



BLAINE ARTS COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE

29

April 2025

General Meeting - April 10, 2025

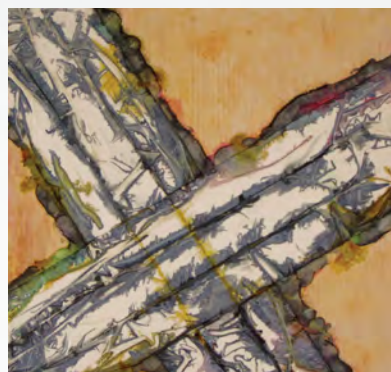
April Presentation



April Meeting Presenter: Gordon Nealy

Gordon will be presenting his polyurethane artwork. He will cover a little theory and information for why he began using the media. Several small paintings and several large paintings will be on display. In addition, he will give a brief demonstration of how he creates alow-relief polyurethane canvas and pouring.

Gordon started drawing when he was eight, copying other drawings and illustrations from magazines. Those were his incipient efforts. Architectural drawing and a few art classes entertained his art interests in high school. Then in college, he changed his major and dove into art. He completed a five year degree in sculpture, and continued making art whilst he was employed.



As time went by his work matured, and he exhibited in various venues from restaurants to galleries. He won awards along the way, joined a collective in Seattle, and became more prolific. His angst infused non-figurative work moved toward a more controlled expression. The polyurethane paintings walk the line between the two. Making art in both painting and sculpture satisfies his interest in visual challenges. He lives to explore and experiment which always generates new problems.

Join Us At Our General Meeting Location!
Blaine Community Complex - 763 G Street
April 10, 2025 - 6:30pm - 7:30pm

**Graciously
Hosted by:**



BLAINE
SENIOR CENTER

Blaine Art Gallery & Gift Shop - 922 Peace Portal Drive

April Gallery Show

NEW GALLERY
HOURS!

Thurs - Sun
11-5

This month

Vibrant and bold, mixed media paintings
by Carole Falleen.

Beautiful, original watercolors, prints, and
ceramic tiles from the late
Deborah Haggman.

Cool and sophisticated sculptures by
Gordon Nealy.

Photography, full of beautiful imagery and
local scenery by Martin Johnson.

Oil paintings with rich colors and textures
by Roderick Kent.

Join us this month at
the Blaine Art Gallery as we showcase
stunning works by local painters,
photographers, and sculptures.

Participating Artists

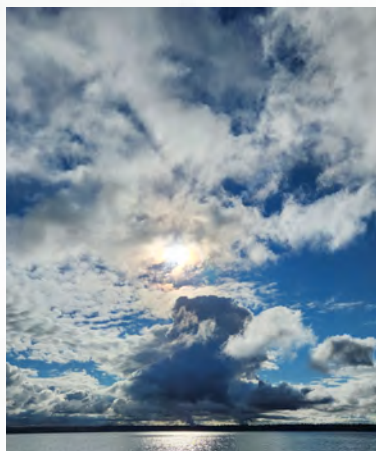
Carole Falleen
Deborah Haggman
Gordon Nealy
Martin Johnson
Roderick Kent



Art by Carole Falleen



Art by Deborah Haggman



Art by Martin Johnson



Art by Gordon Nealy



Art by Roderick Kent

Blaine Art Gallery & Gift Shop - 922 Peace Portal Drive

2ND SATURDAY DOWNTOWN

Art Walk

April 12 - 4:00PM-6:30PM

Our Downtown Art Walk is 2nd Saturday! We're hoping those of you coming into Blaine for the day will stop by on your way home after supporting your local businesses. And those of you coming in for the evening will begin at the gallery and then go on to see the wonderful artworks displayed at local businesses who have partnered with us.

