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Northwest Designer Craftsmen

April 2018

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Spring has sprung. Want to get out and enjoy it? Check Member News and Exhibitions for art events involving our members.

Remember if you have **member news to submit for the May newsletter the deadline is April 15th**. Please send information typed in the body of an email (not a pdf or postcard image) to Lisa at [NWDCeditor@gmail.com](mailto:NWDCeditor@gmail.com). Images need to be in a **jpg format around 600 pixels** on the longest side. Please include titles and media for artworks.

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## Vice-President's Letter

### From Nancy Loorem Adams

As Vice President of NWDC, I am engaged in enlivening our mission to educate ourselves and our community. In this message, I want to focus on the part of that mission that has to do with you, our membership, and the rich talent that we offer to each other.

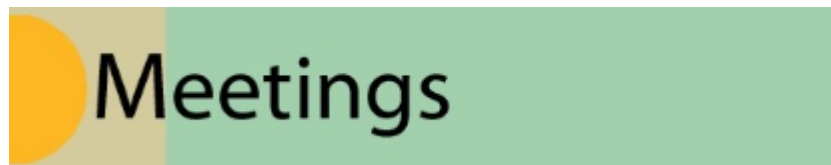
Every program we undertake can be seen through the education lens. Whether we are creating a quarterly program, a social, our upcoming Living Treasures world premiere, or the annual image bank gathering, whether mounting exhibitions and openings, or studio tours—engaging our members as teachers, and learners is at the forefront of our effort.

The network of fine craft artists and advocates in NWDC membership is an extraordinary treasure. It is hard to quantify, though we all know how rich it is when we see the fine craft that we make and when we come together. It is through our participation that we can each benefit while giving of ourselves to our NWDC community. Participating is the portal to our riches.

I hope you will make an effort to join us at upcoming events with a goal in mind of meeting your fellow members, telling of your experiences and learning from theirs. Where else can you regularly engage with artists working at such a high level across so many fine craft media? These riches can only be accessed if we participate. In this and subsequent newsletters, you will find many opportunities to join in. Please come and share your unique treasures with all of us. I am certain you will be all the richer for it and so will we.

- Nancy Loorem Adams, NWDC Vice-President

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## Save the Date!

### May 20 - Image Bank Program

Save Sunday, May 20th, for our annual Image Bank Image Sharing Program. It will be held from 1 – 4 pm at Factory Luxe in Seattle (3100 Airport Way S) and will include a member social.

Please start to review your work for the five images you will share with the group. Submission details will come soon. Prepare your most creative fingers foods for the potluck and bring your favorite beverages to share. NWDC will provide plates, cups and utensils and coffee and tea.

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## Chris Wooten at American Art Co.

Chris Wooten recently joined American Art Company as a gallery artist and is currently exhibiting her new work there. Using a sculptural woven wire technique, Wooten creates graceful figures that are vibrant and colorful.

### Gallery Hours:

Mon-Fri 10:00-5:30, Saturday 10:00-5:00

### Gallery Address:

1126 Broadway Plaza  
Downtown Tacoma, WA



Chris Wooten

*Live Wire*

copper wire, steel and plastic wire, glass

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## Paul Lewing Teaches Workshop Anderson Ranch Arts Center

NWDC member, Paul Lewing, along with Kurt Weiser, will be teaching a ceramics workshop at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado this summer. Dates are June 11th - 15th.

**Workshop Description:** Master the ancient and almost-forgotten art of china painting from two contemporary masters with very different styles. This distinct practice is a notable and beautiful addition to any ceramic toolbox. China paint is the most painterly of all ceramic

materials and can be made to achieve any effect possible with paint or ink. Explore a variety of techniques and perspectives in this eclectic, encompassing workshop about a truly unique artform.

**Instructors:** Kurt Weiser studied art at the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Michigan. He was the Director of the Archie Bray Foundation and is a Regents Professor at Arizona State University.

