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Curator's Statement, Carol Hassen, Fall 2011

The theme for this year's Art on the Wall at the 4th Street Theatre is the Yakima River. The river flows through Central Washington and becomes the ribbon that holds this region together. Artists were selected from Thorp to Prosser and asked to use the river as a theme but were encouraged to use their own styles (including realism to abstraction) to represent this theme in their artwork. This body of work represents the artist's individual response to the river and community in which they live.

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The Yakima River



Sky Mother, \$1,250 Jane Orleman, Ellensburg Media: oil

"The Stuart Range has been a backdrop for my daily life since 1969 making it a treasured part of my painting vocabulary. The Stuarts are mountains but they are also a symbol of where heaven and earth meet, of transcendence and the source of life-giving waters. Since my work expresses a distinctly feminine worldview, the scared waters flow from the Sky Mother."



Canyon Memories, \$1,100 Gayle Scholl, Yakima Media: mixed with gesso on 300lb watercolor paper

"Being a retired educator coming from South Dakota and growing up in the Midwest, I acquired the love of skies, a need for closeness to nature and an appreciation of quiet spaces. I try to instill that feeling into my artwork."



River of Life, \$400 Jeff Reynolds, Yakima

Media: digital 64mb panorama

"I am trying to do justice to some of the earth's fine spaces. Often returning to various locations (one spot for 16 years), I continue to photograph until I get it right. I am drawn to the magnificence of the American Desert and other barren landscapes where the spirit of light and dark and the power of scarcity reign."



The Yakima Desert River, \$825 Ann Marta Bowker, Moxee

"My art disciplines are painting, jewelry, and fiber (cut to wear). Some motifs are derived from my travels, some from textiles and trinkets, and others from simply starting with the medium and exploring. This painting is meant to reflect the Yakima River as it courses through the ancient stone of the Ellensburg Canyon."



Catch and Release, \$850 Justin Gibbens, Thorp Media: ink, watercolor, spray enamel

"I use watercolor, graphite, and ink renderings to reflect my interest in scientific illustrations and natural history. I have a passion for sensuous, rich imagery tinged with subversive approaches. My imagery is inspired by wildlife and the natural geography of the Northwest."



Night Pond, \$900 Jackie Prout, Yakima

Media: discharged and dyed cotton

"My work grows from an intuitive process using fiber that speaks to me through vision and texture. My work is imbued with a practical sense of design coupled with color and enhanced by the layering process."



Pine Tree View, \$1,500

Leo Adams, Yakima Media: acrylic

"I want to paint the landscape where I am in the environment, and express the open sky and the neutral colors of the Valley. My canvases are filled with a rich surface and my hope is to paint what the earth is like in my world."



Eyakemka, \$750 Gloria Gonzales Garcia, Yakima Media: monoprint

"I have always been influenced by muralists and printmakers whose works comment on social issues and the human condition. Those artists appropriated cultural images and I find this a useful way to acknowledge my heritage, while addressing current concerns. I want my figurative work to facilitate a keen observation of subjects in an honest, realistic and direct way."



Memory Mandala, \$950 Cheryl Hahn, Selah Media: collage, acrylic, and permanent inks on panel

"I chose to address the theme of water and river as a metaphor rather than as the subject. Like a rock falling in the water, ripples and vibrations are formed. This image of concentric circles echoes memories that have taken the form of a 'mandala' in my work. A mandala is a graphic symbol usually in the form of a circle that is divided into four separate sections and/or bearing a multiple projection of an image."



River's Edge, \$750

Cheryl LaFlamme, Parker Media: mixed

"The river gives and takes life. I am reminded of the river's dangers by the ghosts of those whose lives were taken while they were enjoying the river's seductive waters. I painted what I see as the signature bird of the Yakima River – the Kingfisher. The dogs are us, handling the heat of the dog days of summer by enjoying the water – tentatively, heeding its dangerous force."



Untitled, \$500 Larry Wright, Prosser Media: photography

"I like to work with large format, black and white film and my main interests are landscape/nature, architecture, and night photography. These photographs were taken at the Whitstran Wildlife Area, which is on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land about three miles east of Prosser."