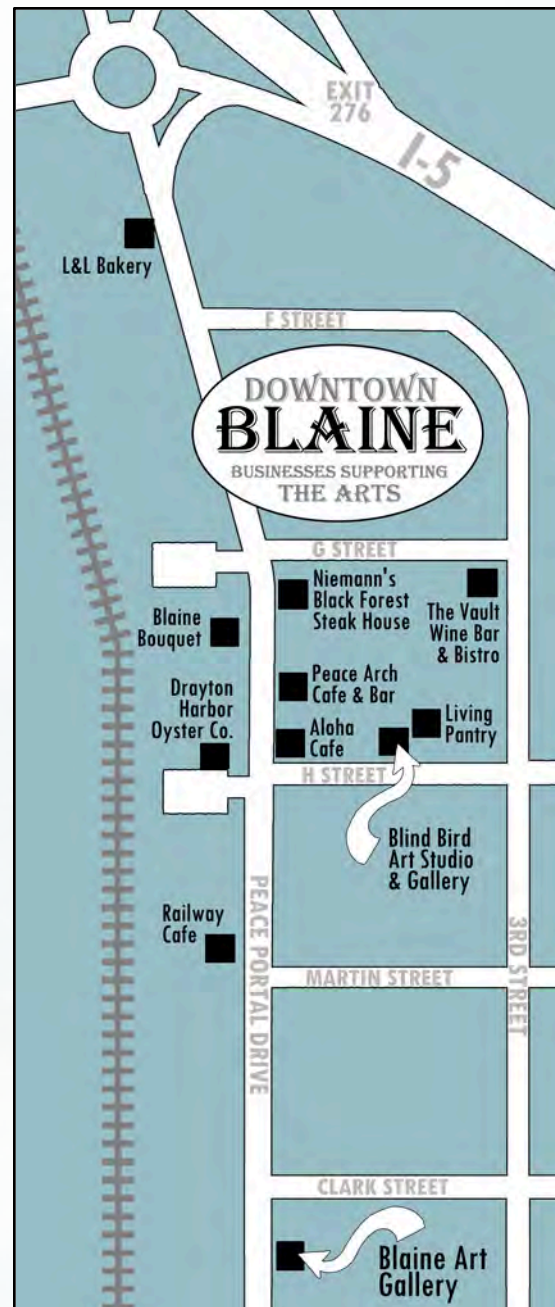
This month, enjoy sweet & savory treats from L & L Bakery!

Begin at the **Blaine Art Gallery** at 922 Peace Portal Drive. Check out our amazing artisans' creations and enjoy sweet & savory treats from L & L Bakery.

Continue to **Blind Bird Art Studio** at 264 H Street and see BAC member, Shawna Morris' artwork while she paints live during the event.

Also, enjoy the many things Blaine's local businesses have to offer and see more of our members' artwork gracing their walls!

We are grateful for our partnerships with Blaine's local business community and look forward to growing our impact in 2025!



Aloha Cafe

Drayton Harbor Oyster Company

(Artist: Kim Morris)

L & L Bakery (Artist: Michelle Kamrath)

Niemann's Black Forest Steak House

The Vault Wine Bar (Artists: Ruth Lauman & Shawna Morris)

Blaine Art Gallery & Gift Shop - 922 Peace Portal Drive

CALL TO
ARTISTS



The Gallery is fully booked through July! Here are the upcoming opportunities to participate! Don't miss out to show in 2025!

August Call to Artists

August's exhibition will be a stunning display of local artistic talent. **In addition to the fantastic artists currently scheduled, we're seeking 3 more artists to feature their work.**

September Call to Artists

September's exhibition is shaping up to be another outstanding month for art in Blaine! **In addition to artists currently scheduled, we have space for 3-4 more artists to participate in this exciting exhibit.**

October Call to Artists

October's exhibition will be a new and exciting one, so stay tuned for more info!

November Call to Artists

November's exhibition is going to herald the holiday season into the gallery! **In addition to the amazing artists currently scheduled, we have space for 5-6 additional to participate.**

December Call to Artists

December's exhibition will once again show off the talents our local artists have to offer, as we open the gallery up as a **Holiday Gift Shop!** Plan to participate with varied art pieces.

