



May 28, 2019. For immediate release.

PRESS RELEASE

The Island Gallery
400 Winslow Way E, #120
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
206-780-9500/www.theislandgallery.net

For more information, contact
Susan Swannack-Nunn, Owner
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EVENT:



Continuing Exhibition:

Chris Demarest:

Sea Adventures

Stories in Sculpture & Print

June 7 – June 28, 2019

In collaboration with
Eagle Harbor Books

Featuring
Intimate Seascapes, a Collection of Small Works from Jen Till

First Friday Artwalk, June 7th, 6-8 pm



In Concert:
Awkward Grace

IMAGE SHOWN ABOVE:

Chris Demarest, Viking Ship Diorama detail. Wood, shoji paper

About the Show:

Continuing through June, this show combines storytelling of great Sea Adventures (such as *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*, *Kon-Tiki*, *Moby Dick*, and *Snow Falling on Cedars*) with art through sculptural dioramas, bringing them alive in an art form accessible to all ages. In all, 10 dioramas will be featured along with books associated with the dioramas, in collaboration with **Eagle Harbor Books**. **Chris Demarest** is an engaging speaker who can inspire others, especially children, to read these wonderful adventure stories and express their reactions in a creative way, via sculpture or painting. What can be more awe-inspiring when living on an island than understanding the lure and dangers of the sea!

Chris can make himself available for special visits to classrooms or groups to discuss his adventures, or for interviews. Please contact the Gallery to arrange to meet Chris.

Also in June: *Intimate Seascapes, a Collection of Small Works* from artist **Jen Till**, featuring maritime and abstract works, complimentary to the current show.

About the Artist:

Chris Demarest (Bainbridge Island, Washington). Born in New England in 1951, most of Chris's career has been in children's publishing with over 100 titles to his credit. *FIREFIGHTERS A to Z* was a New York Times Best Book (2000). Research has taken him as far as the Persian Gulf, as an official artist for the US Coast Guard, as well as flying into Hurricane Ivan with the Hurricane Hunters. From 2011-2017, he traveled the country painting in museums and libraries portraits of World War II era men and women while collecting their stories. The tour brought him to Bainbridge Island in 2017 where he documented the internment of local Japanese Americans, the main painting now hanging at the island's Historical Museum. In 2018, he settled on Bainbridge Island where he began exploring sculpture in wood and shoji paper, leftovers from a teahouse studio he built. The World War II exhibit is now permanently housed at the Palm Springs Air Museum, Palm Springs, California. A smaller exhibit is currently touring Alaska.

In Chris' words: *My influences for decades have come from Japan and Scandinavia, pulling elements from each culture: line, sparseness, simplicity and material. Though my background has been in both traditional portraiture and children's books, three-dimensional work has floated throughout my life. Moving to Bainbridge Island, building a teahouse, it was working with leftover shoji paper that led to my current work: sculpture and lighting. Borrowing from Scandinavia the word "hygge" to define cozy, comfort and my essential building material, shoji paper, I call my work: "Shygge".*



From the diorama for *Snow Falling on Cedars*

Jen Till (Seattle, Washington) spent her childhood years in a seaside village, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, along the New England coast. Surrounded by the seasons during her formative years led Jen to look to nature as the basis of all her work as a painter today. Her love of painting began at a young age. Jen's childhood experience in her New England surroundings was filled with the richness of colorful, sweeping fall, quiet, bleak winter, spring's lush bloom, and summer with its green warmth. Inspired by her many creative family members, she was fortunate to be entirely embraced in her budding love of art throughout childhood. Jen went on to the Rhode Island School of Design where she studied Painting and Textiles. After graduating, Jen moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she began to explore painting the vast landscape and light of the Southwest, eventually making her way to the West Coast.



Jen Till, *Summer Storm* Oil on canvas

I am inspired by the many ways light casts itself on our earth. Moments in my life when I behold such beauty inspires me to create its memory in my work. Nature provides me with a foundation upon which I can build paintings to express a wide range of feeling...The process I use is meditation with my brush in hand. This enables my creative energy to flow, uninterrupted and fueled by intuition. By creating layers with glazes I try to explore the inherent aspects of paint itself while keeping my mind focused on a feeling and place...My painting experience grounds me and reminds me to be aware of the presence of spirit in all of life's moments. I search for this essence and mystery as I dwell on a place filled with light. My hope is to engage the viewer and to share the mystery and calm I so cherish. My work reminds me that by painting the experience of the material world around me I can move toward the intangible, ethereal mystery of life.

GALLERY LINKS:

Images, biographical or other artist information. Please contact the Gallery for any additional information.

Web Site Artists' Page (complete roster of Gallery artists): <http://www.theislandgallery.net/artists.php>

To Contact the Gallery: ssn@theislandgallery.net



About The Island Gallery

Established in 2002, **The Island Gallery** features internationally recognized artists whose work takes traditional art forms in exciting new directions: studio furniture and sculpture; museum quality textile art and wearables; wood fired ceramics from the finest potters in America; paintings and prints; and unique jewelry creations. Monthly exhibitions include live musical concerts, featuring such genres as jazz, rock, folk, chamber music and performance art. This, along with its reputation for excellence, makes The Island Gallery a destination spot on beautiful Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, and steps from the new Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. In 2017 we celebrated 15 years of collaboration with unique and talented artists from near and far.

Event Location/Contacts/Visit:

The Island Gallery, 400 Winslow Way E, #120, Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Underground parking is available at The Winslow off Ericksen Avenue.

Web site: www.theislandgallery.net

Shop: www.theislandgallery.net/shop

Blog: www.theislandgallery-artblog.blogspot.com



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SPRING GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday 11-6pm

Sunday Noon-5pm

Closed Mondays