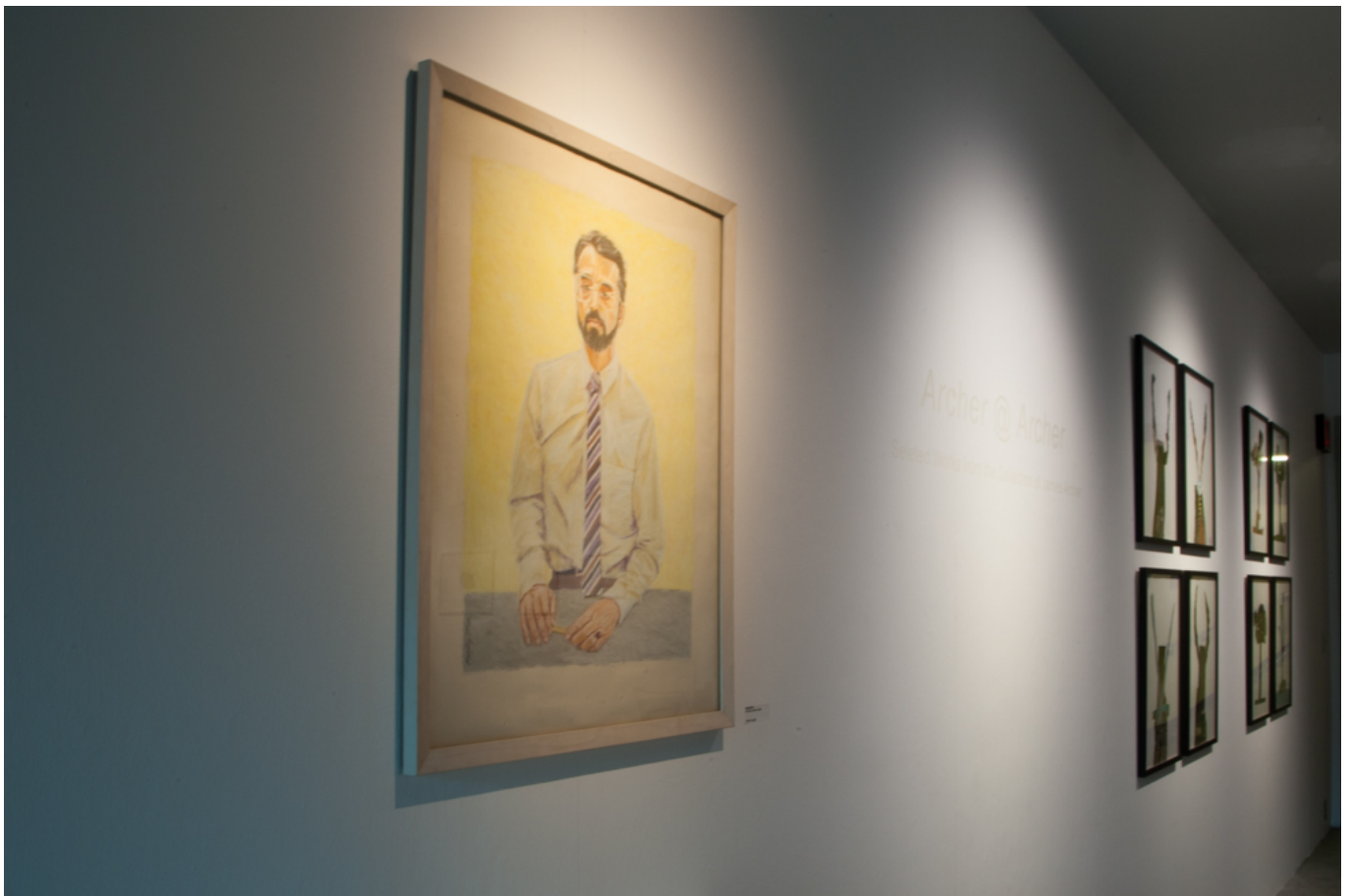
“You have to know where you come from to know where you’re going, and that’s what we’re trying to do,” said Levi during the presentation. He urged students at the luncheon to remember their own history and communities as they progressed in life. “Go back to your communities after you graduate and give back,” he said.

