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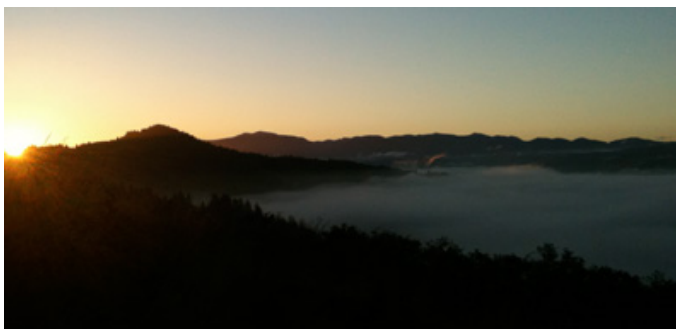
Sitka Center for Art and Ecology e-Newsletter

October 2010 - Vol 7, Issue 16

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The crisp edge to the air blowing in from the ocean these days has convinced the trees that fall is here. "Winter is coming," they, in turn, whisper to us. It's a time to reflect: our coastal workshops wrapped up with a sumptuous mushroom hunt and our fall residents have begun to arrive, bringing with them all the ingredients needed for a creative stay on our campus. It's a delicious time of year. And it has us feeling particularly grateful for the bounty of support we have which makes it all possible.

I attended a conference of arts organizations in Portland last week where the burning question seemed to be: "How are you doing?" with the implied parenthetical, "in this economy?" I was pleased that most of my fellow non-profit leaders' answers were positive. Nearly everyone acknowledged that grant funding had fallen dramatically, but that individual donors had stepped up and contributed more. Good news, in contrast to most of the other dismal economic data we hear!

I marveled for a moment, then considered that this has been **Sitka's most successful workshop season**, with more people in

attendance and more workshops full with a waiting list. We even eked out just a bit more program revenue than last year - not that we're aren't still facing the need for a final fundraising push in December. What a testament to artistic dedication!

Of course, it's not all sunshine and bunnies. There is still a broad wariness about the future. The general consensus is that grants for arts organizations won't be coming back any time soon. And as a group, we remain concerned for our donors as they continue to get squeezed by the ongoing recession. We know you are digging deep to keep supporting us and we are all working to make sure that we are delivering the goods as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I remain optimistic. There is an increase in awareness that the arts (and the environment, for that matter), will play a key role in helping us re-align our priorities as a nation and start moving forwards again. I picture a massive painting that portrays in excruciating detail (ala James Ensor) the paralyzing stalemate that has befallen our national will as the two major parties battle over the wilting crumbs of power. While they fight, we are ceding our international leadership on climate change, energy policy, trade policy, education, transportation, and health care... as we wait for some magic solution like stimulus spending, tax cuts, or currency depreciation to make it all okay again.

What would it look like if, instead, we were all grounded in an ethos of respectfulness, ethics, deep thinking, and a passion for the greater good? How do we begin making decisions that are aligned to benefit our children's children rather than a 2-year election cycle? We have so much work to do and we need artists, scientists, writers, and musicians to tell the story of how we can do better for ourselves and for our planet. The need has never been more urgent or more important.

At Sitka we are designing ways to support those of you who make art and those of you who are discovering nature in the quest to make our world a better place. Stay true to the light and keep working to bring understanding, knowledge, and wisdom to the global conversation. Your work will make the difference in the quality of our lives in the future. We thank you for that!

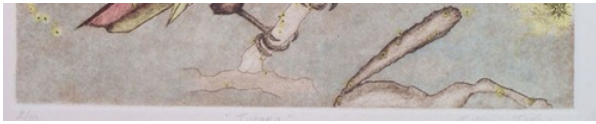
Be Well, -Eric

>> [Sitka Art Invitational](#)



Sitka Art Invitational is only weeks away.

Fall also means that we are only a few weeks away from the [Sitka Art Invitational](#). The planning for this show starts in January, artists are selected in April and then we spend the summer gathering all the information about the artists and their work so we have time to pull it all together for the show in November. It's an



enormous undertaking made possible by dedicated volunteers and determined staff. As always, we are striving to make this year's show the very best in every way we can

imagine. From the top notch artists who are participating and bringing their best work, to the events and activities surrounding the show, we think you'll be pleased and delighted.

Here are the highlights:

Thursday night begins, at 5:30PM, with the [Collector's Dinner](#) offering a delectable meal, accompanied by artwork from the show, and an auction of art inspired adventures. Reservations are required, tickets are \$175/person, and you can purchase a table for 8. (Contact us for details.) Only 152 seats available. Purchase of dinner tickets also includes the Opening Night Party with the Artists.

Thursday night continues with the [Opening Night Party with the Artists](#) at 8PM. Meet your favorite artists and then purchase their latest work. The McMenamain Brothers have donated the refreshments and we'll have live music to keep it festive. Reservations recommended. Tickets are \$35/person.

The show opens to the public for an extra day so you can plan your schedule to **view the art and make your purchase on Friday November 12, Saturday November 13, or Sunday November 14.**

On **Friday night**, we're keeping the show open from 10AM to 10PM and we'll have live music (French theme) and refreshments available from 4PM til 10PM.

On **Saturday night**, we'll have a special musical presentation with a Brazilian Band from 4PM to 6PM.

And, Keaney Rathbun will be offering art tours of the show at 11AM and 2PM on Saturday and Sunday.

Please join us for a weekend of celebration surrounding the bounty of [northwest artists](#). Where else can you see the works of more than 130 living artists in a single location? ***This is the one art show that you won't want to miss.***

>> Calling All Recorder Players

This is your chance to participate in a recorder workshop, in Portland, taught by Annette Bauer. She was the Recorder-in-Residence at the Sitka Center in 2009 and performs internationally.

Annette has a high level of expertise, talent, and skill, as well as a passion for playing and teaching. See below for more details about the workshop and Annette. Please let us know if you have any questions.

[Recorder Players: Inspiration and Exploration](#)

Located in Portland, at the World Forestry Center on November 11 & 12.



>> Welcome Artists-In-Residence

Julia D'Amario and Ryan Pierce are already hard at work in the Jordan Schnitzer Print Residency. The plates that Ryan has made already make me eager to see what comes next.

Sid Miller, our writer resident who came to us via the Writer's Dojo, settled in next and then finally Graham Smith-White has been setting up his studio with recording equipment, guitars, and solar panels. Read more about the [new fall residents](#).

>> **Sitka Fall Clean Up Party!**



We could really use your help in getting our campus cleaned up before the winter weather hits the coast. We'll provide all the equipment, you just bring the desire to dig-in and make a difference.

If you're thinking, "I wonder what we'll be doing?" Our answer would be something like this, "We have mostly outdoor things in mind like, moving some dirt, maintaining a very short trail, and planting a few plants." And, we'll serve you chili for lunch!

Mark your calendars, please, for Friday, **October 29th**. You can come anytime during the day and stay as long as you want. We'll be here from at least 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We promise it will be Sitka-style fun!

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

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