

OAEA Clackamas County Regional Report Winter 2010

Submitted by Christopher Shotola-Hardt

This is my last winter regional report, as I will be stepping down as county representative after five years of service. I have been asked to consider becoming the OAEA President-Elect, and will focus on other areas of service to art education in our state. I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know most of the wonderful art educators in our county. I have enjoyed hosting workshops for art teachers and having the opportunity to be in the studio with colleagues, learning from the regionally-acclaimed artists who've come to work with us. The social gatherings have been fun and energizing! Lynn Pass of West Linn High School has expressed interest in taking over this post and continuing these traditions (and, knowing Lynn, she'll introduce many new ideas).

Before my tenure is over at the end of the school year, there will be at least two more workshops and an open studio. On Saturday, April 3, painter William Park will share his work and lead a workshop at Wilsonville High School. Look for the official advertisement to reserve your roster spot. Later in the spring, encaustic painter Elise Wagner will show us printmaking techniques using plexiglass and wax. As always, these workshops will be offered first to my colleagues in Clackamas County, with unclaimed spots going to others from around the state.

Over the next two years, I will continue to develop OAEA's series of group art exhibitions featuring the art of Oregon art educators. I would like to establish a permanent Portland Metro Area gallery home for "Beyond the Demos," and work to identify other gallery spaces in the near and far reaches of the state.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Athey Creek Middle School, West Linn (Brian Hunter)

Our program is gearing up for our all-school show in April...Instruction has been integrated with using our art blog.... Looking forward to the Trashion Show and the two district shows. Not much else going on....

Estacada High School (Janice Packard)

In January, art students participated in the Scholastic Art Awards, as well as a student exhibition at Estacada's own Spiral Gallery (an artist co-op gallery). Advanced Art students have been enjoying a year-long altered book project, as well as enjoying their own handmade art journals/sketchbooks this year (thank you OAEA workshop!). In January, students finished a month-long intensive dual project of a Self-Portrait Box (3-D) and an Archetypal Self-Portrait (2-D) -- both dealing with mixed media/found objects/symbolism & metaphor.

Since we were heavy into the more cerebral the last couple of months, we're leavening things out this month with a unit in intuitive art making, which will lead into "The Invented Image" project (inspired by their trip last year to the Hallie Ford Museum in Salem to view Harry Widman's show). In March, Advanced Art students will begin a design for a large outdoor canvas banner to celebrate Estacada High School's 100th anniversary. They will also be attending Paul Missal's show in March at Blackfish Gallery in addition to other shows/tours. That will be followed by units in figure drawing, minimalism, and the narrative in art. Every year, we continue to add chosen artworks to cases holding our EHS Art Collection that honor our hallways, as well as hold our EHS Student Art Show in May.

Lake Oswego Junior High (Debora Owen)

We are selling art to raise money for Mercy Corps/Haiti. This is going on during the LOJ production of Beauty and the Beast...which is wonderful! I helped design the costumes that the four narrators in the play wear. That was fun! So far we have raised over \$300 for Haiti! We will be holding some type of ceremony at the Mercy Corps main office here in Portland to hand over the final amount of money raised. I am hoping to have some students with me for this ceremony. The LO Review is also writing something up on this.

Currently I am mentoring a student teacher, Amy Konsterlie, from PSU for the past 5 months. The LO Review did a nice write up on us in the paper. She is in mid-career so they wanted to know what it was like for her to return to school to become an art teacher later in life.

My Studio Art class just finished the Oregon Humane Society Poster and Written Essay contest. Each student created a 11"x17" poster based on the themes "Pets Should be Members of the Family" or "Protect Your Pet's from the Weather". They also each wrote a 350 word essay on the theme "My Pet Teaches Me" which also encouraged a photo to accompany the essay.

I just finished coordinating our 8th Grade LOJ Career Day. I was in charge of inviting the speakers and getting all their needs lined up. We had 25 guests come speak; everything from a SWAT team that blew up flash bombs, writer Steve Duin from the Oregonian, to a professional oil painter who specialized in taking painting tours to Yosemite. One of our students wrote such a touching story prompted by Mr. Duin during his visit, he wrote an article about it in the Oregonian.

http://www.oregonlive.com/lake-oswego/index.ssf/2010/02/columnist_steve_duin_goes_to_career_day_at_lake_oswego_junior_high.html

I will be finishing a mural in the girls' bathroom here. I had the old 1950's broken light fixture removed and have purchased a new light fixture and had students repaint the walls in bright, cheerful colors. The sea-life themed mural will be completed by myself and some student helpers by the end of the school year. Hoping the kids will take better care and ownership of their surroundings if their surrounding look nice! PBS!