These are all fantastic opportunities to exhibit in a vibrant, community-focused gallery. We welcome submissions from artists across all mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture, woodworking, jewelry, and more.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit your entries to the [**GALLERY PARTICIPATION FORM**](#). Have questions, contact us at gallerychair@blaineartscouncil.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to share your art with the community—apply today!

An Essay: Metaphor (continued)

An Essay by Joseph Kinnebrew - Part 2

Metaphors are widely used in poetry, literature, everyday speech, and even advertising to make language more engaging and impactful.

Metaphors are effective because they make language more vivid, engaging, and easier to understand. Here's why they work so well.

Metaphors create mental pictures, making abstract or complex ideas more concrete. For example, saying "the world is a stage" helps people visualize life as a performance in which everyone plays a role.

Metaphors connect with our emotions, associating one thing with something more familiar or powerful. "Her heart is a stone" conveys coldness or a lack of emotion more strongly than simply saying she is unemotional. People remember metaphors better than plain statements because they create striking, unique comparisons. A metaphor like "a blanket of snow" is more memorable than just saying "it snowed a lot."

Metaphors help explain difficult concepts by relating them to something more familiar. In science, we use the metaphor "the brain is a computer" to explain how the brain processes information.

More poetic. Metaphors encourage people to think beyond literal meanings; they invite interpretation and deepen one's consideration of the message. This is particularly true in the arts.

Artists use metaphors to add depth, emotion, and meaning to their work. Metaphors allow them to express complex ideas in a powerful and imaginative way. Metaphors allow artists to convey ideas that go beyond literal interpretation. For example, in poetry, "a caged bird", (as in Maya Angelou's, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*) represents oppression and a desire for freedom. Metaphors trigger emotional responses by associating feelings with experiences we are familiar with. A song lyric like "*Love is a Battlefield*" (Pat Benatar) makes the struggles of love feel more dramatic and intense.

Metaphors open the door to interpretation, asking us to think more deeply about the meaning of the particular work. For example, when combined with understandings of semiology, a painting of a stormy sea might symbolize inner turmoil or change. A viewer might connect with it in personal ways. Surrealism is a more extreme example of metaphor but on a very different level. Artists often deal with abstract themes like love, fear, or time, translating these themes into relatable images. For instance, in visual art, for years I have used a withering flower to symbolize the passage of time or lost youth and issues regarding death.

Metaphors make art more distinctive and poetic. Shakespeare's famous metaphor, "All the world's a stage" (from *As You Like It*), remains memorable because it provides a wider perspective on life. Poetic expression is not limited to words; as others have said, a picture is worth a thousand words.

As artists, we often use metaphors to question societal norms or present new perspectives. By using metaphors, artists transform ordinary language and imagery into something profound, making their work more impactful and timeless. Surrealism, for example, is much older than the 20th-century *Manifeste du surréalisme* published by André Breton in 1924. Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* is an example.

Finally, the term artist is not inherently a metaphor, but it can be used metaphorically in certain contexts. Literally, an artist is someone who creates art—whether it's painting, music, literature, or other forms of creative expression. However, while I prefer other more accurate descriptions, the word is often used metaphorically to describe someone who excels in their craft or brings creativity and skill to their work, even outside traditional artistic fields.

- A chef might be called an artist in the kitchen.
- A great basketball player might be described as an artist on the court.

In these cases, the word "artist" is used metaphorically to suggest mastery, creativity, or finesse in a particular domain.

BAC Member Happenings & Opportunities

BARBARA DAVIS-PYLES

On the first Tuesday of every month, BAC member Barbara hosts "Write Here Right Now" at the Blaine Library from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. If you're ready to work on that book you've always wanted to write, this is the time and place!

