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DRY CANYON ARTS NEWS

ENHANCING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART AND EDUCATION



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IN THE GALLERY



BEYOND THE UNIFORM: VETERANS SPEAKING THROUGH ART

By Laura Fouts and Dina Rhoden

Long before Billy Woodruff entered the Army, he knew what he wanted to be. Whenever adults asked that familiar childhood question: What will you be when you grow up? His answer never wavered. "An artist." High school graduation happened and then the Army where Billy discovered there was plenty of work for a young man who knew how to draw. His artistic ability kept finding its way into his assignments. At one posting, he painted a large mural depicting the history of his battalion.

His fellow soldiers had constant requests. They handed him photos so he could draw portraits of their girlfriends. "I made a lot of money doing that!" Billy remembers.

The story still makes him smile but look at one of his portraits in the gallery: the delicate charcoal modeling of a cheerful face, the softness of the hair, the attention given to the eyes and mouth, and it's easy to imagine those young soldiers lining up.

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UPCOMING DCAA EVENTS

Gallery Exhibition:
Veterans, Active
Military & First
Responders
Sept 9th - Nov 28th

DCCAC Gallery
October Featured
Artist:
Mary Wonsor
First Friday Art Walk
10/2 5 pm-8 pm
Downtown Redmond
More Events on Page 8

Featured Artist:
Mary Wonsor

Inside Mary Wonsor's 100-year-old farmhouse in Redmond, color waits everywhere. On one loom is a hazy blue wool shawl embellished with silk ribbons. On another, bands of cream, charcoal, rust, and gray advance like a high-desert horizon. Small, felted bowls, bright as berries, wait for beads and pottery. The house holds two floor looms, several portable looms, and more ideas than they can contain.

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FEATURED ARTIST CONT.

THE LOOM AS CANVAS: THE ART OF MARY WONSER

By Dina Rhoden



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“Not only do I feel the need to create, but I feel color. That’s the beginning of every creation, and the ideas keep coming,” she says with a smile. A textured yarn may begin the conversation; a feather, old coin, ceramic fragment may change its course. Dee Ford Potter, a fellow fiber artist since 1969, knows Wonser well. “Like me, she’s an artist first, and her medium is weaving. Mary’s so humble about her work, but she’s a major force in the field!”

Wonser’s surprising fiber compositions have been celebrated in museums, colleges, galleries, and exhibitions all over the country. Yet Wonser’s proudest role centers on invitation. For over a decade, she has served as Fiber Arts Superintendent at the Deschutes County Fair, overseeing weaving, spinning, felting, and natural-fiber exhibits. Demonstration looms create an excitement about weaving,” she says. “Education and outreach have been a focus of these exhibits.”

“I learned to knit as a 12-year-old and made Barbie Doll clothes in college for extra spending money. Also, a high school friend’s mother had a loom, and I was fascinated by it. Finally, in the mid-80s, I took a class in Southwest style weaving at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado.” Wonser earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education at Valparaiso University, but her passion for learning about all styles of weaving kept her taking weaving workshops, some in New Mexico and later in Oregon.

Fiber may look soft and forgiving, but the loom requires precision. The lengthwise warp must remain evenly tensioned while the crosswise weft passes through it, row after row. Too much tension can distort the cloth; too loose, and the surface loses shape. Spacing, edges, and the force of each beat matter.

Fibers have personalities. Cotton is sturdy and absorbent. Wool is warm, resilient, and willing to felt. Mohair carries sheen and a soft halo, changing how light travels across it. Twist,

thickness, elasticity, and direction affect structure and drape. A fiber artist learns these behaviors. Wonser’s wall hangings rise in vertical bands of color and texture. Their proportions often follow Fibonacci sequences, the expanding pattern revealed in pinecones and sunflower heads. “This progression carries a natural sense of balance and rhythm,” she says.

Wonser and her late husband, Mike, an artist and fine-arts professor, lived in Colorado’s San Luis Valley before returning to Bend, where he grew up. He encouraged Wonser to show her work. The couple opened a gallery and gift shop in Sisters, which Wonser ran for six years. She retired in 2012 to become a full-time artist, which has kept her busier than she expected.

For October’s exhibition, wall hangings will take center stage, joined by scarves, runners, and the vessels Wonser calls “Wool Pottery.” Knitted and felted, they carry beads and ceramic

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FEATURED ARTIST CONT.