“One November Morning” will be on display at the Clark County Historical Museum through May 28. As part of its “Native Voices” exhibit, the Clark College Libraries is hosting a free art walk on Friday, March 4, that begins at Cannell Library with a reception, then visits the Native American basketry currently on display at Archer Gallery, and ends at the Clark County Historical Museum.

The spring 2016 Student of Color Luncheon will be held in May. It will feature the announcement of the recipient of Clark's 2016 Constance Baker Motley Scholarship, which is given each year to a Clark College student of color.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

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

Student stories: Flying with a Phoenix



My name is Lily Hart, and I am a student at Clark College. I'm also the Managing Editor of *Phoenix* and was Assistant Literary Editor last year. *Phoenix* is Clark College's award-winning literary and art journal. Run by student editors and faculty advisers, it publishes work from Clark College students, faculty and alumni—mostly students. We publish in print and online, and accept a wide array of work including fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, ceramics, design work, music,

and dramatic recitals. You can go online at clarkphoenix.com to get a full list. This year, *Phoenix* is proud to introduce a new category: graphic novels.



I am hoping that this post will give you insight into the behind-the-scenes process of *Phoenix*—and will maybe prompt you to submit something to the journal yourself!

Right now, the 2016 *Phoenix* is just finishing up its pre-production phase. Here are a couple little tidbits about the early stages that many people aren't aware of. Clark offers a three-credit class in the fall – Intro to Literary Publication. In this class, students work on marketing and promotions; interview plans and strategies; and editing 101. If you are curious about some of the work done in the class, take a look at the promotional posters going up around campus, as well as a slide in the Gaiser Student Center: We created all of those in our class, and it's fun to be able to see our "homework" on display all over campus. We have a class of 16 students, and everyone is enthusiastic about the work we've started.

One of my classmates in Intro to Literary Publication, Rowan Walters, is *Phoenix's* Poetry Editor. "Starting in the class and progressing to the staff has made me feel valuable, both to the campus of a school I love as well as to society in general," she says.

I would definitely agree with this. For me, one of the other highlights of being involved is getting to know a lot of amazing people with similar interests. It's a nice community feel.

You also get real-world experience in being an editor, gaining organization skills and managing projects, which are all perfect skills for today's job market. As Jennie Avens, our Fine Arts editor from 2015 and again staff for 2016, says,



“Working with this team was a great practical experience that gave me a sneak peek of what to expect if I get into publishing after graduation.” Whether a student's career goals lie in editing and the arts, or in something completely different, the skills gained from being on *Phoenix* gives are always applicable.

Another thing which I'm really excited about is the awards *Phoenix* has won. In 2014, the journal won first place in the American Scholastic Press literary and art journal competition, and individual student work won as well. Last year, (when I was involved, so this is super exciting!) it won the 2015 Washington Community College Humanities Association's Large Budget Literary/Arts Magazine of the Year, and the Community College Humanities Association award for first place Literary Journal. This is a huge deal for us because we have never won that award before.

Remember, submissions are open to the entire college community—students, faculty, staff and alumni—and the submission deadlines are January 9 for literature, January 19 for art, and February 29 for video. Visit clarkphoenix.com to find out more about how to submit your work. We hope to see your submissions!

This article was contributed by Clark student Lily Hart.

Photos: Clark College/Jenny Shadley

A beautiful birthday



Art students Matt Harmon and John Mangan, with assistance from Clark College President Bob Knight, unveil a new mural at the 25th anniversary of Cannell Library. *Photo: Clark College/Nick Bremer-Korb*

Normally, you wouldn't hold a birthday party at a library. But when you're celebrating the "birth" of a library itself—well, bring on the sweets and decorations! Fans of Cannell Library gathered for a festive celebration of the landmark building on September 29, a quarter-century after the library first opened its doors to Clark students and the public.

