

# GESTURES

## GIFTS TO THE FUTURE

Sam Albright • Richard Denner • Bobbie Halperin • Cindy Kriebel • Molly Morrow • Jane Orleman • Julie Prather



Gallery One Visual Arts Center  
408 N Pearl Street  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ellensburg, WA  
Permit No. 12

## GESTURES

Gifts to the Future  
January 20-February 25

First Friday Reception & Annual  
Membership Party  
February 3, 5-8pm

Artist Talk  
February 11, 10am-12pm

Community Gallery,  
Eveleth Green Gallery, Hallway Gallery:  
*Annual Members' Exhibit*

**SPONSOR:**  
CWU Alumni Association



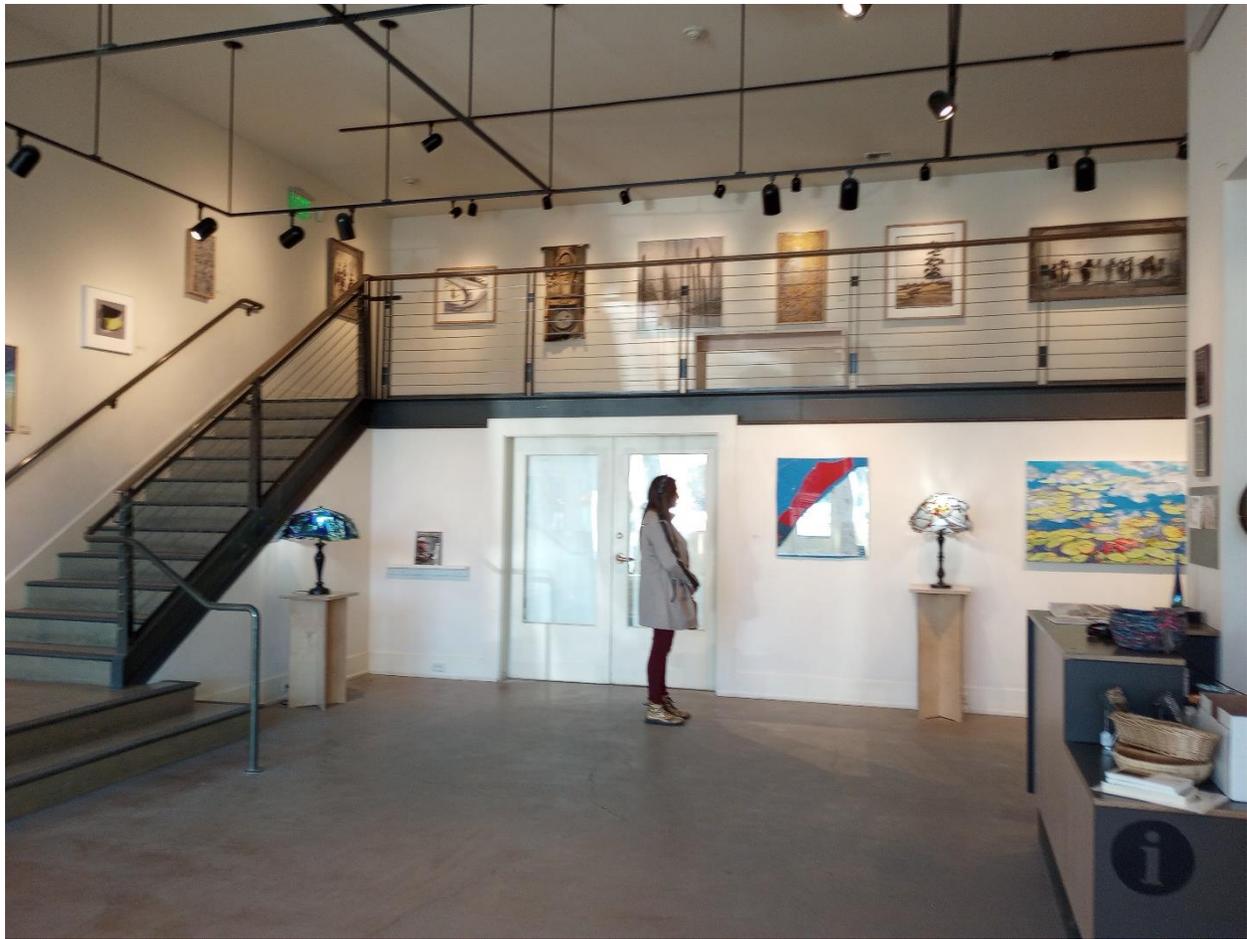
FRONT IMAGE: Cindy Kriebel, *Water Shield Pond Weeds* BACK IMAGES: Richard Denner, *Celestial Mechanics* Jane Orleman, *Self Revealed*



Main Gallery Painting by Jane Orelman



Six Artists Left to Right: Bobbie Halperin, Julie Prather, Sam Albright, Richard Denner, and Molly Monroe



Main Gallery and Mezzanine, East Wall.

