

So... I'm the Board Chairman Now?

If you had told me a few years ago that I would one day be writing a newsletter introduction as the Board Chairman of the Dry Canyon Arts Association, I probably would have laughed—and then asked you, "Who is paying you to say that?" Yet, here I am - writing.

It is an honor to step into this role, especially following the incredible leadership that brought DCAA to where it is today; thanks Mel! When I first became involved in the Dry Canyon Arts Association, I was drawn in by the same thing many of you were: a group of people who believe art is not a luxury—it is a necessity. I joined DCAA because I believed in what it stood for: art as connection, creativity as community glue, and the idea that a small town can have a big cultural heartbeat. What I did not expect was how quickly this organization would feel like home. From First Fridays to bi-annual art shows; from Lend Me Your Walls to the ever-growing member meetings at General Duffy's Waterhole; none of it would be possible without the countless behind-the-scenes volunteer hours that make the magic happen. DCAA is powered by people who care deeply about Redmond and about each other . . . Oh! and about art! All KINDS of art.



I come from a 30-year career in education, which means I still spend a lot of time thinking about how people learn, grow, and connect. Art sits at the intersection of all three. It teaches us to see differently, to listen better, and to engage more deeply with the world around us. That is why community art spaces matter so much to me—and why DCAA's mission resonates so strongly. I have seen firsthand how creative spaces give people permission to try, fail, grow, and belong. That belief is what keeps me invested in DCAA and excited about its future.

Redmond is more than just a place on the map; it is a community with heart, grit, and creativity to spare. As our town and the surrounding area continues to grow, I believe the arts play a vital role in shaping who we are and who we want to be. The Dry Canyon Community Art Center is already doing that work—opening doors, inviting participation, and proving that art truly belongs to everyone.

As Chair, I am excited to help guide DCAA into its next chapter while preserving the spirit that makes it special. I care deeply about supporting artists, valuing volunteers, strengthening our programs, and making sure we remain a welcoming, inclusive creative home for the community.

As Chair, my goal is simple: keep us moving **onward** while staying grounded in what makes DCAA DCAA. That means supporting our artists, empowering our volunteers, and strengthening community partnerships. And, doing it all **together**. I am grateful for the opportunity, energized by the people I get to work alongside, and optimistic about what is ahead. Thank you for trusting me with the helm—don't worry, I promise to try to keep us on course.

Onward - together,

Jay Lowndes

Board Chairman

Dry Canyon Arts Association

IN THE GALLERY

This series of articles will be intended to inform you of what's going on in the Dry Canyon Community Art Center gallery. We hope to do this for every newsletter and it is to invite you to come in and participate. The Art Center was created as a benefit to the community. With that in mind, some exhibitions are open only to Dry Canyon Arts members and some of the shows are open to the community at large. By reaching out to the community at large we include more people both for showing their work and possibly becoming members. The exhibitions are organized by the exhibition committee of six people. The exhibition committee has the responsibility of providing high quality, well balanced programming, with the hope of appealing to a broad range of art appreciators. The gallery has the ability to show many 2D works of art and quite a few 3D works of art.

We are just finishing up with the inaugural show "One From Everyone". This was a members only show with approximately 70 artists represented in the show. The grand opening of the Art Center and the ribbon cutting was on December 5th and the gallery was packed with people. The gallery has been visited by many people in the ensuing 2 months, most of which are surprised that this level of artistic talent is available from local people. This show will remain until it is taken down on January 31st. If you haven't seen it yet it might be a good time to stop in.

Not to be missed are the exquisite paintings by K.C. Snider in the featured artist section. K.C. tells stories thru her paintings of the high desert history of Central Oregon.

The next show up is focusing on the work of Central Oregon art Guild members. This will include art from the Central Oregon Metal Arts Guild, the Watercolor Society of Oregon, Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers, Glass Artists of Central Oregon, Plein Painters of Oregon, the Fish Carvers Society, and the High Desert Quilt Guild. This show will be available on February 3rd with the artist reception during the First Friday Art Walk on February 6^t from 4-7. With the extremely diverse skill set of local artists, this show promises to be a hit. It will run through March 28th.