The event began with greetings from Clark College President Bob Knight and Dean of Clark Libraries & Academic Success Services Michelle Bagley. Knight commended the library,

calling it a “wonderful learning environment for our students.”

Bagley noted that Cannell, like libraries around the world, has had to make many changes over the past 25 years to adapt to evolving technology. Primarily print collections are now housed digitally; the library loans out netbooks and phone chargers along with books and DVDs; and the building is devoting more of its square footage to small study rooms and collaborative spaces as students come to the library for more than just reading.



All three of Cannell Library’s directors—former director Lynn Chmelir, current Dean of Clark Libraries and Academic Success Services Michelle Bagley, and former director Leonoor Ingraham-Swets—were on hand to celebrate the building’s 25th anniversary.

Photo: Bob Hughes

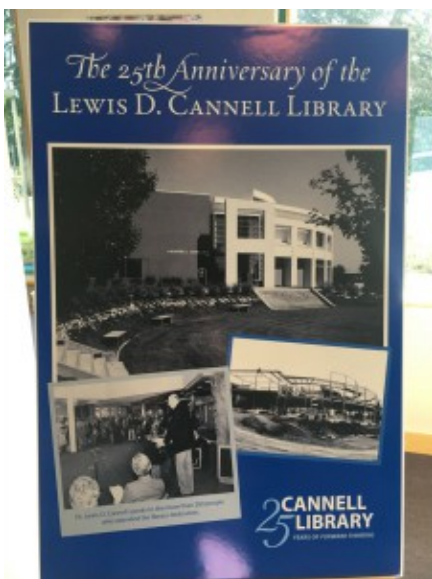
“The changes this library has seen over the last 25 years are really amazing,” Bagley said. “We have a great team here. This is a group that is continually thinking forward. They are innovative, they initiate change, and they are creative. I’m

excited to see what they will do in the next 25 years.”

As befitting a birthday party, there was even a gift to unwrap: a new mural created by members of the Clark College Art Club that graces the library’s entrance. The project began during spring quarter, when members of the Art Club, who had been looking for a service project, offered to create a mural to fill a space left blank after an artwork that had been on loan to the library was removed. Members submitted design proposals; that of student Matt Harmon was chosen.

“The title I suggest for this work is ‘Nature and Change,’ but I want everyone to come up with their own interpretation of this,” Harmon said before unveiling the mural with President Knight and fellow Art Club member John Mangan, who helped organize the project.

Later, Harmon said that working on the project helped validate his choice to attend Clark. “The main reason I came to Clark was to become a part of an art scene,” said the 32-year-old, who expects to earn his Associate of Fine Arts in spring 2016. “For the longest time I didn’t want to go to school.”



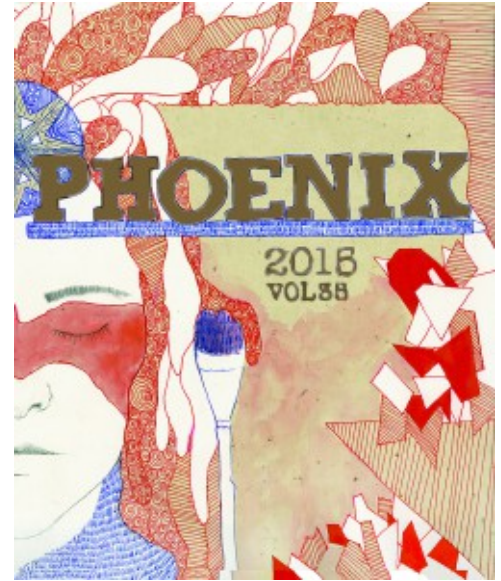
Posters and displays celebrated Cannell Library’s past and

future at the
building's 25th
anniversary
celebration.

Mangan, meanwhile, originally came to Clark in 2013 to pursue his love of painting after retiring from his 37-year tenure as a medical photographer for the Department of Veterans Affairs. In fact, Clark played into his choice to settle in Vancouver after retirement. "Clark College is one of the top community colleges in Washington, and it's got a really good art department," he explained. "I frankly didn't expect to be in school this long, but I really enjoy it and there's always another class to take."

