

# Super novae keep exploding in the artful world of Florence!

**T**out le monde sups on champagne and caviar, n'est-ce pas? It would certainly seem so with all the bountiful art displays and accompanying taste delights throughout Florence last Saturday, July 10.

If it's the second Saturday of the month, it must be time for the GALA Art Walk, and whenever there's a GALA Art Walk, it not only includes but is inevitably followed by art receptions. All trains lead to Florence and continue to return throughout the month to reprise and discover those artful delights. Of course Florence has never had a train, and now coastal bus service is being denied. But the trains of thought run on time, and seats are always available!

This month's Art Walk was led by jaunty Jan Jagoe and her wooden kazoo, which she blew to alert the troops to the next stop. The event began at her own **River Gallery** with champagne, cheese, nuts, grapes, and cookies. Among Florence's super novae is Nova Garing, a charming lady showing colorful watercolors of florals and landscapes and one odd but intriguing geometrical portrait. . And you can never have too many sunflowers! Also featured this month at this especially artful gallery are weighty golden metal bowls by Ted Simon, who will be celebrated this coming Saturday with a gallery reception.

Jan blew her kazoo, and it was on to Florence's newest gallery and store, **Boggy Bay Bears**, a new flavor of ice cream, adjacent to BJs and owned by Brian and Jodie Cole, collectors of Western art, odds and ends, and novelty items. This store is worth a long visit

with all of its bears, sculpted and stuffed, as well as carvings, paintings, drawings, and fabulous rocking horses, created by talented inmates at a prison in eastern Oregon. Friendly photog Jacquie Wagenschutz was on hand to talk about her work, and a young man was set up on the porch blowing glass creations.

The kazoo crowed, and art walkers moseyed up Maple Street to **Oliver's Art**.

## POSTCARD WALKS FOR ART

Usually a class is in session; Weldon Oliver is not only a fine oil painter, he is an excellent instructor. But this time the studio/gallery was filled finished varied and luminous canvases by Oliver and his students.

A hop, skip, and a jump put art walkers in the driver's seat for a motoring experience at **Art Like A Wheel**. This month the gallery features acrylics by Mapleton artist Carol VanCurler—large luxurious landscapes of forests, farms, and waterfalls and families engaged in a variety of activities. Each painting is filled with so much detail and so many stories, and each painting also includes the little blue pickup, an icon from Carol's rich imagination. A reception in her honor will be held at the gallery next Saturday.

Although not scheduled on this Art Walk, Jan gathered her troops, blew her kazoo, and strolled into the next block to **Frames of Florence**, where owner Jeanne Owen held a reception for Monte Rogers, magnificent oil painter now living in North Bend. Monte and his wife were present to further elucidate his

paintings over lemonade, cheese, and crackers. His 30-year career as an illustrator served him well in the creation of these exquisite, bright, action-packed oil paintings—cowboys and their horses perched precariously on the edge of a precipice, a little boy climbing a fence in search of coins in a fountain, blokes in a pub having too much fun, and a young woman carving a chainsaw sculpture. This is one meant for Boggy Bay

Bears!

The final stop on the Art Walk was back on Bay Street at **The Canoe Club**, the chic mostly men's boutique. There are of course no canoes here; those are in Carol Van Curler's paintings and at Boggy Bears, but Win Jolley's watercolors of rainbow trout, bass, boats, and birds of paradise complement the shopping ambience. Art walkers got a special gustatory treat at the store with culinary artwork from Cuisine De Barbara — tiny creamy pastries topped with fresh strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, grapes, pineapple, or bananas.

Jan blew a kazoo farewell and returned to her gallery, while most everyone else headed to receptions at the **FEC gallery** and the **Oregon Coast Bakery and Coffee Cafe**.

At the FEC gallery, the Liz and Leo Traveling Show is playing, with paintings by Leo Ellingson and Elizabeth Breon, including portraits of local personalities Ron Adkins and Allen Campbell, and fiber art by incomparable Ursula Dittl. Liz and Leo have

disparate cats in common, and Leo's whimsical junque art is also playing. An artful crowd enjoyed wine, lemonade, cheese spread, and sweets.

Mixed Up Media is the story at the eclectic Bakery, which features this month paintings, drawings, and collage by Marilyn and Bill Durst. Finding the cats in Marilyn's work is like finding the blue pickups in Carol Van Curler's paintings! And whose face should pop up from among the myriad, exotic masks but Andy Warhol! Don't miss The Spin Room, so dubbed by Florence punning savant Ron Adkins, because the artwork reflects the artists' interpretation of the course of human events.

The small cafe was not only awash with art, it was brimming with society, including artists featured on the Art Walk, prominent local artists and potters, swinging dancer Tony Nickolaus, his daughter, Dina, and her husband, Wildcat drummer, Dan Pavlis. Dina and Dan had just finished a Saturday stint as volunteers at the Oregon Dunes Overlook and still wore their spiffy ranger uniforms.

Having grazed all afternoon and discovered oil and watercolor do mix, the culinary climax was at hand. As usual, owner-chefs at the cafe did not disappoint. The champagne flowed, complementing salmon topped with caviar, crab-filled pastry puffs, basil-stuffed cherry tomatoes, and fresh, mouth-watering quiche. C'est magnifique!

The art pantries in Florence are always well-stocked with scrumptious food and food for thought. See you at the party next month!

—Burney Garelick