Paul Lewing, a tile muralist from the Seattle area, holds an M.F.A. from the University of Montana. He is the author of [China Paint & Overglaze](#) and has taught workshops in all 50 states.

For more information on workshop or to join waiting list, click [here](#).



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## Text Message: Words and Letters in Contemporary Craft

### Jan Hopkins

Artwork by Jan Hopkins is included in a current exhibition at the Racine Art Museum in Racine Wisconsin.

*Text Message: Words and Letters in Contemporary Art* includes works that use words, letters and script to convey meaning. Tangible three-dimensional objects made of fiber, clay polymer, paper and metal, along with two-dimensional works on paper, underscore how contemporary artists recognize the power and complexity of the written word. All works featured are drawn from RAM's collection. For additional information, click [here](#).

**Dates:** January 21 - May 6, 2018

**Location:** Racine Art Museum

441 Main Street, Racine, Wisconsin

**Museum Gallery Hours:**

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Pictured at right:

Jan Hopkins

***Law of Identity***, 2009

melon rind, weathered hydrangea leaves,

silver dollar pods and yellow cedar bark

57-1/2"x12-1/2"x8"

Gifted to the Racine Art Museum by Karen

Johnson Boyd.



## Exhibitions

### **Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America Curators Talk and Gallery Walk Thru on April 14**

The exhibition, *Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America*, continues to be on view through May 6, 2018 at the Bellingham Lightcatcher building, in collaboration with the National Basketry Organization and The Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri. This is the only West Coast venue of this exhibition.

Curators Kristin Schwain and Jo Stealy will be at the museum on April 14. Schwain will give a talk at 1 p.m. in the Rotunda Room of Old City Hall. The slideshow and talk is entitled, *Canastromania: Or How Basket Fever Transformed American Basketry from 1890 to 1940*. Schwain will address how cultural responses to the Industrial Revolution enshrined baskets as utilitarian and ceremonial objects, ethnographic artifacts, souvenirs and collectors' items, educational and therapeutic tools, and works of art.

Following her talk, walk over to the Lightcatcher at 2:30pm for a fun and informative gallery tour with Jo Stealey, who will highlight specific objects, surprising discoveries made during the research process, and American basketry's entry into fine art in the second half of the twentieth century. Both the talk and tour are included with regular museum admission. This event is sponsored by the Northwest Basket Weavers, Vi Phillips Guild.

NWDC members in the *Rooted, Revived, Reinvented* exhibition include Polly Adams Sutton, Lanny Bergner, Katherine Lewis, Jan Hopkins Jill Nordfors Clark, Dorothy McGuinness and new NWDC member, Charissa Brock. A former member for 19 years, Marilyn Moore, who now lives in Iowa, also has work in the exhibition.

Also on view in the museum's Old City Hall building is *Gathered Together*, a selection of baskets by members of the Northwest Basket Weavers Guild (NWBW) juried by Lisa Telford and Katherine Lewis. Many of the artists are also members of the NWDC. Included in this exhibit are Nancy Loorem, Danielle Bodine, Leon Russell, Judy Zugish, Bill Roeder, Dorothy McGuinness, Sharon Kita and Juror (with Lisa Telford) Katherine Lewis.



**Artists from left to right:** Dorothy McGuinness, Marilyn Moore, Lanny Bergner, Jan Hopkins, Jill Nordfors Clark, Katherine Lewis, Polly Adams Sutton



Top Left: Jill Nordfors Clark with ***April Snow***.

Top right: Polly Adams Sutton with her piece, ***Merrill***.

Bottom: Charissa Brock with ***Adagio***.