The featured artist for February is Jack Perry. To quote the press release; "Jack is a abstract sculptor with an aerial vision of the Pacific Northwest." The artist reception for Jack Perry will be on First Friday, February 6th from 4:00 to 7:00



Gallery Exhibition Dates

(normally changes every 2 months)

2026

Feb-March Intake Feb 2nd, Pick up March 29th -

Guilds of Central Oregon Central Oregon Metal Arts Guild, Watercolor Society of Oregon,(central Oregon residents,) Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers Guild . Glass Artists of Central Oregon, Plein Aire Painters of Oregon (central Oregon residents) Fish Carvers Society, High Desert Quilt Guild, looking for a ceramics guild/club

April-May Intake March 30, Pick up May 31 - Kids & High Desert Art League (the Agony and the Ecstasy, LOL)

June-July Intake June 1, Pick up Aug 2 - Members only America the Beautiful

**Aug-Sept Intake Aug 3, Pick up Sept 27 - Tri County Open Community Show
Open to members and non-members**

Oct-Nov Intake Sept 28, Pick up Nov 29 - Made by Veterans

Dec 2026 - Jan 2027 Intake Nov 30, Pick up Feb 1, 2027 - Members Only

If a DCAA member falls into the designated category you are eligible

**We just received an award
for best new business in
2025 from the Redmond
Chamber of Commerce!**



Exciting Volunteer Opportunities to Help Shape the Creative Future of our Community!!

Are you passionate about the arts and eager to make a meaningful impact in our community? We invite you to join one of our dedicated teams or committees and help us transform our nonprofit art center into a vibrant, thriving hub for creativity and connection. Your time and talents can help foster a welcoming space where art flourishes and everyone feels inspired.

Have questions or want to jump in? Email Janet Hardwick at: volunteer@drycanyonarts.org.
THANK YOU FOR WANTING TO HELP!

Art Association Needs:

Lend Me Your Walls Assistant

You'll be mentored by Brad Rafish to take the lead at one of our venues—from calls for art, to hanging masterpieces, and connecting with participating artists, you'll play a key role in our exhibitions and create meaningful relationships with the businesses which participate.

Art Center Needs:

Art Center Event Planning

Do you love throwing parties or organizing unforgettable gatherings? Join a team to create memorable events, such as First Friday Featured Artist reception, Ladies Night Out and other downtown Redmond events along with other creative celebrations that make the art center the place to be. Network with local groups and businesses to rent the gallery space for their special events.

Gallery Hosts (must be a DCAA member to participate)

Be the welcoming face of our new gallery! Assist visitors, share your passion for art, and help with sales in a lively and inspiring environment.

Gallery Host Coordinator (must be a DCAA member to participate)

Be 1 of 3 leading a dynamic group of members who are hosting at the gallery. Help organize scheduling on Signup.com, communicate with hosts on schedule changes and filling shifts, and participate in activities for host training and education.

Art Classes Planning and Scheduling

Do you have a talent for organizing? Join us in coordinating art classes for both children and adults! Help recruit art instructors and collaborate with our webmaster to manage class schedules.

Public Relations Team

Do you enjoy sparking conversations and sharing exciting news? Become an ambassador for our new community art center as part of the Development, Fundraising and PR team! Attend Redmond Chamber Friday coffee clatters and other community events to make connections and spread the word.



sign up here:



Featured Artist Gain Exposure and Recognition

Be DCAA's "Featured Artist" in Our Newsletter, Cascade A&E and Redmond Spokesman!

Submit your request to be added to the list to be the "Featured Artist" in the Dry Canyon Art Association newsletter and Redmond Spokesman's newspaper, and the Cascade A&E monthly magazine

1\ DCAA Recognition

An article will be created just for you to be highlighted in the DCAA monthly newsletter.

2\ Redmond Recognition

The Redmond Spokesman has agreed to duplicate the newsletter article in their newspaper each month to get even more recognition and exposure.

3\ Cascade A&E magazine ditto the article written about you and your work

4\ Showcase your art at the Dry Canyon Community Art Center Featured Artist artwork will be showcased for 1 month with Artist Receptions held during First Friday Art Walk

Apply to be the Featured Artist thru the DCAA web site.

