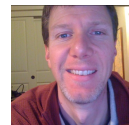


From: Eric C Vines <ericvines@sitkacenter.org>
Subject: **Fwd: March e-Newsletter**
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Sitka Center for Art and Ecology e-Newsletter

March 2010 Vol 7, Issue 5

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>>Director's Notes



On my way to and from work everyday, I drive along the Salmon River estuary. Depending on the recent rains or the height of the tide, the estuary can look like a meandering river, or broad shallow lake with sporadic tufts of grass poking through the water's surface. Recent storms have left large tree trunks stranded horizontally on the water's edge. To a person who owns a kayak, driving past this ever-changing body of water is almost tortuous. But work calls or darkness looms, so I drive on.

A few weeks ago, I couldn't resist. With the tide just a few inches shy of its annual high, almost no wind to stir up waves,

and even some rays of sunshine to light the way, I pushed my handmade wooden kayak into the water and paddled up the Salmon River to a recently restored area called Tamara Quays, a former trailer park and now a restored wetland.

Sanderlings sitting on tree trunks ignored me while they waited for the water to recede so they could commence feeding. A blue heron took exception to my approach and flew off to a different decaying stump from which to watch for food. A squad of Marbled Murrelets eyed me warily from the water before taking to the sky in a flapping cacophony. On my return trip I was keenly aware of the 8 harbor seals who playfully surrounded my boat, popping their heads above water to watch me as I slid downstream. I was the only person on the river and I felt lucky.

There are moments like this when the sky, the mountains, the forests, and the water all seem to envelop us in a protective cocoon and I couldn't help but marvel that I was able to sit there and soak it all in. My thoughts also turned to those visionary folks who fought to protect this rare gem of scenery from being developed in 1974 by creating the only congressionally designated Scenic Research area in the country. Had it not been for their efforts, the scenic hillsides surrounding the estuary would be covered with houses as was the plan prior to 1974. Tamara Quays would still be a trailer park. The estuary would still be crossed by dikes and ditches. Instead of Elk, on the meadow, there would be cows.

I'm not against cows, or houses, or ditches and dikes. These modern amenities make our lives easier. But it is nice to have a few places where the modern amenities are held at bay and the natural areas are allowed to exist without encroachment. Someone thought of it and a bunch of people made it happen. We are the beneficiaries.

Spring is on its way. Workshop registrations are underway. Already a few workshops are full, but plenty of others still have room. I invite you to surrender to your desire to work out your creative visions in a beautiful place. Let your imagination run wild.
-Eric

>>Artist-In-Residence Application Deadline

Are you an artist, writer, environmental scientist, or musician who is ready for a growth spurt?

Since 1981 we've been accepting applications for our Artist-In-Residence Program, and this year they are **due by April 23rd**.

This program is designed to give artists of all levels the time and space to delve deeply into their work. The Sitka Center provides residents with living space and

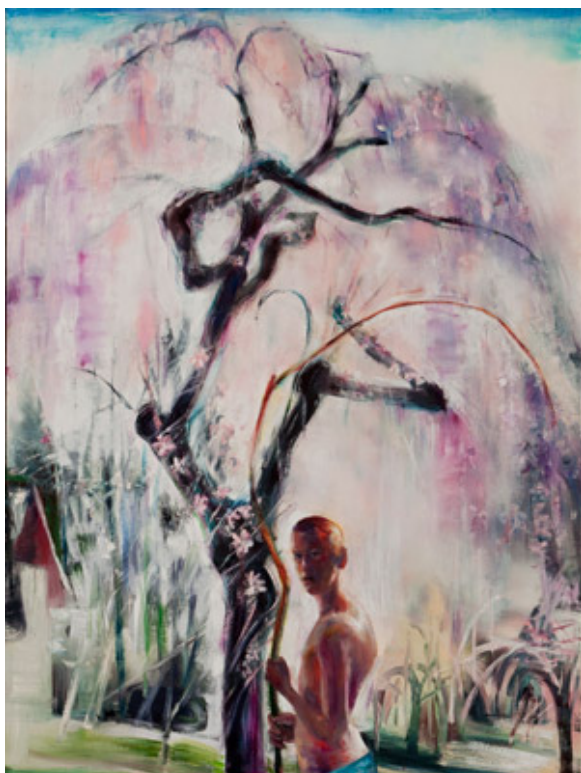


studio space for up to 3 1/2 months. The artists provide transportation, food, and the desire to allow the experience to transform their lives. [Explore](#) more about this program.



