

Take the road less traveled

# River GALLERY

from Folk Art to Fine Art



September — October 2021

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.

## Featured Artist — Rich Bergeman, Photographer

A native of Ohio and an Oregonian since 1976, **Rich Bergeman** discovered what photography was really about the first time he looked through the ground glass on an old 4x5 press camera in 1985, and ever since he has enjoyed a romance with the iconic, the serene and the patina of things past their prime.



*The images in this show were made from one end of Oregon to the other; from the Malheur Refuge in the High Desert country to Cascade Head and Astoria on the coast. Two photographs were made right here in beautiful downtown Independence-- "Daylight Moon Over the Willamette" and "View From the Land of the Luckiamute Kalapuya."*

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**River Gallery email — [rivergallery97351@gmail.com](mailto:rivergallery97351@gmail.com)**

## Garden Art in the Window

**Richard Staats**, local Salem Blacksmith, and **Sheryl Thompson**, partner with River Gallery, combine their talents to create unique metal and glass Garden Art for your home. These unique yard accents range from small, fused glass garden stakes to taller metal sculptures designed to be a subtle yet eye catching addition to anyone's yard or garden. They can be used as a centerpiece in any open spaces needing "something". Use them in a variety of ways like defining walkways, entrances and exits, or sprucing up potted plants. They can go right in the ground or in containers and they don't need watering! The small ones travel well...to spiff up a campsite maybe, and are great for gift giving. All are original designs waiting for a place to call home.

**Sheryl Thompson** is a native to the Pacific Northwest, born and raised in Seattle, Washington. She is a paper arts and multi-media enthusiast creating combinations of color and texture inspired by her materials. Her work is shown exclusively at River Gallery in historic Independence, Oregon, where she is part owner and one of the original founding members. ≈



River Gallery, 184 S. Main Street, Independence, Oregon 97351 — 503-838-6171  
Current gallery hours — Thursday thru Sunday, 12 noon – 4pm



## Bergeman – continued

Bergeman has been a fine art photographer for going on 40 years now, exhibiting his work in galleries, museums and art centers throughout the Northwest, all while teaching full-time at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon.

For the past couple of decades Bergeman been investigating and interpreting local histories of the Northwest through photographs of what's been left behind. He began with large-format film cameras, printing in silver and eventually specializing in the traditional platinum process.

These days he also photographs with digital cameras, including ones converted to record infrared light, and make archival pigment ink prints.

*“I’ve grown to love looking at the world through this hauntingly beautiful range of light. And I love the challenge of harnessing its more dramatic tendencies in order to create more subtle revelations of the Northwest landscape, like fog-shrouded forest trails and the elegant patterns formed by high-altitude cirrus clouds.”*

For a time he had fun manipulating Polaroid SX-70 prints, and also enjoyed playing with a pinhole camera made from a cigar box and a 5x7 film back.

Now retired, he has matriculated from large-format film photography to digital photography, and lately has been photographing primarily in the infrared spectrum, a hauntingly beautiful range of light. Bergeman always preferred black-and-white for his work, in part because it takes him one step away from the everyday world of color.

*“Infrared takes me a step further, transforming the ordinary into something else again. Infrared transforms the skies overhead as well--on a fair day, the cold blue atmosphere registers as a deep dark value, creating a wonderful canvas for those feathery cirrus clouds as they play across the sky.”*

Bergeman’s work is available on his website at <https://richbergeman.zenfolio.com> as well as at River Gallery. ≈

## Coming in November and December

River Gallery will showcase gallery ceramists in the window during the holiday season. And holiday work throughout the gallery. Check our Facebook and website pages for updates! [www.rivergalleryart.com](http://www.rivergalleryart.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/River-Gallery-120341084691093/](http://www.facebook.com/River-Gallery-120341084691093/)

## Color the world - Orange

Since ancient times—long before it was called orange—this color has had a strong impact. Whether falling more toward golden yellow-orange or a fiery red-orange, this color has also been beloved by artists throughout history. Van Gogh and Toulouse-Lautrec are just two of the artists who favored orange in their paintings.

### How the Color Got Its Name

Interestingly, in Europe, the color orange didn’t have a name until the 16th century. When orange trees were brought to Europe from Asia by Portuguese merchants, the color was then named after the ripe fruit, which carries through many different languages. Orange in English, naranja in Spanish, arancia in Italian, and laranja in Portuguese.

### Symbolism of Orange

Orange is a multi-faceted color with different meanings in different cultures. The hue is quite prominent in Asian religions, and many monks and holy men wear orange robes. In Confucianism, orange is the color of transformation. The word for orange in India and China derives from saffron, which is the most expensive dye in the area. This demonstrates the importance of orange in these cultures, where it is seen as the perfect balance between the perfection of yellow and the power of red.

### What Does Orange Mean?

Today, orange continues to elicit strong reactions. Different shades of the color can evoke very different kinds of feelings. A pumpkin orange conjures up a sense of Halloween and the changing autumn leaves, while a more yellow-orange gives off a summery, fresh feel.

Uplifting and happy, orange can also border on overpowering when used incorrectly. Ultimately, the key to success in using orange is selecting the correct tone depending on the response and effect desired. Orange is considered to be a color that’s both creative and joyful. It can grab attention immediately which is one of the reasons it’s so popular in advertising. People usually describe the color as happy, bright and uplifting.

What does orange mean to you? ≈



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