THE LOOM AS CANVAS: THE ART OF MARY WONSER



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pieces. Larger weavings may hold feathers, found objects, or pottery.

Wonser's work has often appeared in the statewide traveling exhibition organized by the Weaving Guilds of Oregon that occurs every four years. In the latest exhibition called "Color Gone Wild," Wonser created a dramatic black wall weaving for ceramic artist Dori Kite to attach her work: clay against fiber, smoothness against texture. "Recently, I've returned to my roots with Southwest wall hangings. They have taken on a life of their own and evolved into my geometric style with embellishments and textures."

Familiar with the less romantic side behind an artistic career, Wonser knows fairs mean travel. Sales require patience. Galleries need people to hang work, greet visitors, and balance books. "Everyone has their way of doing it, but it takes a lot of work." Wonser spent thirteen years as bookkeeper for the Artists' Gallery Sunriver, and

has exhibited there for over a decade. In addition, she assists Bill Lind with accounting at the Dry Canyon Arts Gallery and volunteers as a host.

Wonser's homelife is abundant, too. "Mike and I were a blended family," she says. "Six kids between us, 21 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren." Back in her farmhouse, each loom holds its place in the conversation. The wool shawl grows softer and bluer. A wall hanging finds its story. Wonser passes the shuttle once more, laying one thread across another, a simple motion repeated until color, tension, memory, and artistic vision come together in an extraordinary weaving.

See Mary Wonser's work on display all month at the Dry Canyon Community Art Center at 415 SW 6th Street in downtown Redmond, or join her at the Art Center for a celebration of her work during First Friday, October 2nd, between 5:00 and 8:00 pm. To reach Mary Wonser, email her at marywonser@gmail.com

IN THE GALLERY CONT.

BEYOND THE UNIFORM: VETERANS SPEAKING THROUGH ART



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Their pieces will hang alongside work by DCAA members. As 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States, veterans who have all given some portion of their youth, time, freedom, family, life, safety, and talents to serve the greater good, deserve a public venue where they can share some of their creative efforts with the public.

Less than one percent of Americans serves in the military. As we know, these brave individuals put their lives on the line, gain special training, and leave the military with memories or injuries that take a toll on their minds and bodies. Creating art is one way some veterans grapple with experiences so deep that they defy mere words. Billy understands that pleasure. After leaving the Army, he used his VA benefits to attend college and earned a degree in graphic design. He became an art director for a large television

station and later opened his own studio, spending more than 30 years working with national and international clients. His career carried him around much of the world.

Retirement has given Billy more time for painting and drawing, especially the mountains he once climbed. In one landscape, immense gray cliffs rise above sweeps of snow, evergreens darkening the foreground while a turquoise sky breaks through behind the peaks. The mountain has weight. It seems insurmountable. “I love to paint mountain landscapes,” Billy says. “I used to be a very active mountain climber. Now I can only paint them.”

Cazandra Aporbo arrived at visual art by a different route. She joined the military at 17 and served at Kingsley Air National Guard Base in Klamath Falls. After Basic Military Training, she was sent to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, for technical training just as Hurricane Katrina

was bearing down on the Gulf Coast. While thousands of people were fleeing, Cazandra was heading in.

She remembers being “very young, very far from home,” suddenly surrounded by an unthinkable crisis where her help was needed 24/7. Now she knows that the experience affected her creativity more than she understood at the time. For much of her life, Cazandra expressed herself through writing and private reflection, but it wasn’t enough. She found visual arts offered another way to express herself.

Her collage “Memories of a Teenager,” includes bold-colored planets and spirals tumbling among hands, leaves, an eagle, a tree, military imagery and a figure of Cazandra herself. An American flag holds fragments of a childhood story: I had big dreams. I wanted to fly. Near the bottom sits the silhouette

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IN THE GALLERY CONT.

BEYOND THE UNIFORM: VETERANS SPEAKING THROUGH ART

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of a rifle. Elsewhere, among the color and commotion, a question appears: Who are those people? And along the lower edge: Love thy enemy. Nothing has been tidied up. Beauty and violence, childhood and adulthood, patriotism and questioning beautifully occupy the same piece.

