

## Portland celebrates Sculpture Day



**PNWS MEMBERS** and Sculpture Day PDX 2017 event organizers Julian Voss-Andreae, left, and Alisa Looney chat with Looney's friend and colleague Kevin Moore at the Roll-Up Photo Studio + Gallery in

Portland. The gallery and two other nearby venues, including Voss-Andreae's new studio, were the site of this year's festive celebration of 3-D art, part of International Sculpture Day.

BY PAUL HAIST

**P**acific Northwest Sculptors' second annual celebration of International Sculpture Day April 21 and 22 in Portland was an unqualified success, judging from comments after the event by its organizers, participants and guests.

Hosted at three neighboring venues in Southeast Portland's Sellwood District and billed as "International Sculpture Day PDX 2017, 3D Alchemy:

"Fusing Intellect, Intuition and Magic Into Sculpture," the event featured leading local sculptors talking about their work, live demonstrations of sculptors at work, a tour of one sculptor's cutting-edge, high-tech studio, an exhibit of sculptures by local artists, lots of good food and drink, a tango demonstration and, to wrap it all up, a dance party with live music.

PNWS member Alisa Looney was a driving force behind the event. It was her presentation at a members' meet-

ing at Marylhurst University near Lake Oswego about two years ago that led PNWS to commit to joining the celebration, observed around the world each April for the last three years.

Summing up this year's event she said, "My feeling overall was that it was a wonderful event for all who attended. Our entire team was incredible, professional and dependable. Everyone really showed up and made

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The Pacific Northwest Sculptors Newsletter is published monthly by Pacific Northwest Sculptors, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the public through educational programs and sculpture exhibitions. We are a dynamic, inclusive community of artists who inspire and support each other's growth with ideas, skills and knowledge.

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# Kudos for Alisa and company

I know that more will be written in this newsletter about our recent International Sculpture Day event. I'd be remiss, however, if I didn't thank again the remarkable Alisa Looney and her team who worked on the event since last August.

They put in countless hours. The thing about a good idea, a fun idea, is that it can suck you right in and carry you away. That is exactly what happened. It went quickly from one venue to three, donors stepped forward and helped when needed. It got big but it was all handled so deftly. What a crew.

The neat thing about an event like that is that I get all worked up. I get excited about sculpture all over again. It is just so cool to be around people who speak the same language and have issues and revelations that I can relate to. Makes me feel sane, centered.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**GEORGE HEATH**

### New board members named

We have two new board members. Sue Quast attended her first board meeting on April 7th and Shelly Durica-Laiche will attend her first on May 12th. Shelly will also be our new treasurer. The meeting will be both by Skype and in person at Dave Gonzo's studio. It will commence at 10 a.m. Give me a nudge if you'd like to Skype in.

I'll post an article on the website about the IS Day event so, if you could not attend, you'll be able to see more than what can fit in this newsletter.

I missed the meeting at Carole's where tools

were traded, sold and given away. Had the flu. I heard it went well and I hope it happens again as I was prepared to thin my stash and add to it at the same time.

*Best to all, George*

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## Upcoming Meetings

### May Board Meeting

Friday, May, 10 a.m.

**In person:** Dave Gonzo Residence 3354 SE 19th, Portland (red barn out back), 503-270-9394. **Via Skype:** Contact George Heath ([gheath6006@msn.com](mailto:gheath6006@msn.com)) if you wish to Skype. Skype limits participation to 25.

### May Member & Guest Meeting

Saturday May 27, 12 p.m. at the studio of metal-welding sculptor Dave Gonzo, 3354 SE 14th Ave. in Portland, in the red barn behind the house. Guests can try there hand at welding. There will be three welding sets and safety instructions. The studio was formerly occupied by the late Rick Gregg; the meeting is dedicated to his memory and to sharing the skills and knowledge that he generously shared. These meetings are potluck affairs, so please bring a dish and/or a beverage.



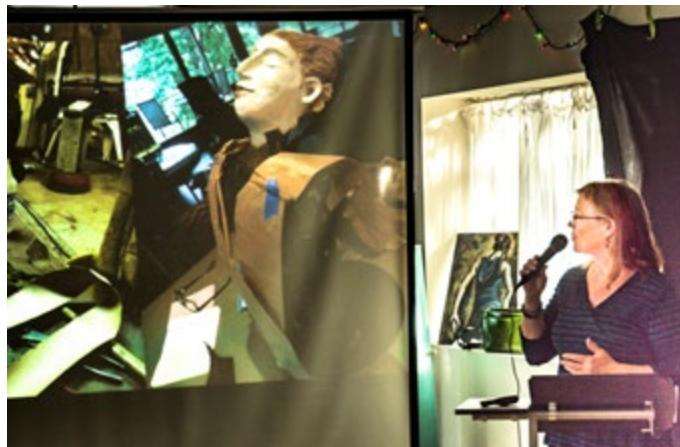
**JULIAN VOS-ANDREAE** captured the rapt attention of the audience with his discussion of his high-tech approach to an ancient art.