JAMES ROBINSON

James is offering an online, still-life & photo drawing course for pencil, for beginners to advanced. If you would like more info, visit [Online drawing course info link](#) - please note this is an updated link for James' art lessons. You may also contact James at jamesbaby356@gmail.com.

LINDA GALLE

Linda is interested in creating a monthly women's group. The design is to encourage and support, create wild hats, crowns, and apparel, and counsel each other on life as women of a certain age. If you are interested in being a part of this group of compatible women, contact Linda at gallelc@outlook.com.

MARTIN JOHNSON

Martin is featured in an online art exhibition through Artsy.net, as well as the Decagon Gallery in Brooklyn, NY, the Chicago Digital Showcase, and the Greece Digital Showcase.

RUTH LAUMAN

Ruth's art is showing at the Vault through June.

SIERRA JAMES

Sierra is showcased in "Women Rising: Expanding Visions/Diverse Perspectives", [Cascadia International Women's Film Festival](#) art exhibit showcasing the work of Pacific Northwest women artists at the Dakota Art Store in Bellingham.

SHAWNA MORRIS

Shawna's art is showing at the Vault through June and the Blaine Art Gallery in March. She also owns and operates the *Blind Bird Art Studio Gallery* at 264 H Street; Ste B in Blaine, and opens her gallery as part of our 2nd Saturday Downtown Art Walk. Be sure and stop by!

VAUNE AINSWORTH

Vaune has 2 pieces in the 2025 Spring Juried Exhibit at the Jansen Art Center. The show will run from April 10th - June 28th.



Sea Glass

Do you work with sea glass?

Georgia Donovan is your contact with a store that wants a local artist who makes pictures using small bits of sea glass. If you are interested, please contact

Georgia at:

georgiadonovan@hotmail.com



Christy Schroeder-Lloyd Needs a Test Group!

Christy is offering an introductory - No Cost - online class to learn her delightful *Whimsical Letters!* Space is limited to **10 people, so get registered now!**

**Tuesday, April 22nd
2pm - 4pm**

Contact Christy by Saturday, April 19th to register. christy@pilgrimsquill.com

BAC Member Happenings & Opportunities

2025 MEETING PRESENTERS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES!

Artist Networking at the General Meetings is our Adult Show & Tell, and is super fun! See below for 2025 open opportunities to be a presenter at a general meeting and share what you do with us!

Apr 10 - Gordon Nealy

May 8 - Keren Taylor

Jun 12 - Adult Show and Tell

Jul 10 - Michelle Kamrath

Aug 14 - Open

Sept 11 - Adult Show and Tell

Oct 9 - Open

Nov 13 - Open

Dec 11 - BAC Holiday Party

A Petite Word From The President

I've been revisiting *The Artist's Way* lately, and—as you might expect—it has me reflecting on both our organization and our community.

There's growing concern about the state of the arts in our school district—visual art, theater, music—and how our youth will be supported as these vital programs continue to be reduced. It's something the Blaine Arts Council Board has been thinking about deeply.

At the heart of the arts lies possibility: the joy of expression, the courage to imagine more, and the quiet strength to rise above expectations. Art invites us to take a leap of faith, to trust our inner voice and follow it wherever it may lead. As the saying goes, "Leap, and the net will appear."

We took that leap when we opened the gallery for our local artists and community. I'm reminded often of Ralph Waldo Emerson's words: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us."

I believe both of these truths with all my heart. The challenges our youth are facing are real—but they're also an opportunity. An opportunity to lift them up, nurture their creativity, and help them soar.

Thank you for everything you do to support the arts in Blaine and for being part of something that uplifts, connects, and inspires.

With gratitude,
Margaret Owens

Welcome BAC New Members!

WE WISH TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS TO THE BLAINE ARTS COUNCIL.

Brian Major | Jasmine Johnson | Veda Likkel

*Share
With Us!*

We want to know all newsworthy items about your art and you! Shows, awards, where your art will be, art items you would like to sell or trade?
Please submit information by the 25th each month to:
communications@blaineartscouncil.org