Kama viewing "Composition with Mirror"



Philosopher's Chair #2

Donated to Kittitas County Historical Society



Gallery One Mezzanine, South Wall



"Homage To Holbein" with Kama



Eveleth Green Gallery, Members Show, 2023



Goddess Descending the Staircase



"Technogoddess" by Kama, 2023

## RICHARD DENNER'S FIVE ASSEMBLAGES IN THEIR NATURAL SETTINGS



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Quentin's Venus



Composition with Mirror



Philosopher's Chair #2



Homage to Holbein



Celestial Mechanics

# Local artists donate their work to the Kittitas County Historical Museum to be preserved a lasting treasure

By **RODNEY HARWOOD**  
staff writer

The new year will usher in the work of old friends and local artists that have touched the hearts and souls of art patrons throughout Kittitas County for decades.

Gallery One Visual Arts Center, in partnership with the Kittitas County Historical Museum, will share the work of some of the most gifted and talented artists in the area with a January-February exhibit at the gallery on Pearl Street that will eventually make its way to the historical museum where artwork will take its place in Kittitas County history.

"I love the idea that the artists that have lived and made art here in Kittitas County for over 50 years have come together to create a meaningful gift back to the county they have lived in for so long," Gallery One executive director Monica Miller said.

"The historical museum agrees, the artists are storytellers. Not only do they tell the story of the county, but they are able to tell the story of the community."

Kittitas County Historical Museum executive director Sadie Thayer agrees.

"This is an open call to artists. We'll start with the current group, but we will welcome artists that want to donate to the museum. They will be subject to approval by our Collections Committee," she said.



RODNEY HARWOOD/DAILY RECORD

Kittitas County Historical Museum executive director Sadie Thayer displays the reflector art of Dick Elliott, which was donated by the late artist's wife Jane Orleman.

a piece to the museum, which I think is pretty special."

The mediums are far ranging from glass work to oil to water color to photography.

"This is wonderful and I have to tell you that I am so honored be included in this group, truly," longtime rodeo photographer Molly Morrow said. "These artists are wonderful here. There's a beautiful collection of pieces."

"I thought really long and hard about the piece I'm going to put into the museum and I'm excited about it."

Jampa Dorje has long been a unique presence in the Ellensburg arts community and in the fabric of the town for years. Ellensburg Arts Commission honored Dorje with its 2022 Arts Treasure Award for his work both on the canvas and the written word.

The Arts Treasure Award started as a way for the Arts Commission

to recognize and educate the community about someone who has chosen to make their art and life in Ellensburg. O'Connor was presented with the Arts Treasure Award in 2021.

Kriebel's work featuring Kittitas Valley landscapes have been a part of the community for years, as has Halperin's digital abstract work.

Sam Albright graduated from Central Washington University his creative journey takes him in many directions from his own water color work to music and various projects.

One of the most prominent shows in 2022 was the final exhibit at the 420 Loft Gallery featuring the glass art of Prather's lamps and Donald O'Connor's ability to create surreal, neoclassic, cubist, impressionistic displays through his work.

Now they will enter into historical ramifications when their work goes into the Kittitas County Historical Museum.

"We need to preserve artwork while the artists are alive with their choice of art they want to give to the community as a legacy of their own art. We want to share with members from Kittitas County and visitors from across the world for generations going forward."

Local artists Jane Orleman (small murals), Cindy Kriebel (landscapes), Bobbie Halperin (digital abstract), Jampa Dorje (acrylic), Sam Albright (water color), Molly Morrow (photography), Julie Prather (glass art), as well as the posthumous honor for Dick Elliott (reflector art), Donald O'Connor (surreal neoclassic cubist impressionistic abstract).

"We will also display the work of Dick Elliot and Donald O'Connor. Their artwork is phenomenal. They are artists that have been part of the Kittitas County landscape, even after their passing," Thayer said. "Jane Orleman donated a piece by Dick and Gallery One donated a piece by Donald."

The project brings together a bit of art history of some of the county's longstanding artists with the idea it will move forward, involving new generations.

"We started working on how we could involve the Kittitas County Historical Museum in collecting more art and that's what led to this exhibition," said Orleman, who always works with oil.

"The exhibit stipulates that we all each donate

This column connects to the first column in the above article.

# Gifts to the Future: legacy Ellensburg artists celebrated at Art Walk

Katherine Camarata  
Lead Editor  
February 8, 2023



"She Asks for Time to Unravel the Mystery" by Jane Orleman. Photo by



"Water Shield Pond Weeds" by Cindy Kreible.