Opened in 1990, Cannell Library is the seventh library location in the college's 82-year history; previously, the library had spent many years in the space now occupied by the Clark College Bookstore in Gaiser Hall. With its curving white exterior overseeing the Chime Tower, the building has become an iconic part of the college's main campus. It houses a computer lab, numerous study rooms, and access to more than 3 million volumes through its Summit interlibrary loan system. It is named after Dr. Lewis D. Cannell, who served as Clark's chief academic officer from 1935 until 1970. Dean Cannell was always a strong advocate for Clark's library, saying, "A book is a wonderful invention, as basic as the wheel. One doesn't have to plug a book in, one doesn't have to thaw it out; one simply opens it and another human being speaks to you."

The Best in the West



The theme of the 2015 *Phoenix* was “the artist’s sketchbook.”

The 2015 issue of *Phoenix*, Clark College’s student-run arts and literary journal, was recently awarded first place in the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) Literary Magazine Competition for the Pacific-Western Division.

“This is a first for us,” said Clark English professor and *Phoenix* faculty advisor Elizabeth Donley. “In 2013, we placed third as a magazine in the same division, and were delighted to do so. In the past, *Phoenix* has regularly been honored for the art and design of the magazine more than anything else. But the CCHA competition really focuses on the literary aspects of the journal. In many ways, this is the first significant award that honors the literary components of *Phoenix*.”

Several individual Clark students received recognition for their entries in *Phoenix* as well:

- David Powers, second place in Short Stories for “Gouge

Away”

- W.R. Soasey, third place in Creative Nonfiction for “Not the Favorite”
- Trenelle Doyle, second place in Artwork for “The Perception Project”
- Matthew Harmon, third place in Artwork for “Empirical Being”
- Alan Logston, first place in Song for “Shades of Steel”
- Jeffrey Points, first place in Performance for “Project Spielberg”

The CCHA’s Pacific-Western Division includes community colleges in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Over the course of its 34-year history, Phoenix has won many regional and national awards. Many students who work on it go on to pursue careers in writing or the arts. Jennie Avens, a former Phoenix editor who graduated from Clark with her Associate of Fine Arts in spring 2015, said working on the journal helped prepare her for a position as volunteer director for a nonprofit serving budding artists. “Working on Phoenix was an amazing experience that has opened me up to other career possibilities and taught me an abundance of things I use in my life as an artist,” she said.

Phoenix is available in an online format at clarkphoenix.com.

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

Students on the Big Screen



Still from *John*, a short film by student Anni Becker to be shown at the Clark College Student Video Festival on May 29.

Clark College will hold its first public screening of student videos at the historic Kiggins Theatre on Thursday, May 29, at 6 p.m. in an event that will be free and open to the public.

The 90-minute program will feature more than two dozen short-form videos (between one and ten minutes long) produced by students in Clark's Time-Based Art and Web Video Production classes, as well as a selection of work from students at other area educational institutions including the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland State University, Washington State University Vancouver, and the Northwest Film Center.

"This event will feature the best video and time-based artwork from Clark College students," said Clark College art professor Lisa Conway. "These exciting art forms push the boundaries of traditional gallery or print-publication settings, and we are

thrilled to have a venue like the Kiggins Theatre in which to showcase this work. Hopefully this is the start of an annual event for the college, our students and the larger community—one that will continue to grow as our course offerings in this area grow.”

Clark College has offered classes in Time-Based Art and Web Video Production for the past three and two years, respectively. The Web Video Production class was introduced two years ago when Clark transitioned its Graphics Communication and Printing program into a redesigned Computer Graphics Technology program, which teaches valuable modern-day skills like web design and computer animation. The Time-Based Art class was developed three years ago with the start of new Associate of Fine Arts degrees in Graphic Design and in Studio Art.

The students’ videos range from whimsical works of stop-motion animation to emotional mini-documentaries and personal stories.

