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## The Oregonian

### Curbside artwork makes city's outdoors great

Sculptures, some permanent and some not, form the "Gallery Without Walls" - Lake Oswego began installing curbside art a half-dozen years ago in what it calls the "Gallery Without Walls."

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Last year, at the U.S. Conference of Mayors City Livability Awards in Los Angeles, the project brought Lake Oswego an honorable mention award for cities with populations of less than 100,000.

Members of the Lake Oswego Foundation for the Arts, which runs the program, once had to explain the outdoor gallery concept to sculptors, Pat Vessely, the project chairwoman, said when the award was announced.

Today, drivers and pedestrians in Lake Oswego can enjoy temporary and permanent installations of all kinds (to see photos: [www.lofa.org](http://www.lofa.org)).

Nineteen pieces were installed as part of the Class of 2006, to remain on display until September. They include R.J. Travis Pond's leaping "Orca," in welded steel; Nancy Clough's sprightly "Ariel," in bronze and aluminum; Kevin Pettelle's exuberant "A Beautiful Day," in bronze and steel; and abstracts from Victoria Shaw, David Nixon Wagner and Micajah Bienvenu.

Sixteen more pieces were installed in September 2007, to remain on display through September 2009. They include Lydia Kunnap's painted steel face, "Escamoteur"; Bob Kimball's stainless steel and glass salmon, "King in Transition"; Lloyd Whannell's travertine and granite palm, "The Sound of One Hand Clapping"; Robert Hess' cast bronze "Drummer With Rooster"; and abstracts by C.J. Rench, Julie Speidel and Merrilee Moore.

Nineteen more pieces are permanent installations, including four that were chosen by residents as "People's Choice" sculptures:

Alisa Looney's "Going For Your Vision," a painted fabricated-steel piece that depicts a bent human form; Jim Demetro's "First Footsteps," a bronze rendering of a woman helping a small boy toddle; Ken Patecky's "Sunbathers," in which a child sits atop a reclining woman, both in concrete; and Maria Wickwire's "Anillos," a high-fired ceramic clay depiction of a person hugging drawn-up knees.

Then there is Steve Tyree's "Bearly About," a bronze sculpture in which a mother bear warily watches her two cubs while they frolic. The piece, which was placed in front of the Lake Oswego Public Library at 706 Fourth St., became so popular with residents, especially children, that they started raising money toward its price tag of \$12,400.

Tyree, an Amity resident, was impressed enough that when the funds raised went past the \$2,000 mark, he donated the remaining cost of his sculpture so the city could purchase it.

## Clackamette Park's blank wall may become a canvas

Clackamette Park may be beautiful, sitting at the confluence of the region's two major rivers and just up from the falls, but Paula Lewis saw a scab on the otherwise pleasant space: a grey, concrete wall next to the skate park.

So Lewis designed a mural for the space. Her piece matches the shape of the wall, which resembles an arrow, sloping down on its northern end.

"I just think it needs something, so what I went and did is I went and took pictures and I [looked into] the Metro enhancement grant," Lewis said. "I went with the nature theme and the falls and it lends itself very well to the flying-V."

Lewis presented the proposal to the Oregon City City Commission at a work session last Tuesday, and while they were impressed with the design, the commissioners said they should go through a public process to choose art for a public space.

"What if a group of skateboarders came in and said 'we don't like that art there' and we envisioned something else there," said Commissioner Daphne Wuest.



Paula Lewis with a sketch of the mural she is proposing for the wall behind her in the photo.

Pamplin Media Group file photo

"I think it's terrific," added Commissioner Trent Tidwell. "And for me I think it fits the area. But because it is requesting public funding and it's in a

public place, I think it needs to go through a public process."

The commission hasn't put out a formal request for proposals yet, but if

you have an idea for the wall or want to weigh in, contact Community Service Director Scott Archer at 503-496-1546

-Matthew Graban

Lake Oswego  
Review 4-10-08

## Baggetta art purchased for education foundation

By NICOLE DECOSTA  
Staff Reporter

Painter Marla Baggetta is known for her oil and pastel paintings of landscapes in the Stafford area — in fact, many of them are on display at Oswego Lake Gallery in Lake Oswego.

While Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center in Clackamas has purchased 11 of her paintings in the past, the painting hospital officials bought this month will not be displayed in the hospital, but will instead help students in the North Clackamas school district.

Kaiser purchased Baggetta's painting "Back Again" in order to donate it to the North Clackamas Education Foundation. The foundation, in turn, plans to auction the painting at its fundraising auction April 19.