A vast array of unique paintings and sculptures decorated Gallery One as high-spirited artists from older and newer generations alike gathered to honor community members who have left lasting artistic impressions on the valley over several decades.

The Gestures: Gifts to the Future exhibit opened at the First Friday Art Walk on Feb. 3; a corresponding artist's talk is set to occur on Feb. 11 at Gallery One from 10 a.m. – noon.

The exhibit is a collaboration with the Kittitas County Historical Museum; each future legacy artist displays several pieces in the gallery throughout the month, and eventually donates one piece to the museum to preserve art as a permanent piece of local history.

Seven long-time Ellensburg-based artists are showing in the exhibit, with mediums ranging from watercolor to junk assemblage to acrylic to stained glasswork and beyond. The artists are: Sam Albright, Richard Denner, Bobbie Halperin, Cindy Kreible, Molly Morrow, Jane Orleman and Julie Prather.

Gallery One Director Monica Miller, Orleman and Sadie Thayer at the Kittitas County Historical Museum worked together to bring the exhibit to life.

Orleman is the owner of the fabled Dick and Jane's spot on N. Pearl St. She is typically a muralist and said she selected the specific painting for the exhibit titled "She Asks for Time to Unravel the Mystery" because it was able to "fit inside the building."

"This painting is actually really dear to me," Orleman said. "I was painting it during the time my brother was dying. The title is 'She Asks for Time to Unravel the Mystery,' and it's the mystery of living and dying and being." Orleman displayed her work at CWU in 2019 for the first time in over 20 years. The work was centered around childhood abuse and family violence. She published a book in the '90s titled "Telling Secrets" centered around sharing these experiences.

Orleman is currently displaying a painting in the stairwell of Gallery One called "She's Stronger than She Looks," depicting a child holding a woman on her shoulder, who according to Orleman, "has the strength to continue and hold an old crone like me, so that I can just reach for the stars. I

wanted to give it to the museum so that it would continue the discussion and the dialogue about families that need healing.”

Lauren Otto, a senior in anthropology and intern at Gallery One, said she especially appreciated the colorful paintings of Sam Albright and Cindy Kreible, emeritus CWU art professor. “I love his [Sam’s] work for the way that it is able to bring stuff to life on canvas, just gorgeous,” Otto said. “The way she’s [Kreible’s] able to capture the environment and the color.”

Former CWU Librarian of 20 years Guy Shover said his favorite pieces in the exhibit were created by Albright and Denner; he said he particularly enjoyed reading Denner’s chapbooks in the gift shop. “I like Sam Albright’s stuff,” Shover said. “He makes mandolins, he makes great paintings. They’re representational in a nice way.”

CWU alum and exhibitor Albright said his artwork is about inspiring a feeling in the viewer that might connect them to the artist. Albright primarily works with watercolor; his pieces in this exhibit feature winter scenery, the likes of snow and mist that permeates the pine trees. “It has this graphic intensity about it, and I’m trying to find someplace in between the naturalness and then using watercolor in a little more intense way than a lot of people think of watercolor,” Albright said. “They are the same kind of pigment that you use with oil and acrylics, it’s the same pigment and then with a different medium that is interacting with the cotton paper.” Albright referred to pushing and moving water particles around while painting as “controlled chaos.”

The vibrant stained-glass lamps of Julie Prather, former employee of the CWU photo lab, have been displayed all over town, and Prather said she creates one every month because it gives her joy. Prather said she often ponders what glass and photography have in common, and she said they both deal with light. “Light in a photograph makes a beautiful photograph, and then the light with glass makes it magical,” Prather said. “I’ve always hoped that I bring color and light to people’s lives.”

Gallery One Exhibit Coordinator Renee Adams chose how to arrange the collection, and she said she interspersed the artists’ work among each

other instead of separating them. “I really liked the dialogue that happened between the works,” Adams said. “A lot of them know each other, and they’re all a very important part of the creative community here, and so I wanted to show them and blend our community.” Adams said she hopes the exhibit inspires other artists “to consider donating a piece, or at least going to the museum to learn more about local history.”

Assemblagist, collagist and poet Richard Denner said he feels this show marked the dawn of a fresh cycle. “Having been an artist in Ellensburg for a period of almost 50 years, it seems as though things have come full circle and now we’re beginning a new cycle ... a new era of artists and art collectives, and I feel very honored to be part of this new wave of art in Ellensburg,” Denner said.



Left to right front row: Richard Denner, Sam Albright, and Jane Orlman  
Left to right back row: Monica Miller, Sadie Thayer, and Julie Prather