We have artwork currently on display at the LO Central office. We also have lots of lovely art on rotating display here at school. Currently we are setting up the mask unit display in the school lobby.

Hoping to have some fun art related activities (awareness posters and pins, announcements in the student morning announcements...etc.) highlighting Youth Art Month (YAM) in March.

My art classes will again be participating in the Metro Earth Day poster contest in April. We are still hoping to win the grand prize: a billboard of the winning student design in downtown Portland. This event is covered by the local news media and is a great way to teach students about our school's green school concepts of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

I am currently attending a Love and Logic for the Classroom class. This course contains some very interesting information I can use in my classes based upon frontal lobe thinking vs. reptilian brain "fight or flight" responses. How to effectively disengage in arguments and make the classroom more productive and positive.

I am enjoyed having Art Club meet every Wed. from Oct-Jan. We had a high attendance this year. In fact, a second session was requested by students and parents which will restart from March-June. We will be working on completing the Going Green tile mural in the front lobby among other creative and artistic endeavors.

We are gathering art and getting ready for the LO Festival of the Arts coming up in June. I will be volunteering to help this year.

Lakeridge High School 2-D Program, Lake Oswego (Shannon McBride)

This time of year seems to offer a little more time for reflection. College apps are done, letters of recommendation completed, and it seems like most of the art competition opportunities are finished. Speaking of which, Lakeridge 2-D student, Haley F, received first place at the High School Art Northwest show. Anne F, is a finalist in the Art of the Dairy competition. We are expecting the arrival of the cow any day now. The idea that a truck will be coming to our school with a life size cow is fantastic! Student Karen S, received an honorable mentioned in the National Utrecht Self Portrait competition.

Lakeridge 2-D AP students will be going on a spring retreat this year. We usually go in the fall but are hoping a spring trip will offer better weather and a jump on the bonding opportunities.

On a personal note, I have had some profound professional development opportunities this year. I just return from a trip to New York where I had the privilege of jurying the National Region at Large Scholastic Art Awards images. While in New York, I visited three amazing art programs, one in a public school in Brooklyn, one a private school in the Bronx and an after school program in Manhattan. What a fabulous experience. This April I will be presenting at the National Art Education Conference in Baltimore. Finally, after trying for five years, I have been invited to be an AP reader! I will be leaving for Cincinnati, Ohio June 11 to be a part of reading over 35,000 art portfolios. Lucky me!

Molalla High School (Carolyn Drake)

MHS art news: As part of Molalla High School's annual Share the Love event, where we raise money to help a family in our community that's in need, MHS art students donated works for a silent auction and dinner that raised more than \$600.00 toward our school's goal. It was an exciting and inspirational night!

Oregon City High School (Carol Hansen)

We are doing an art show and sale at a coffee shop in Portland during the month of April. The theme is coffee and the students are creating some very exciting pieces and are excited about the opportunity to sell their art. We are also doing an art show at Howden Gallery of Art in Oregon City on March 11, 12, 13th. The Art club has planned activities in the cafeteria every day for a week in March, which is National Art Awareness Month. I have jumped the necessary hoops and my students now receive college credit from CCC for all the classes I teach. They have to pay \$10 per credit, so \$40 for the 4 credit classes.

I have joined the NAEA / OAEA and am really benefiting from the news and information from like minds.

Rosemont Ridge Middle School, West Linn (Linda Kieling)

Student artists have been busy putting their art to good use. In the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti they decided that they could use their art for the purpose of helping. For our "Houses for Haiti" project they have been making house shaped pins, ceramic coasters, friendship bracelets with house charms, window clings, t-shirts and small canvas paintings. These will be sold with the proceeds going to Haiti relief. They will be available at school as well as during our collaborative art/music/drama night - "Jazzed Up for Art" on April 8th.