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## Women in Wood Northwind Arts Center

Helga Winter, a Port Townsend woodturner and artist, is curating WOMEN IN WOOD at Northwind Arts Center, April 5 through 30. The show profiles the work of fourteen professional women woodworkers from around the country. Co-curator Betty Scarpino, from Indianapolis, Indiana, is internationally recognized as one of the masters in her field. She states that "artists create glorious objects when they incorporate their life experiences." The displayed work is as diverse as the women's life experiences and professional backgrounds; lawyers, educators, nurses, biologists, agriculturalists, industrial arts teachers became enamored with wood and changed their original careers.

Many of the exhibiting artists are inspired by the landscapes, nature and the history of the world around them. A wide range of media, such as sculpture, furniture-like objects, multi-axis turnings, bent-and-carved wood, jewelry, pyrography, paint and more, is represented. Wood, domestic as well as exotic, is the focus of this exhibit.

Prints and repurposed book art, wood derivatives, demonstrate the ever-expanding repertoire of the artists' interests and skills. The show opens during Gallery Walk on Saturday, April 7 at 5:30pm. The artists will talk about their work Sunday, April 8 at 1:00pm. Five of the artists will be present. The show will move to the American Art Company in Tacoma in May.

**Artists:**

Sally Ault, Donna Zils Banfield, Dixie Biggs, Martha Collins, Barbara Dill, Cindy Drozda, Katie Hudnall, Kristin LeVier, Tania Radda, Meryll Saylan, Betty Scarpino, Helga Winter, Molly Winton and Andi Wolfe.





Helga Winter

***The Hem of the Sky Begins to Whiten***

turned, broken, bleached wood

9.75" x 16" x 10"

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## **Bob Purser and Friends: Art to Delight An Exhibit of Art by and for Bob**

This invitational exhibition, curated by NWDC member, Larry Metcalf, is for Bob Purser, former NWDC member and Design Department head at Bellevue College.

Along with artwork by Purser, other artists included in the exhibition are Tara Wefers, Kathy Ross, Dorothy McGuinness, Mary Molyneaux, Michele Van Slyke, Candace Anderson, Danielle Bodine, Bobbi Goodboy, Ron Adams, Lin Holley, David French, Mary Preston, Don Myhre, Kelly Lyles, Nancy Hewitt, Lanny Bergner, Lynn Di Nino, Larry Metcalf, Donna Prichard, Lois Harbaugh, Larry Halvorson and Liza Halvorson.

**Reception:** April 18th from 4 -7pm

**Dates:** April 18th through May 23rd, 2018

**Location:**

Bellevue College Gallery (2nd floor of Building D, Room D271)  
 3000 Landerholm Circle SE  
 Bellevue, WA  
 (Parking: <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/>)



Danielle Bodine  
***Alien Fruit Basket***  
 mixed media



Bob Purser with cat around 1990.

## Announcements

### Volunteers Always Needed

If you think it's time – and it is – to get involved in NWDC, email [NWDCpresident@gmail.com](mailto:NWDCpresident@gmail.com). The President will listen to your interests and help you find a place, whether it's as a Chair or a committee member. Volunteering is a terrific way to meet other NWDC members, make new friends and give back at the same time.

There are a numbers positions are open and waiting for you. Contact [NWDCpresident@gmail.com](mailto:NWDCpresident@gmail.com) for a current list.

### **URGENT: Image Bank Chair Needed Now!**

Our annual Image Bank Sharing program – where members share 5 images of their current work with other members – is scheduled for the afternoon of **May 20** at Factory Luxe in South Seattle.

NWDC urgently needs a Chair for that program. The task involves composing an email blast alerting members to the opportunity and then creating a Power Point presentation of the submitted images. NWDC will be using software to standardize the collection of incoming images, making it easier, than in previous years, for the Chair to compile the

Power Point presentation. The Chair will be involved during the end of the month of March through the presentation in May. Estimated time commitment is 15-20 hours during that period.