"Proceeds from the sale will help fund educational extras for North Clackamas students, which is not covered by taxpayer dollars," said Jim Gersbach, Kaiser Permanente's community relations manager.

Baggetta, a West Linn resident, said the 12 by 12 painting — 22 by 22 framed — is of a landscape in the Stafford area between Lake Oswego and West Linn.

"It's an area that I go to and take photographs of a lot during all seasons," Baggetta said. "It's

one of those places that I go to time and time again. That's why it's called 'Back Again.'"

The abstract piece is similar to the other paintings that Gersbach said his hospital admires.

"We want our waiting rooms and lobbies to be places where patients and visitors can see beautiful art that will help them focus on something other than the fear and pain that is often accompanying illness or injury," Gersbach said.

"By viewing the soft-hued hills, trees and streams in Marla Baggetta's paintings," he continued, "we think people will be better able to temporarily set aside their worries and relax."

Baggetta said that the inspiration for many of her pieces comes from the world around her — near her home.

"If you're inclined to be a landscape painter you just can't help it here. It's so beautiful," Baggetta said. "When I drive to the grocery store I always have to have my camera in the car."

View some of Baggetta's paintings on display at Oswego Lake Gallery at 315 First St., Suite 101 in Lake Oswego.

For more information about Baggetta, visit her Web site at [www.baggettastudio.com](http://www.baggettastudio.com).

To learn about the North Clackamas Education Foundation, visit <http://www.nc-foundation.org>.

**S**cott Gearheart has overcome paralysis by creating works of art with a paint brush in his teeth. Gearheart will be at Canby's Wallflowers Framing and Gallery from 5 to 8 p.m. May 3 to demonstrate his technique.

Wallflowers Framing and Gallery will be the host for a unique artist during its May 8 "Night Out" event.

For Scott Gearheart, losing the use of his hands initially caused him to abandon attempts to paint, but he couldn't hide from his passion for art. Eventually, that passion brought him back to creating unique works.

From 5 to 8 p.m. May 3, Gearheart will demonstrate just what makes him a rising star in the art world.

At 15, Gearheart suffered a spinal cord injury while playing ice hockey, a sport he'd played for 10 years. This left him "medically defined" as a c4 quadriplegic.

He admits he can be a bit bull-headed at times and refused to paint following his accident, because he didn't want to hold the brushes using his mouth. He said at the time that painting without using his hands would be as if he'd given in to being a quadriplegic. He didn't want that. Unless he could paint like "normal" people, he didn't want to paint at all. So, he didn't.

Finally, in 2003, after much prodding from family and friends, he decided to swallow his pride and try painting. Of course, he first tried holding the brush with his hands, but it didn't work; the brush fell out of his hand upon the slightest pressure from the canvas.

He tried again, but this time holding the brush with his teeth. It worked. The canvas took the paint. So he kept at it. Six months later he completed his first painting.

Painting now occupies a bulk of Gearheart's time and energy. He said that every piece he does, whether a 5-by-7 inch or wall-size, receives the same attention.

Each of his paintings has spent hours upon hours weighing on his mind.

"There's one thing you can be sure of regarding all of my works: my paintings are

very much a part of me, my life, and my experiences," he said. "The origin of each one comes from emotions deep within me. My paintings are, in essence, my attempts to capture an emotion with paint and canvas.

"I try to express a sense of fluidity in my art — activity, aliveness," he added. "As if what you're looking at is not constrained by the edges of the canvas. I do not profess to paint 'perfect' images. I think perfection is a false god. Take the most perfect-looking thing you can think of and look at it under a microscope and you'll find flaws, imperfections, and variations in its color and texture. Furthermore, nature and the objects that humankind has created have elements of detail we can often overlook. The sky is not one shade of blue. Grass is not always green. A coffee cup may sometimes rest crooked. I paint with this in mind."

Gearheart calls on his life, his experiences and his emotions when developing the idea for a painting.

He said that there is no time during the day when he is not thinking about one of his pieces and he has between two or three conceptual ideas for new pieces running through his mind at all times.

"Some of my paintings are born out of a sentiment of a serious nature, like 'Amazing Grace' (both No.1 and No.2)," he said. "Some of them are derived from a very deep and multi-layered emotion, like 'Have A Nice Day.' While others yet are created out of a more simple passion, like 'A Fresh Cup of Daydreams.'

Because of the way he paints and the toll it takes on his body (his neck, jaw, and back become exhausted after a couple of hours painting), it takes Gearheart between four and eight weeks to complete a project.

Gearheart lives in Portland, the city he's called home for nearly his entire life.