<https://www.drycanyonarts.org/featuredartist>

Featured Artists are selected by the Exhibition Committee based on artistic capability and their involvement as a volunteer in Dry Canyon Arts Association activities.

FEATURED ARTIST

Jack Perry, Abstract Sculptor with an Aerial Vision of the Pacific Northwest

By Dina Rhoden

Jack Perry's Redmond home and studio have paintings, posters, and abstract sculptures on every wall. At 76, Jack's artistic vision has never wavered, born not of trends but out of a lifetime of grit, love, and an abiding bond with the land that raised him.

That bond began in Walla Walla, Washington, where, as a child, Jack not only fell in love with the horizon-wide beauty of the wheatfields but also had a life-altering revelation. Leafing through an encyclopedia in grade school, he happened upon Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic house Fallingwater. "Seeing the lines, the architecture--something rose up in me, and I knew I wanted to create."

Jack worked on wheat farms in the Palouse region near Pullman, Washington, on and off in his twenties. "I gained a real sense of the earth, an appreciation for old farms and outbuildings, rusted grain elevators. I loved how they all told stories about the past. The Columbia and Snake Rivers seemed to dance together, carving their routes through the Palouse. Fertile hills and rim rocks reached up to the clouds, reflecting in the rivers. Those landscapes speak through my work."

His connection to the landscape would ground Jack's artistic practice even as he dropped out of high school in 1967 to study under artist John Ford before returning to earn his diploma in 1968. Upon graduation, he joined the Army and deployed to Vietnam. "Life has never been a straight road, but I always had this drive—I have to create art!" he says.

After returning from Vietnam, Jack met his wife, Sharon, and began a family. Art remained his passion. He earned a B.A. from Washington State University and later an M.F.A. in Sculpture from the University of Oregon as a graduate teaching fellow, where he studied under sculptors Paul Buckner and Jan Zack.

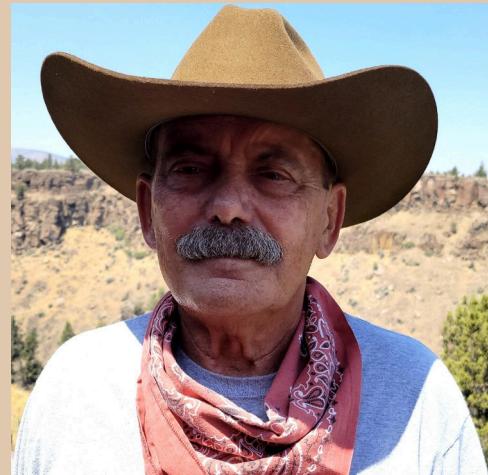
If the Palouse was Jack's muse, his method was shaped by years of mastering a variety of mediums—wood, glass, metals, paint, and handmade wood-pulp paper. "I incorporate those subtle, earthly tones—the gold of wheatfields at dusk, the bronze of old farm tools—that echo life on the farms," he explains.

Jack's work often juxtaposes natural and human-made patterns etched into the landscape. One striking sculpture, "Palouse Furrows," features rows of rippling wood-paper that mimic the rhythmic sweep of wheatfields. "Farms have lines, old trees on the hills, and cliffs in the morning glow. That's why I like to use copper, gold, bronze, and make my own paper out of wood pulp to capture those colors." Another, "Horse Heaven Hills," combines plaster, canvas, and wood to celebrate the region's golden hills, darting magpies, and the water that carves into and sustains the land.

"Magpies are a constant in my work. When I worked in the fields, they'd flit around me. They were my companions, which is why they often appear in my work." Jack's sculptures map an abstract, bird's-eye relationship with the natural world, often inspired by specific coordinates—like 46°N latitude, 117°W longitude—the location of Walla Walla. "Those markers are my anchoring point," he says, smiling.

In 1978, co-owners Jack and Val Sweeney operated the Oak House Gallery in Portland. The gallery became a vanguard of multidisciplinary art, showcasing pieces he and Val created, ranging from glasswork to metal sculpture and elaborate light fixtures. Their craftsmanship caught the eye of corporate clients, including Red Lion Hotels, which commissioned large-scale chandeliers, sconces, and custom art for their lobbies. For six years, the gallery thrived until the economic slump of 1984 forced its closure. "I took a steady job to pay the bills," Jack says of his transition to working for the City of Milwaukie. "But I never stopped creating. I had to keep going."

