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PRESS RELEASE

The Island Gallery
400 Winslow Way E., #120
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
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EVENT:



Spring brings a renewal of all things.

Join us in celebrating the new season and the return of our colorful feathered friends with exciting wearable, wall and sculptural art.

Featuring:

**Ashley Licht, Susan Petersen, Carol Lee Shanks, Spirithouse
Christine Sundt, Diane Turner**

**Opening Reception:
First Friday, April 1st, 6-8 pm**

In Concert:

**Ranger and the Re-Arrangers
Bainbridge Island's Own Gypsy Jazz Band**

About the Artists:

Ashley Licht is a textile artist whose current artistic passion is screen printing. Her felted birds are delightful as a single little buddy or congregated in flocks to offer assistance to we hapless humans.

Ashley comments:

“My life is well described as up in flight, the only consistency being art. I love to create a design and then see it come to life on a fabric surface... A big inspiration for me is my pet sparrow, Pip, who can frequently be found perched on my shoulder while I work. In the future I hope to see myself expanding my skills, products, and continuing to work as an artist full time.”

Susan C. Petersen: After 20 years as an art consultant, framing designer and framer, Bainbridge Islander Susan C. Petersen resumed her art career in 2002, working in several mediums, including cards, collages, paintings, illustrations, handmade books, and poetry. She is strongly influenced by Asian art and philosophy, haiku poetry, and the day’s social and environmental issues, informed by her strong connection to nature and music. These influences are readily visible in her Wabi Sabi cards, a collection consisting of over 50 regular designs and original Bonsai and Ikebana styles. More recently she has introduced a Shoji and Paris Market series, as well as a whimsical Sans Souci Café collage series. This series incorporates small, intimate caricatures presenting a rogue’s gallery of characters from the lighter side of her imagination, in which every picture tells a story.

Susan comments on her work, and the qualities of Wabi Sabi:

“All cards are hand-collaged using pressed flowers, leaves, and other natural materials I hand-gather and preserve, as well as papers from around the world... impermanence, imperfection, and incompleteness... Wabi Sabi connotes the transient beauty of all things. It is the state of flux between beginning and ending. It exists in the wear or patina of objects as they age. It is defined by what is rustic, modest, and natural. Nothing lasts. Nothing is perfect. Nothing is finished. All things will pass away... My work as an artist pays homage to the transient beauty of life in the delicate intimacy depicted in each card or caricature I create.”

Carol Lee Shanks is enjoying a 28-year career dedicated to designing unique handcrafted clothing designs and textile art pieces. She has a great reverence for cloth, allowing it to be the foundation of her inspiration and personally constructs each garment, one by one, building collections made from carefully selected fine materials. Her dressing concept encompasses coordinated silhouettes layered for style and comfort. She has designed an understated, timeless look meant to be collected piece by piece over many seasons.

Carol has a degree in Textile and Costume Design from the University of California at Davis. She now works and exhibits her clothing and textile art from her Berkeley, California studio. Her work is shown and sold in galleries throughout the United States and has been included in international shows and fiber art publications.

Katrin Noon for Spirithouse: An unconventional twist on traditional design, plus a dedication to comfort, is the hallmark of womenswear by Spirithouse, a Los Angeles clothing company. Katrin Noon, its creative force, creates collections that explore proportions and combine modern edginess with romantic detailing. Noon studied painting at the San Francisco Art Institute, and pattern drafting and draping under Simone Sethna. After graduation, the artist traveled throughout the British Isles, Europe and Western Asia, an experience that would solidify her love and interest in textiles.

Christine Sundt: *"Pieces of metal, faceted or natural stones, colors, textures around me are the forces that help me shape and make my one-of-a-kind jewelry creations. I draw inspiration from art and nature, but seldom start with a firm idea of what the outcome will be. My drawings are merely records of thoughts rather than plans or patterns. Works come together on my workbench as elements find each other through proximity, association, and chance."*

Diane Turner: With a farming background and as an animal lover, Diane has always loved art as passionately. In 1997 she and her husband began their own farm journey, with a variety of animals; but a year ago they discovered angora goats. With their comical antics, sweet, affectionate personalities and gorgeous fleeces, Diane was hooked and began felting with their wool and fleece. For Diane, combining animals and art could not be a more perfect fit!

Diane's lovable creatures are made from wool and fleece which are chemically the same as human hair and dirt resistant. The process begins with cleaning the wool to remove "field particles" and the lanolin. She designs a pattern for each character which is cut from wool felt, felted, sewn together, sculpted and then felted again. The result is nothing short of charming.

About the Band: Bainbridge Island's **Ranger and the Re-Arrangers** play "Gypsy jazz" or "hot jazz," an upbeat style created in the 1930s by Django Reinhardt and other European stringplayers who embraced American jazz. The band's repertoire appeals to everyone who enjoys swing standards, traditional Gypsy jazz songs, and world music originals. The band features young violin phenom Ranger, whose creative, syncopated leads complement the band's steady, swinging rhythms.

Ranger Sciacca's performances and compositions reflect his extensive studies in classical, jazz, and folk music. His Suzuki teacher, Alice Kanack, publishes books and CDs on improvising classical music. Ranger also studied folk and dance music for seven years with renowned Seattle fiddler Stuart Williams. Ranger's main influences include guitarist Django Reinhardt and jazz violin greats Stuff Smith, Claude Williams and Stephane Grappelli. Ranger studied jazz theory and history at Whitman College.

Michael Sciacca, Ranger's dad, has been his rhythm guitarist for many years; they have performed as a swing jazz duo since 2001.

Percussionist **Jeffrey Moose** has a 30-year career in both music and fine art. His collaborations and band projects include work with Joined at the Head, Heliotroupe, Dog Superior, Stiff Kitty,

Atoke, Zayah Emmanuel, and Sam Andrews, founder of Big Brother and the Holding Company. He is currently director of Jeffrey Moose Gallery in Seattle.

Mandolin player **Dave Stewart** is also a classically-trained pianist.

Event Location:

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

Underground parking is available at The Winslow off Ericksen Avenue.