

of the Time-Based Art Festival, which includes 10 days of performing and visual arts in September each year. Installations on display feature works ranging from films to interactive pieces.

Wordstock, an annual literary festival that features author presentations and readings on nine stages, along with a book fair and writing workshops, will be October 6–9, while the Audubon Society of Portland's Wild Arts Festival, now in its 31st year, will take place November 19–20. The annual festival draws thousands of attendees, and nearly 70 artists and 30 authors, to a celebration of art, books and nature. This year's event will feature a wild-art project with 150 avian-themed paintings—each measuring 6 square inches—created by local artists.

Each January, the Fertile Ground performing-arts festival showcases new theater, comedy, visual arts and dance works by local artists, with many world premieres. The works being presented for the 2012 festival, January 19–29, will be announced in November.

Portland suburbs also have noteworthy festivals, such as the Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts, which will celebrate its 49th anniversary next year. Held every June in Lake Oswego, south of Portland, the three-day festival includes art exhibits, musical performances and a crafts fair, and attracts more than 25,000 attendees. It will take place June 22–24 in 2012, and include a special photography exhibit.

Julian Voss-Andreae, a sculptor who divides his time between Portland and his native Germany, displays his work at the festival each year and at the Lake Oswego Gallery Without Walls, a permanent outdoor collection of more than 60 sculptures. Voss-Andreae's art has been featured on PBS and in publications such as *Nature*.

Last year, he installed a piece on Lake Oswego's First Avenue that he titled *Quantum Woman 2*, a tribute—like his first, 2008, *Quantum Woman*, located a block away—to his wife, a Portland physician and neuroscientist whose research brought the couple to Oregon in 2000. The 69-inch-tall sculptures, crafted with polished stainless steel sheets, appear solid when seen from the front but full of large airy gaps between the sheets when viewed from the side.

Voss-Andreae studied physics at several universities in Europe before moving to Portland, and his work sometimes relates

to the local science and technology industries, which he became interested in while studying at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. One of his favorite sculptures, the 2004 *Alpha Helix for Linus Pauling*—a 10-foot-tall steel piece with red powder coating—is a tribute to the famous biochemist and stands in front of Pauling's boyhood home in Portland's Hawthorne neighborhood.

“Portland native Linus Pauling is the only person to ever win two unshared Nobel prizes [chemistry in 1954 and peace in 1962],” Voss-Andreae says. “As part of my thesis at art college, I made a sculpture to celebrate him and one of his major discoveries, the alpha helix.”

Beaverton, located southwest of Portland and known as the home of Nike, is another noted artistic suburb. Each November, I attend the Annual Visual Arts Showcase, the Beaverton Arts Commission's signature event, held at the Beaverton City Library, next door to the city's farmers market. The event features works from a variety of visual disciplines, and I especially like the watercolors. Invariably, I acquire a landscape there, from an artist like Sarah Bouwsma, who paints Oregon scenes. The 2011 Visual Arts Showcase will be November 5–13.

The Portland area's festivals and other arts offerings play a key role in making Portland a great place to live, says Ann Takamoto, development director of the Wild Arts Festival. Meryl Redisch, the festival's executive director, agrees: “They enhance our quality of life, and that quality of life keeps Portland in the top of the most-livable lists.”

Robin Jackson, the local musician, says the arts also make Portland a favorite destination for visitors. “When people come to Portland, they are given the opportunity to experience art on a level that makes them feel part of something special,” he says. “In Portland, art is often born from a grass-roots culture that people can relate to on a personal level. The energy of this city gives everyone the feeling that anyone can do something special, and we're all invited to enjoy it.” ■

*Seattle writer Sarah Wyatt regularly travels to the Portland area, where art attractions also include a 20-plus-piece public-art collection in Vancouver, Washington, just across the Columbia River from Portland.*

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