Today, among the various projects in Jack's studio are several abstract sculptural maquettes on his worktable that he would love to see be made life-size or larger if a commission came along. "I'm devoting the rest of my life to my vision because it's my spirit. I have no choice."



Continued...



"Visiting Silo Falls"



"Spring Time in The Palouse"



"Union Flats"

DCAA Coming Events February and March 2026

February 2026

- DCCAC Members Show pick-up: 2/1: **(TBD)** **DCCAC**
- DCCAC **Gallery Exhibition: Guilds of Central Oregon** In-Take: 2/2: **(TBD)** **DCCAC**
- **Open to the following guild-members:** Central Oregon Metal Arts, Central Oregon Spinners & Weavers, Glass Artists of Central Oregon, Fish Carvers Society, High Desert Quilters, and Central Oregon residents of the Watercolor Society of Central Oregon AND Plein Aire Painters of Central Oregon.
- First Friday Art Walk: 2/6 **(4:00-7:00)** **Downtown Redmond**
- Marketing Meeting: 2/12 **(1:00-3:00)** **DCCAC classroom 2**
- DCAA Board Meeting: 2/27 **(2:00-5:00)** **Library**

March 2026

- First Friday Art Walk: 3/6 **(4:00-7:00)** **Downtown Redmond**
- Marketing Meeting: 3/12 **(1:00-3:00)** **DCCAC classroom 2**
- Member Meeting 3/24 **(5:00-6:30)** **General Duffy's Annex**
- DCCAC **Guilds of Central Oregon** Pick-up 3/29 **(TBD)** **DCCAC**
- DCCAC Gallery Exhibition: **Kids & High Desert Art League** Intake 3/30 **(TBD)** **DCCAC**

What a Year!

What a busy year for DCAA. We not only implemented and completed our first year of Jumpstart Art, but we also remodeled the building space and opened the Dry Canyon Community Art Center. We accomplished this with the financial help from our generous grantors, art raffle revenue, donations from local Civic organizations and our amazing community; individuals and businesses who donated to both Jumpstart Art and the Dry Canyon Community Art Center.



A big thank you to our many grantors for Jumpstart Art; the Oregon Community Foundation, the Deschutes Cultural Coalition, the Reser Family Foundation, and the Autzen Foundation who have both granted us funding again for the 2026 Jumpstart program. And thanks to our newest grantor for 2026, the PacifiCorp Foundation. We also thank the Redmond Kiwanis Club and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Central Oregon for their donations. DCAA artists donated their artwork to the Spring and Fall Art Shows for raffles that generated thousands of dollars for Jumpstart Art, and big thank you to all the community members who bought raffle tickets and to the many individuals who donated to Jumpstart Art.

The Oregon Cultural Trust believed in the DCAA vision for the Community Art Center by funding us with a significant grant. We also received a grant from the Ford Family Foundation. Our Central Oregon community was incredibly supportive by becoming founding sponsors and our generous business community donated both in-kind labor and materials. Many, many DCAA members and supporters put in thousands of hours volunteering their time and skills, we thank everyone who helped to make the Dry Canyon Community Art Center a reality.

We are looking forward to a very successful first year.

Josie Powell

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Born and raised in Redmond, Oregon, I am grateful to call Central Oregon home. After spending a decade in Medford, my husband, our three daughters, and I returned to the community that means so much to us. Joining our family business, The Garner Group, shaped my real estate career, and in 2017, I partnered with my sister and cousin to purchase Harcourts The Garner Group. Today, I serve as Office Manager for three locations, proud to work in a field I am truly passionate about.

Community involvement is central to my life. Since 2014, I have been an active member of 100+ Women Who Care Central Oregon, supporting children's causes and initiatives close to my heart. In 2023, I joined the Redmond Historical Society and Enjoy Downtown Redmond Association, and collaborated with the Jake & Josh Eckstein Memorial Trade Scholarship Fund to promote skilled trades in our region. Most recently, I became part of the Redmond chapter of Kiwanis and am excited for my new role on the Board of Directors with the Dry Canyon Arts Association.

