

Take the road less traveled

River GALLERY

from Folk Art to Fine Art



August 2020

Located on the historic Independence riverfront, River Gallery has been a destination for art lovers since 1998. A cooperative run by 13 partners, our focus has always been to provide a venue for the incredible number of talented Oregon artists we have encountered.

Focus on the Window — All Things Animals!

All things animal in art in our August window! River Gallery artists share their love of our fellow creatures in a variety of media, from ceramics to photos, paintings, prints and more. Come and share the joy!



Anna Mallard, Hooked Rug,
"Rabbit in the Flowers"

Featured July Artist — Pam Serra-Wenz

Gallery partner, Pam Serra-Wenz is our focus artist for August with her "*Water and Abstracts.*"

Pam's art re-imagines landscapes and water with fearless and colorful abstract qualities. Her process includes mixed media and sgraffito that begins with bright under paintings.

Pam's paintings embody movement and color intensity. Sometimes she dreams about what she will create. The results of her dreams are reflected in some of her abstract paintings. She is grateful to have an opportunity to grow and develop a skill that flows with the richness of life.

Being an artist provides me with the ability to immerse myself in hours of play and creativity. It allows me to share my dreams with others.



**River Gallery email —
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184 S. Main Street, Independence, Oregon 97351 — 503-838-6171

Gallery hours — Friday and Saturday, 12 noon – 4pm

www.rivergalleryart.com

on Facebook at www.facebook.com/River-Gallery-120341084691093/





Featured Artist - Pam Serra-Wenz continued

Pam's Process for Mixed Media + Sgraffito:

In 2010 Pam created her process developing a three day underpainting of mixed media, gels and intense fluid paints with a lot of manipulation. She applies her surface paint with a palette knife, swizzle stick, color shaper, chunk of wood, linoleum and whatever else is around to work the paint. She uses everything but a brush with her mixed medium. Then she scrapes off paint to reveal the underpainting, a process called sgraffito. The sub-illuminated quality of each painting reveals a complex and rich finish.

Sgraffito, (Italian: "scratched"), in the visual arts, a technique used in painting, pottery and glass, which consists of putting down a preliminary surface, covering it with another, and then scratching the superficial layer in such a way that the pattern or shape that emerges is of the lower color.

The Process for Oregon Rain Paintings:

It rains a lot in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and Pam has found a way to appreciate it. She sets out her substrate in the rain to get it wet. Then, she applies high pigment fluid acrylic paints over the substrate and dances while the rain does its thing.

"I love to dance in the rain!"

She takes the painting inside the shop and minimally manipulates the painting surface. Paintings usually have several rains and each rain takes about three days to dry. These paintings can hang in front of shaded window areas so that natural light will reveal the substrate's transparency.

Pam's show will be up August 1 — 31. ≈

Coming in September

We feature our Associate Members in a very special show using the entire front room of the gallery.

*River Gallery is a member of the
Mid-Willamette Valley Art Trail*



Color the world

Red is one of the easiest found colors in nature. Due to this, it's one of the earliest used colors in human history.



*"Red is the first color of spring. It's the real color of rebirth. Of beginning."
(Andie Condie)*

Red ochre powder

One of red's original variations, red ochre, is derived from clay. The first usage of red was by cavemen who smeared the clay on the wall for writing and drawing.

Red ochre, as well as other popular red pigments like hematite and cinnabar (derived from iron and mercury, respectively), were originally used in cave paintings, makeup, ink, clothing dye, and pottery. It's abundance allowed for it to be used in widespread production.

"Red," writes historian Michel Pastoureau in *Red: The History of a Color*, "is the archetypal color, the first color humans mastered, fabricated, reproduced, and broke down into different shades." As such, it dominated visual culture for centuries. With the advent of the Protestant Reformation, however, people began to view the shade as gaudy, even immoral, and its preeminence began to fade. Today, both blue and green surpass red as the West's favorite colors.

But the bold hue—whether crimson, vermilion, cardinal, or scarlet—still retains power. Red artworks fetch the highest prices at auction. Red is the color of revolution, of seduction. From some of humanity's earliest cave paintings to Mark Rothko's immersive abstract canvases, Red has a major place in the history of art. ≈



Cave painting



Rothko