Rowe Middle School, North Clackamas (David Lochtie)

At Rowe, advanced students are creating mobiles to hang in the district boardroom. They are also in the final stages of a mural that will be sent to the town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas for their city to install. It is based on the sketch "Life in Arkansas" by WPA artist Louis Freund, who sent the sketch to Mr. Lochtie before he died. Freund traveled Arkansas and Missouri backhills country during the depression, recording in sketches the life he saw. His work hangs in the Smithsonian.

Clay classes are implementing CRL (Career-Related Learning) assessments of Personal Management and Problem Solving in the curriculum. These assessments are also being used in FACS and Tech classes, so that elective students have common assessments in different disciplines.

West Linn High School (Lynn Pass)

West Linn High School students had work up at West Linn City Hall from mid January through the month of February. We had an open house with refreshments and it was very well attended. National Art Honor Society students and Art Club students have been very busy with community service activities. We've visited the Tanner Springs Retirement Community three times so far this year and have brought art to the residents. We create work alongside the residents and it's a wonderful exchange of stories and ideas. We'll go back in March. One of the residents is an incredible portrait artist and she shared her stories and her work with my students.

We are also creating sculptures and painting glass vases to sell at the April 23rd Jazz Night event at WLHS. We'll be selling these items and all of the proceeds will go to fundraising for Chombo Village in Zimbabwe, Africa. Jeff Cumpston was a colleague and friend who passed away in an accident in Zimbabwe in August. He had adopted this village and was working to bring them a well for water. When he found the village the 100 or so people in it hadn't eaten in three days. Jeff's wife and their two children are there until this summer. They're continuing to work to help the villagers. The well is built, but they still need to learn how to grow their own food and they need supplies for planting, etc. We hope to earn quite a bit of money so we can help them out more. It's great to be able to use our art abilities to help others.

Art students are competing today in the Clackamas Regional Skills Competition [one of West Linn's students earned the 3rd Place award]. Graphic Art students created logos for that competition.

We'll be participating in the upcoming Trashion Show and Sustainability Fair as well. All in all, it's been a great year so far!

Wilsonville High School (Christopher Shotola-Hardt)

A new gallery in Wilsonville, the Elysium Artists Fine Art & Craft, located in the Portland Millworks building, has honored us with a group exhibition in their space. Gallery Director Sue

Reynolds came to our campus on two occasions to jury the works for the show. She selected 90 pieces from our fine art and photography programs and hosted a wonderful Second Thursday Artist Reception on February 11. The show will be up through March 5.

Our Art Club and NAHS Chapter are teaming on an exciting commission for Pacific Northwest Orthodontics in Wilsonville: a sizeable project that will raise money both for much-needed frames for the art program, and scholarship money for graduating seniors.

We are looking forward to our district's 2nd Annual Trashion Show, the marquee event for the Sustainability Symposium on May 19 at Wilsonville High School. Trash fashions by all the secondary art programs throughout the district (West Linn- Wilsonville) will be featured in an all-out runway production in the auditorium. A reprise production will grace the Main Stage at the Wilsonville Festival of Arts on the weekend of June 5 and 6 in Wilsonville's Town Center Park. Our two district art shows will both carry the theme "Recycled & Upcycled": the last two weeks of May at Wilsonville High School, and in the Student Art Pavilion at the Wilsonville Festival of Arts the first weekend of June.

On the first Friday of April, our NWOC League will have its annual NWOC Art Show & Conference, hosted this year by Sherwood H.S. Truly one of *the* highlights of the year, this event has raised the bar for each of the league high school's art programs. Each school brings its art faculty and 15 of its top students. The students can each bring two pieces of art that are installed by category in a show judged by professional artists. While the judging occurs, students rotate through 1-1/2 hour studio block workshops led by renown regional artists. There is a keynote speaker at lunch, and students from the seven schools exchange Artist Trading Cards throughout the day. The day concludes with an Awards Ceremony and cool raffle-art-material-give-away.

Wood Middle School, Wilsonville (Jennifer Cerasin)

Students at Wood are preparing to do some Time Based Art projects that include both interactive installation and performance art.

Students are planning their ideas for the Trashion Show and recycled sculpture projects. 6th grade students have prepared collage placemats at the request of the Marquis Care Center in Wilsonville so that the elderly might be better able to keep track of the seasons. They will be traveling to the center to present their work to the residents.