Outside of work and volunteering, I enjoy spending time with my family and pets, and creating a welcoming, comfortable home.



Erica Davis

LEND ME YOUR WALLS!

The Lend Me Your Walls program was created to fill a need for the lack of formal art galleries in Redmond. Local businesses “loan” wall space so our members have a place to exhibit and sell their artwork. The duration of each exhibition is from three to six months depending on location.

Our current locations include **Bend Dermatology (Redmond)**; **Birdies Brow & Spa**; **Feast Food Co.**; **High Desert Vision Source**; **St. Charles Hospital**; and **Pangaea Guild Hall**.

Upcoming for Art:

- **FEAST FOOD CO.** Submission deadline is February 17th.
Show dates are Feb 24 through June 23, 2026.



We are also looking for anyone interested in becoming a *Venue Lead*. This position is the primary contact with the venue and is responsible for submitting calls for art, printing labels, and hanging the pieces as well as maintaining communication with artists and the venue.

If interested, please contact Brad Rafish at lendmeyourwalls@drycanyonarts.org

GET YOUR ART OUT THERE!



FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK



*Join us for an evening
event downtown Redmond*

- DO YOU KNOW the benefits of participating in the First Friday Art walks?
- NO COST to introduce your art to the community.
- MEDIA exposure in Cascade A&E, Spokesman & more.
- LEARN what's selling & how to price your art.
- DISCOVER how to market yourself and your art in a casual, relaxed conversation.

Need more information or have questions?
Contact our FFAW Chair, Laurel Werhane
at firstfriday@drycanyonarts.org or
541-633-6693.

Participating Businesses



4 - 7 PM

FIRST FRIDAY

ART
WALK



The Value of Distinct Artistic Moments

The dynamic between spontaneous creation and meticulously crafted art has long been the subject of reflection within the artistic community. One may question whether audiences are truly able to distinguish between works born from inspiration in the moment and those shaped by deliberate planning—and further, whether such distinctions hold significance.

While spontaneity in art is frequently idealized, it is important to recognize that moments of inspiration are typically supported by considerable practice and experience; thus, every piece of art reflects both preparation and immediacy. Many artists regard these rare moments of insight as particularly valuable, attributing a certain authenticity to works that appear to emerge spontaneously rather than through extensive preparation.

However, it is worth considering whether there exists a perceivable difference between art created impulsively and art developed with forethought, and if this distinction is meaningful.

The narrative of spontaneity can often be misleading, as the audience rarely observes the years of diligence that prepare an artist for such episodes of creative output. Each work, therefore, embodies a depth of accumulated experience.

Accomplished artists frequently invest significant effort into achieving an effortless appearance in their work. In many cases, a composition that seems to have been produced swiftly is the result of years of careful refinement. Conversely, some may favor structured preparation over spontaneity, viewing unplanned works as reliant on chance rather than skill.

A neutral stance towards the creative process can be beneficial: engaging fully with the work at hand and accepting outcomes without bias toward one method or another. Creative achievements may manifest either through brief inspiration or after prolonged labor, and the path varies widely depending on the nature of each project. There is no uniform approach; the specific demands of each task serve as the guiding factor.

Rigid adherence to a single creative methodology may inhibit opportunities for genuine discovery. Embracing flexibility and openness can foster unexpected innovation. Moreover, spontaneity tends to be enhanced through ongoing practice, as repeated engagement with artistic production encourages responsiveness to the present moment, even when the specifics of that process are not consciously retained.

Sometimes, it is the most ordinary moment that creates an extraordinary piece of art!

~ *Offering by Molly Freitag*

FOR SALE

Attention fused glass and mosaic artists! Selling all fused glass and supplies. Contact Laurel Werhane by text 541-633-6693 and I will send photos with prices.

Attention ceramic artists! Selling pottery plaster #1, permoplast clay, talc, hydrocal, powdered gum arabic, silica sand 90 mesh. Laurel Werhane by text 541-633-6693.

THANK YOU!

GRANTORS



SPONSORS



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