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## Review of Presentation at Whatcom Museum From Lin McJunkin

“Deciding what to commit to. Patience. Perseverance. Knowing when to stop.” These are some of the topics the twelve internationally-recognized NWDC basketry artists discussed at the February 24 presentation entitled *Naturally Speaking: A Panel of Northwest Artists Discusses Fine Art Basketry in the 21st Century* at Bellingham’s Old City Hall. This presentation was given in conjunction with the Whatcom Museum exhibition, ***Rooted, Revived, Reinvented: Basketry in America***, which chronicles a history of American basketry from its origins in Native American, immigrant, and slave communities to its presence within the contemporary fine art world.

The panelists included **12 NWDC members**: Polly Adams Sutton, Jan Hopkins, Jill Nordfors Clark, Katherine Lewis, Lanny Bergner, Dorothy McGuinness, Nancy Loorem Adams, Danielle Bodine, Leon Russell, Judy Zugish, Bill Roeder and one of our new members, Charissa Brock. In keeping with NWDC bylaws, we were not allowed to pay these presenters, but we greatly appreciate their volunteering to help fulfill a major goal of our organization, that of educating the public about fine craft.

The questions were organized by moderator Layne Goldsmith, long-time NWDC member and UW Professor Emeritus of Fiber, and images of the artists’ work were shown on a large screen over their heads as they spoke. The artists also have work on display in the Old City Hall Rotunda, as well as at the Whatcom Lightcatcher Museum across the street, through May 6, 2018. There is still plenty of time to catch this riveting show divided into five sections: Cultural Origins, New Basketry, Living Traditions, Basket as Vessel, and Beyond the Basket. The exhibition of approximately 95 objects has two primary goals; to model how to look at, talk about, and analyze baskets aesthetically, critically and historically; and to contextualize American basketry within art and craft history specifically and American culture generally.

Our panelists work in a variety of intriguing materials. Katherine, Judy and Bill grow and process their own plant material for both traditional and contemporary weaving projects while Jill purchases 5 gallon buckets of processed hog gut that she stores in a (separate) freezer for use in sculptural objects. Lanny’s use of metal screening and Jan’s use of grapefruit and cantaloupe skins are examples of some of the unusual mediums used by these basketry artists. Charissa often incorporates glass into her woven sculptures. Danielle collects funnels and other materials from her travels around the world to incorporate into her pieces, while the manipulative qualities of red cedar bark provide the cornerstone of Polly’s work.

Nancy spoke about the importance of planning ahead to make social comments in her work, while Dorothy claimed that her work is largely mathematical and takes form on its own. One of the most personal questions had to do with the role that ethnography plays in these artists' careers. Leon spoke of the effects on his artwork of his birth family's many moves and frequent travel. Jan Hopkins, whose parents were detained in a Japanese internment camp in the U.S. during WWII, spoke movingly of the ways in which she has tried to recreate her 'lost culture' through her artwork.

Over 80 NWDC and Whatcom Museum members attended the well-received event, with NWDC paying the admission for 26 members. This program helped to fulfill our mission to educate the public, while stimulating interest in and appreciation for fine craft. NWDC member, Marguerite Goff, provided the tasty home-baked refreshments that encouraged people to linger after the presentation to converse with the panelists and other members. The Saturday date was chosen to promote NWDC participation, and to provide easy parking and more reasonable travel in the region. The Bellingham event also made participation by some of our northern members easier than commuting to Seattle.

- *Lin McJunkin, NWDC Secretary*

For more information about the Whatcom Museum visit [whatcommuseum.org](http://whatcommuseum.org).



Some members of the panel.



Moderator, Layne Goldsmith.

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## **New Living Treasures Project**

### **Tip Toland, Ceramic Artist and Figurative Sculptor**



Tip Toland with her artwork, *Beauty Parlor*.

The Living Treasures Project (LTP) will soon begin a new video documentary on Seattle ceramicist, Tip Toland. When completed, it will be the ninth in a video series that began during the 1990s to document the Northwest's most important and influential elder craft professionals.