Today, Cazandra is an accomplished AI engineer who works with cutting-edge technology to make sure AI is safer for adults and children. Art has led her toward what patterns and algorithms cannot account for. “Meaning,” she says, “comes from memory, experience, contradiction, emotion, and from all the strange and beautiful things we carry with us.”

Cazandra doesn’t describe her art simply as healing. It’s closer to finding a physical form for things that intellectual explanation cannot quite contain. “At some point it only makes sense to come to terms with who I was at the time and to create something from it.”

Jennifer Ramerman also joined the Army at 17, right after high school. She decided to become a Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst. She examined aerial photos taken by drones to spot enemy forces, map them, and then provide tactical intelligence to commanders. During Basic Training, she was among the first company of women who underwent the same physical fitness requirements as men. She trained at Fort Huachuca, then moved to Fort Ord in California and ended up at Fort Lewis outside of Tacoma, Washington. “While up at Fort Lewis, I was able to go up in a helicopter with the doors off, and we would look for infantry troops out on the bivouac.

I would share photos I took with commanders to show what we found. That began my lifelong love for photography.”

Jennifer’s artistic life blossomed after retirement from a 30-plus-year career in healthcare and a move to Central Oregon. Watercolor came first, followed by pastels, colored pencils, photography, stained and fused glass, and, most recently, clay. But curiosity led Jennifer to an especially intriguing marriage of painting and glass that she learned from artist, Mel Archer: she mixes powdered glass with essential oil, brushes it onto sheets of glass, then fires the image in her kiln. “Being part of Redmond’s art community has truly been a gift.” In the gallery, Jennifer’s luminous pastel painting, “A Look Inside,” captures yellow petals unfolding from pools of golden amber around a dark, intricately painted center.

Marine Corps veteran and SageBrusher member Paul Kneece spent years sketching before taking up painting in his mid-forties. “As a pastel painter, I paint moments that try to show the light on a landscape. I hope my work gives viewers a feeling of time and space.” In “Eagle Canyon Morning,” light seems to shimmer as violet-blue shadows spill across an open path while turquoise, green, and flashes of rose move through the trees. In the background, a dark, distant cliff acts as an anchor for all that color. “The concentration of looking closely, then looking even closer, helps bring balance to me.” Uniforms tell us something important about the brave and selfless people who wear them, but their art expresses the exploration of human souls searching deeper.

VOLUNTEER/MEMBER INFO

There's a Place for You at the Art Center

Have you ever thought about volunteering with us? Whether you love making art, enjoy meeting new people, or simply want to lend a hand in your community, volunteering at the art center is a wonderful way to get involved. You don't need to be an artist - just bring your curiosity, your time, and a willingness to help. Get Closer to the Creative Community

Volunteers get a behind-the-scenes look at what makes the center come alive! Along the way, you'll meet artists, neighbors, and fellow art lovers—and you may even leave with fresh inspiration for a project of your own.

Meet Your People -One of the best parts of volunteering is the people you meet. There's something special about working side by side with others who care about creativity and community. Conversations start easily, friendships grow naturally, and before long, the art center can begin to feel like a second home.

Do Something That Feels Good! Spending time in a colorful, creative place can be a welcome break from a busy week. Even better, you can see the difference your time makes—whether the gallery runs smoothly because you were there, a visitor feels at home because you greeted them, or an event shines because you helped put it together.

Choose What Fits You!

Prefer a quiet project or a lively event? We have both. Some volunteers enjoy working behind the scenes, while others feel most at home greeting visitors or helping with First Friday Art Walk.

Ready to join us? We'd love to learn what you enjoy and find a volunteer role that feels like a good fit. Reach out to volunteer@drycanyonarts.org or complete the form at <https://www.drycanyonarts.org/volunteer>. A call for volunteers at the Fall Art Show will be going out soon. We hope to welcome you in whatever capacity works for you.