**SAM HINGSTON** used an example from the bloom series of his delicate wood sculptures to explain how he works.



**BILL LEIGH AND CHAYO WILSON**, who have been collaborating on sculptures lately, shared the stage to explain how they combine their



very different work into unified sculptures. Leigh works mostly in metal while Wilson works in stoneware clay.

## IS DAY: 'We definitely brought sculpture to the public'

it all happen. We definitely brought sculpture to the public in a fresh way."

Everyone on the organizing team and the other artists who were featured in the event worked hard and deserve considerable gratitude for their selfless contribution.

PNWS President George Heath singled out Looney for her imagination and commitment to making Portland a part of this observance. He wrote to her after the recent event, "As for you, Wow! That was amazing. I rarely, if ever, have seen anybody pull off something like that with such aplomb. Nicely done."

Looney said, "I was truly honored to receive this compliment on behalf of our team," adding, "it would not have been possible to pull this off without even one of our amazing team members, artists, hosts, sponsors, volunteers

and guests."

Other members of the organizing team, all PNWS members, were Julian Voss-Andreae, Jennifer Corio, Dave Gonzo, Sam Hingston and Sue Quast.

Some of the planners were also featured artists at the event. Voss-Andreae opened his studio to the public where he led a tour and explained how he blends art and high-tech; he also was a featured speaker, along with Hingston, at the artist talks. The other featured speakers were Chayo Willson and Bill Leigh. Corio emceed the artist talks. Gonzo demonstrated sculptural welding techniques alongside fellow PNWS member Andy Kennedy who demonstrated ceramic work.

Looney singled out Susan Schimelfining as one volunteer "who has not been mentioned enough." Looney credited Schimelfining for planning

and preparing the food available at various venues. "It was beautifully displayed and delicious as well," said Looney. "She actually cooked the smoked chicken herself and went to great lengths to make it all work with the schedule of replenishing for each event."

The event was sited at three locations in close proximity to one another along Southeast 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis's Roll-Up Photo Studio + Gallery, which was the venue of last year's celebration, Voss-Andreae's new studio, and Rachel Lidskog-Lim's Dance With Joy Studios. Groups of artists and guests migrated together from one location to the next throughout the evening.

Hingston thought the geography of

**Continued on next page**



JENNIFER CORIO emceed the artist talks. Here, she introduces fellow PNWS sculptor Sam Hingston, lower foreground.



ALISA LOONEY explains to the approximately 75 people who attended the artist talks how the rest of the IS Day evening will unfold.



ANDY KENNEDY demonstrated how he creates his ceramic works. The Portland artist also works in wood, concrete and mixed media. He calls his ceramic work "soul diving."



DAVE GONZO of Portland demonstrates his technique with the welding torch. Far left is PNWS Secretary Isabelle Johnston-Haist. Third from left is Portland photographer LeeAnn Gauthier.

## IS DAY: 'Three locations gave the evening a lot of variety'

the event added to its appeal.

"I thought it was a really fun and engaging event. The three locations gave the evening a lot of variety, and I thought having the group travel together brought a bit of adventure to the whole thing," he said.

He also had praise for his fellow planners. "It was a great experience working with the planning committee as well as the many people who helped to make it all happen. It took a lot of effort from a lot of people, but it was certainly well worth it."

Corio was pleased with the outcome as well. "All and all, a smashing success! I am proud to be part of the planning team," she said.

She thought the audience at the artist presentations seemed "laid back

and really interested in hearing what the artists had to say." She said they asked "good questions" and with "a fair bit of laughter," which, she added, made her job as emcee easier.

Corio summarized the event. "I felt a fun, joyful vibe throughout the evening. The show at Roll-Up (Gallery) was full of folks chatting it up, looking at art and enjoying themselves and each other."

While it was difficult to count overall attendance at the event owing to its being spread out across three venues, it was possible to get a good count of the people attending the artist talks. Corio and Looney agreed the number there was about 75 with a few others gathered just outside the door to the room where food and beverages were available.

Paul Haist, the newsletter editor, who was focused on watching and photographing what was going on, thought overall attendance could not be much less than about 200.

The celebration would not have been possible without the generous support of many in the community including sponsors Cobalt Design-works, Dance With Joy Studios, Form 3D Foundry, Bill Leigh, Roll Up Photo Studio + Gallery, the International Sculpture Center in Hamilton, N.J. (publishers of Sculpture Magazine) and Julian Voss-Andreae.

*More photos on next page. Please leave comments about IS Day PDX on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/ISDayPDX/>.*



**RACHEL LIDSKOG-LIM** and dance partner Chris Perkins demonstrated a stylish Tango at Lidskog-Lim's Dance With Joy Studios in Sellwood. The studios hosted the IS Day artist talks and the concluding dance party.



**ALISA LOONEY**, center foreground, gets down to the sound of the Portland band Aftershock with vocalist Nico Wind. The dance party ran from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.



**JULIAN VOSS-ANDREAE'S** untitled bronze (aptly nicknamed Pebby) attracted a lot of attention at the entrance to the Roll-Up Photo Studio + Gallery which hosted the IS Day sculpture exhibit. Guests couldn't keep from touching the unusual surface effect.

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