Kiggins manager Dan Wyatt said he was pleased to host this event. “As a former student of film, I not only enjoy supporting other student filmmakers, but think it is important that their works be screened in the best possible environment conducive to evaluating film—a movie theatre,” he said. “Some of the best learning and growth as artists happens while screening your project and getting feedback from peers.”

The Kiggins Theatre is located at 1011 Main St. in downtown Vancouver, Wash. (Phone number: 360-816-0352.)

Individuals who need accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in these events should contact Clark College’s Disability Support Services (DSS) Office at 360-992-2314 or 360-991-0901 (VP). The DSS office is located in room 013 in Clark’s Penguin Union Building.

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

Art that Speaks Volumes



“Abu Ghraib” sculpture by Rex Silvernail

Clark College’s Art Selection Committee recently honored the legacies of two local artists by placing their work in Cannell Library.

In fall 2012, friends of the late Rex Silvernail approached Clark College about receiving one or more of his artworks.

Silvernail, an accomplished sculptor, had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and wanted to ensure that his art would be kept available to the public after his death. Clark is among many institutions that stepped forward to house his work; others include the Portland Art Museum, Hallie Ford Museum, Maryhill Museum, Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve, and the Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

Silvernail was born in Tacoma, Wash. He earned his MFA from Northern Illinois University and later received a Fulbright Scholarship to attend the Kitanmax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art—the first non-Native person to do so—where he learned traditional methods for manipulating wood. He became known for an artistic style that blended contemporary Western techniques with ancient traditions of craftsmanship, creating works that emphasized his interest in environmentalism and world peace.



“Shilo” wood and paper sculpture by Rex Silvernail

Silvernail died in April 2013. By then the Art Selection Committee had already begun the process of accepting and placing two of his works: *Shilo* and *Abu Ghraib*. The former is

a joyous piece made in honor of Silvernail's granddaughter; the latter has been called "one of his strongest anti-war statements." Together, they provide a cogent summary of Silvernail's breadth of subject matter as an artist.

"We chose to place the pieces where they would have maximum visual impact and viewing accessibility," said Art Selection Committee member and art professor Lisa Conway. "We wanted a space that would enhance the dimensional qualities of these unique pieces, and allow for them to be really set apart from, yet showcased within, their surroundings. After months of considering various sites across our campuses, the committee chose the library location. Cannell Library continues to be a great place to view art on campus."

The third piece placed in Cannell is a large bronze casting plaque known as "The Lincoln Medallion." It depicts a young Abraham Lincoln sitting beneath a tree, reading a book, with the inscription "I will study to prepare myself and maybe someday my chance will come." It was made by George B. Clausen, the father of recently retired business technology professor John Clausen. The younger Clausen, together with his sister, Grace Sorensen, donated the piece to the college in memory of their parents.



Bronze casting plaque of Abraham Lincoln by George B. Clausen, donated by retired business technology

professor John Clausen and
his sister, Grace Sorensen

George Clausen was, like Lincoln, a self-taught man. He quit high school in order to support his family when his own father became ill, teaching himself the trade of architectural drafting. He also taught himself bronze casting; his works were housed in, among other places, the Oregon State Capitol and the Vista House. In 1937, when he created the mold for the Lincoln Medallion, he was working at the Portland Art Museum.

John Clausen and his sister wanted their father's medallion to be placed at Clark College—and specifically in Cannell—because of its theme of education and reading.

These three pieces are just the most recent to be sited by the Art Selection Committee, which is responsible for selecting art through the Washington State Arts Commission Art in Public Places Program. This program facilitates the acquisition, placement, and stewardship of artwork in state-funded building projects. One-half of one percent for art funds is generated by new construction projects in state agencies, community colleges, universities, and public schools. Local committees representing project sites make all final artwork selection decisions.

In addition, the Art Selection Committee is responsible for acceptance and location of donated art objects, markers and monuments (other than instruction/gallery items) and the purchase and location of art objects acquired through means other than the Art in Public Places Program. The committee monitors and makes decisions regarding the maintenance and care of all college art objects.

Currently, the college's art collection includes almost 300 artworks in media as varied as metal sculpture, painting, line drawing, and textiles.