Join the Fun by Volunteering at the Fall Art Show

Set up Help, Greeters, Booth Ambassadors, Information Table, and Raffle Helpers November 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code to the right
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp. (*SignUp does not share your email address with anyone.*)

SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER



CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER

FIRST FRIDAY BEDAZZLED WINE GLASSES WITH JESICA CARLTON

OCT 2 | 5 PM TO 7 PM | \$40

CRAYON-MAKING PARTY WITH JULIE WILSON

OCT 10 | 10 AM TO 1 PM | \$55

FIBER -BASED COLLAGE WITH ANASTASIA ZIELINSKI

OCT 15 | 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM | \$60

FABRIC DYEING AND STENCILING WITH JESICA CARLTON

OCT 17 & 24 | 12 PM TO 2 PM | \$100

MOUNT YOUR PAINTINGS LIKE A PRO WITH TERRI DILL-SIMPSON

OCT 24 | 5 PM TO 7 PM | \$35



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER



CALL FOR ART



**Dry Canyon
Arts Association**
presents

Fall Art Show & Sale

60+ Local Artists from Central Oregon

 **Saturday November 14, 10-5**
Sunday, November 15, 10-4

 **NEW LOCATION!**
at Obsidian Middle School
1335 SW Obsidian Ave

NOVEMBER

BEGINNING WATER COLOR WITH TERRI DILL-SIMPSON

(6 SESSION WEEKS ALTERNATE WITH INTERMEDIATE CLASS)

NOV 3 & 17, DEC 1 & 15 & 29, JAN 5 & 19 |
12 PM TO 3 PM | \$300

INTERMEDIATE WATER COLOR WITH TERRI DILL-SIMPSON

(6 SESSION WEEKS ALTERNATE WITH BEGINNING CLASS)

NOV 10 & 24 DEC 8 & 29 JAN 12 & 26 |
12 PM TO 3 PM | \$300

PAPER QUILLING SNOWFLAKE ORNAMENTS WITH DIANA POSADA

NOV 7 | 2:30 PM TO 5:30 PM | \$70

INTRO TO BLOCK PRINTING WITH ANASTASIA ZIELINSKI

NOV 12 | 5:30 PM TO 7:45PM | \$65

PAPER QUILLING CHRISTMAS ANGEL WITH DIANA POSADA

NOV 14 | 2:30 PM TO 5:30 PM | \$60

PAPER QUILLING POINSETTIA WITH DIANA POSADA

NOV 21 | 2:30 PM TO 5:30 PM | \$70

MISFIT PILLOW MAKEOVER WITH JULIE WILSON

NOV 20 | 7 PM TO 9 PM | \$65



SCAN IF
INTERESTED IN
TEACHING A CLASS



COMING EVENTS: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

**DCAAC GALLERY EXHIBITION:
VETERANS, ACTIVE MILITARY & FIRST
RESPONDERS**

SEPT 9TH THROUGH NOV 28TH

DCCAC GALLERY

**OCTOBER FEATURED ARTIST:
MARY WONSER**

OCTOBER 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31

DCCAC GALLERY

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

OCT 2ND | 5PM TO 8 PM

DOWNTOWN REDMOND

DCAA SPEAKEASY FUNDRAISER

OCT 3 | 5 PM TO 9 PM

SECRET DOWNTOWN VAULT

DCAA BOARD MEETING

OCT 29TH | 3 PM TO 5PM

REDMOND LIBRARY

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

OCT 5 | 3 PM TO 4:30 PM

DCCAC 415 SW 6TH ST REDMOND

**DCCAC GALLERY EXHIBITION:
MEMBERS ONLY**

DECEMBER 1ST THROUGH JANUARY 31ST

DCCAA GALLERY

**NOVEMBER FEATURED ARTIST:
MARY WONSER**

DCCAC GALLERY

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

NOV 6TH | 4 PM TO 7PM

DOWNTOWN REDMOND

DCAA MEMBER MEETING

NOV 17TH | 5 PM TO 6:30 PM

GENERAL DUFFY'S ANNEX

DCAA BOARD MEETING

NOV 19TH | 3 PM TO 5 PM

REDMOND LIBRARY

FALL ART SHOW

NOV 14 & 15 | 10 AM TO 5PM

OBSIDIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

1335 SW OBSIDIAN

**ARTISTS! PICK UP FALL ART SHOW POSTERS AND POSTCARDS
AT THE GALLERY TO DISTIBUTE TO LET EVERYONE KNOW!**

DCAA is delighted to report that the Redmond School District hired a Fine Arts Teacher for the Elton Gregory Middle School. Since this is a new art program, they do not have art supplies. Watch for an email with the full list of desired supplies. If you have materials you are not using, or if you wish to make a donation to help them get started, please drop them off at the school:

Elton Gregory Middle School 1220
NW Upas. Ave. Redmond 97756.