The Pacific Northwest remains the home of many important artists and art advocates, yet choosing the subject of the next video proved to be no easy task for the LTP Committee. The committee instead chose to create an *ad hoc* selection subcommittee whose sole task would be to recommend a candidate for the next video to the NWDC Board. The subcommittee members represented several craft mediums, and included Peter Olsen (Ceramics), Carol Milne (Glass), David French (Wood), Cheryl Leo-Gwin (Metals/Mixed Media), Miriam Works (Art Advocate/Consultant), and Jan Koutsky (Mixed Media). The LTP Committee provided them with the same selection criteria that were shared with the NWDC membership in the June 2017 newsletter. In short, the subcommittee was asked to adhere to the criteria set by the previous subjects by selecting an artist or art advocate who is a leader in their field, and more importantly, also a mentor, motivator, and innovator.

The subcommittee recommended Tip Toland and the NWDC Board approved the nomination. The justification provided by the sub-committee with their recommendation gives you some insight into the selection of Tip Toland:

***“Tip Toland is a dynamic and courageous sculptor, both in the scale of her work and her choice of subjects. Her hyper-realistic ceramic sculptures are emotionally charged works which depict beauty, humanity, and vulnerability through an intentionally diverse collection of non-conventionally ‘beautiful’***

**characters.**

***As a teacher, she has inspired and mentored many figurative sculptors across the country. She is humble, selfless, and generous of spirit. Through the science of observation, and knowledge of anatomy, she trains students to hone their observational skills. And by sharing her experience in building large scale work, she has moved the ceramic field forward.***

***She has attained international renown and received numerous awards. Her work is in many major collections across the country, including the Renwick Gallery and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. As a ceramic artist, she is recognized for her mastery of the medium.”***

The project will begin sometime after the premiere of the Ron Ho documentary on April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to find out more about Tip, please visit <http://www.tiptoland.com>.

- Living Treasures Project Committee



Tantrum by Tip Toland.



## Thank You Katherine Holzkech

Katherine Holzkech, who has volunteered so many times over so many years, created nametags for our new members. Those nametags will help us get to know our new members better. Thank you Katherine for your dedicated service to NWDC. Also a thank you goes to Liz Axford, membership chair, for coordinating with Katherine.

## The LTP Ad Hoc Committee Completes Work

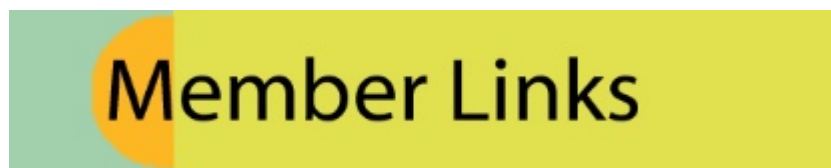
The Living Treasures Project Ad Hoc Committee was tasked to recommend the next craftsperson for the new video that will be produced in 2018/19. Our thanks for their dedicated work sorting through the many, many qualified candidates for this honor. The Ad Hoc Committee included David French, Jan Koutsky, Cheryl Leo-Gwin, Carol Milne, Peter Olsen and Miriam Works.

## Trudee Hill Donates Note Cards

Our thanks to Trudee Hill who donated note cards to NWDC. NWDC uses those cards to thank our volunteer members and our supporters. NWDC is still accepting donated cards, featuring your work, from currently active members of NWDC. Contact [NWDCpresident@gmail.com](mailto:NWDCpresident@gmail.com) for a mailing address.

## Zia Gipson Keeps on Giving

Zia has become one of NWDC's very active volunteers and for that we are grateful. Her most recent volunteer duty: Chair of the Member Studio Visits in conjunction with our Summer Social in July.



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Send short, focused content, links and photos to Kristy Kun.

INSTAGRAM:

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Rob Beishline manages the Instagram account. Send images to

[nwdcinstagram@gmail.com](mailto:nwdcinstagram@gmail.com)



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