Is this the year for you to [apply](#)?

>>Workshops in April?



We're offering two workshops in April this year! Both of them are taught by long-time Sitka instructors and you'll have a quiet springtime campus so you can sink deeply into your creative space without interruptions.

[Considering The Figure](#) April 9-11

[Laura Ross-Paul](#) has taught figure painting and drawing for over 25 years and her expressionistic figurative paintings are in collections of museums throughout the Northwest.

This workshop is for students who love working with the figure and want to learn more about anatomy, figure ground relationship, composition, mark making, alternatives to traditional approaches, and different approaches in dry and water based media. [Learn more](#) about the workshop and Laura.

[Collage: Drawing with Shapes and Textures](#) April 19-22

[Margot Voorhies Thompson](#) has been part of Sitka from the very beginning, which was 40 years ago. She's a painter, printmaker, and calligrapher represented by the Laura Russo Gallery in Portland and has several public art commissions.

In this workshop, she weaves her experience together to make collages. Learn to layer and manipulate shapes and fragments using collage elements to create an artful collage or thumbnails for paintings. Lots of experimentation with conceptual and formal approaches! [Learn more](#) about the workshop and Margot.

>>Sitka Receives Funds to Purchase Generator

Through several grants from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Sitka has been able to upgrade its computer systems adding a new web server, shared calendaring, and up to date software. Our biggest vulnerability has been power outages. On November 13, just hours before the Sitka Art Invitational, someone in Lincoln City hit a telephone pole and took out power to Cascade Head. Within 30 minutes, our backup batteries were drained and our web servers stopped working. The power was restored just minutes before our guests arrived, but it was a close call.

We knew we couldn't always rely on luck, so we wrote some grants to purchase a special generator that would keep our computer servers running. On Feb. 5, the Siletz Tribal Charitable

Contribution Fund came to the rescue, donating \$3,500 to buy the generator. On the same day Marcia Whitney called to say her Family Foundation was sending \$1,300 to help pay for the transfer switch that would allow the generator to connect to the building. "Now we have 14 hours of backup capability," Vines said. "And we can all sleep easier at night."

>>Summer Intern Position

We're preparing for our 2010 Workshop Program and the [Summer Intern](#) position is now open. (The link will provide a detailed description and application.) Essentially, this zany, organized, friendly, flexible, strong, creative person will live at Sitka from May 5th to October 8th and will, almost, single-handedly keep the 100+ workshops flowing from day-to-day. Does this description make you tingle with excitement? If so, applications are due by March 31st.

>>Stuck in a Rut?

If you're stuck in a rut or stumped by a problem...Betty is just the woman to get you out of it!

Betty is an Artist-In-Residence during the month of March and we're thrilled to offer this workshop as her community outreach project.

[Creativity Workshop: Idea Origination Exercises for Art and Life](#)

March 26th from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Sitka Center

Betty owns a graphic design business in Seattle and is working on paintings based on soil composition. [Explore more](#) about Betty through her website.

In this workshop, Betty will lead you through exercises to bring out new perspectives and generate lots of fresh ideas. Come learn to see old ideas, issues, and problems in a new way and have fun doing it!

Since this workshop is part of the community outreach component of the Artist-In-Residence program, the cost is only \$10. [Learn more](#) about Betty and the workshop.



But wait...there's more...check out [Betty's blog](#) about her residency time at Sitka.

Sitka Center for Art and Ecology

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