For the past 2 years the DCAA Jumpstart Art program has provided art education in the 8 elementary schools. Students who participated in the program are transitioning to middle school and we are pleased they will continue to experience a quality art education in their classrooms. Your donations to help the art program get started are appreciated, what a great way for our DCAA members to support continuing art education in our community. Thank you!!

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

SCP-REDMOND HOTEL

WENDYWHEELER,
JAY LOWNDES,
BRAD HARRISON, CODY CLARK

HARCOURTS THE GARNER GROUP

CAROL GAUBATZ
LOU-WAYNE STEIGER
CAROL PICKNELL

CASCADE HASSON SOTHEBY'S

MICHAEL WEISKER
PEGGY SEAY, JOE KLEMZ
WALTER TROUTMAN,
TARYN PECK

DESERT PRAIRIE BOUTIQUE

JAMES HENSLEY

AROME

DEBRA ROEDER
RAYMOND ROEDER

WILLOW WILD

KIM SMITH
MICHELLE WOBBE

CARES & WHOAS

SANDY PARZIALE

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Cultural Trust at
(503) 986-0088 or via email at
cultural.trust@biz.oregon.gov
or consult your CPA.

LEARN MORE

at culturaltrust.org
or by scanning here:



**MAKE
CULTURE
COUNT**

culturaltrust.org

Support Oregon Culture AND Earn a Tax Credit for it!



Follow these three steps to become eligible for the Cultural Tax Credit:

ADD THEM UP

Total your
cultural donations
this year.

*See the full list of
qualifying nonprofits on
our website.*

MAXIMIZE YOUR IMPACT

Match this amount
to the Oregon
Cultural Trust.**

SCORE THE TAX CREDIT

Claim your tax
credit on your
Oregon tax form.

**Tax credit limitations apply.

**LEND ME YOUR WALLS UPCOMING ART SUBMISSION:
FEAST FOODS | SUBMISSION DEADLINE OCTOBER 28
SHOW DATES OCTOBER 28 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2026**



ART THERAPY

TURNING CREATIVE CONCEPTS INTO REALITY

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CREATIVE PROGRESS

Crafting turns ideas into reality.

A concept gains meaning through structure, detail, and form. Each draft, sketch, prototype, or rehearsal makes the idea more concrete and reveals what to keep, remove, or refine. Begin before every detail is settled; the act of making often answers questions that planning cannot. Focused effort gives the work a strong foundation for thoughtful revision.

Accept that the finished creation may differ from the original vision.

Ideas change when they meet practical limits, feedback, and discovery. A surprising direction is not necessarily a failure; it may be evidence that the project is becoming more responsive and complete. The result may become clearer, more useful, or more original than the first plan. Judge it by what it communicates, accomplishes, and teaches you—not only by how closely it matches the initial concept.

Persistence creates steady progress.

Worthwhile work rarely reaches its final form in one attempt. Divide large goals into small, specific steps and complete them consistently. When energy is limited, choose a task that can be finished in one sitting, then record what should happen next. Solving one problem or refining one section still moves the project forward, builds skill, and strengthens judgment.

Move forward despite self-doubt.

Doubt often appears when a project feels uncertain or challenging, but it need not control the next step. Treat criticism as information rather than a verdict, and separate useful observations from broad discouragement. Develop a section, revise a detail, test an alternative, or seek focused feedback. Each completed action builds evidence of your ability; confidence often grows through doing.

Deadlines help creators let go.

A realistic timeframe protects momentum and prevents endless tweaking. Set milestones for drafting, testing, revising, and sharing so that perfectionism does not consume the entire process. Define “done” by completing essential sections, resolving major problems, and allowing one final review. The work need not be perfect to be worthwhile or ready to share. Finishing creates room for feedback, growth, and new ideas.

In summary:

Creative progress comes from making ideas tangible, adapting as they evolve, and continuing through uncertainty. Steady effort, useful feedback, and realistic deadlines turn inspiration into completed work while building the confidence and judgment needed for future projects.

CONTACT & INFO

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Step back to the Roaring Twenties for a night of jazz, hidden doors, and local creativity. Join us for our speakeasy fundraiser supporting Dry Canyon Arts Association programs. Tickets are strictly limited to just 80 guests, so secure your spot now for this unforgettable evening. Scan the QR code below to register.



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Our Grantors



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Thanks to all of our individual donors. Every donation makes a difference.