

INK NEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Eureka Street Art Festival 2020
- “Humboldt Mash-Ups” at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery

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INK SPAWN

A note from Executive Director Libby Maynard

This year has just flown by, or maybe it only seems that way because our lives have been so disrupted that we have lost our sense of the passage of time. Or maybe it's just me – I've always had a tenuous relationship with linear time. Nevertheless, here we are approaching the autumnal equinox and getting ready to harvest gardens.

At the August board meeting, we adopted an exciting new DreamMaker: HC Black Music and Arts Association. "The HCBMAA is composed of people of African ancestry and People of Color who are committed to enhancing the quality of life for Black and Brown bodies in the Humboldt County community, with the mission of empowering the People of Color of Humboldt County through Black cultural knowledge and Black support. We resonate with Indigenous People of Color and the shared struggles from the white dominant culture. Through the Harambee Movement (the Kenyan tradition of community building events and services) and the collaboration of People of Color, we gain resiliency, respect self-love, and self-determination." To learn more about this project or to get involved, please contact Valetta or Lorenza at hcbblackmusicnarts@gmail.com.

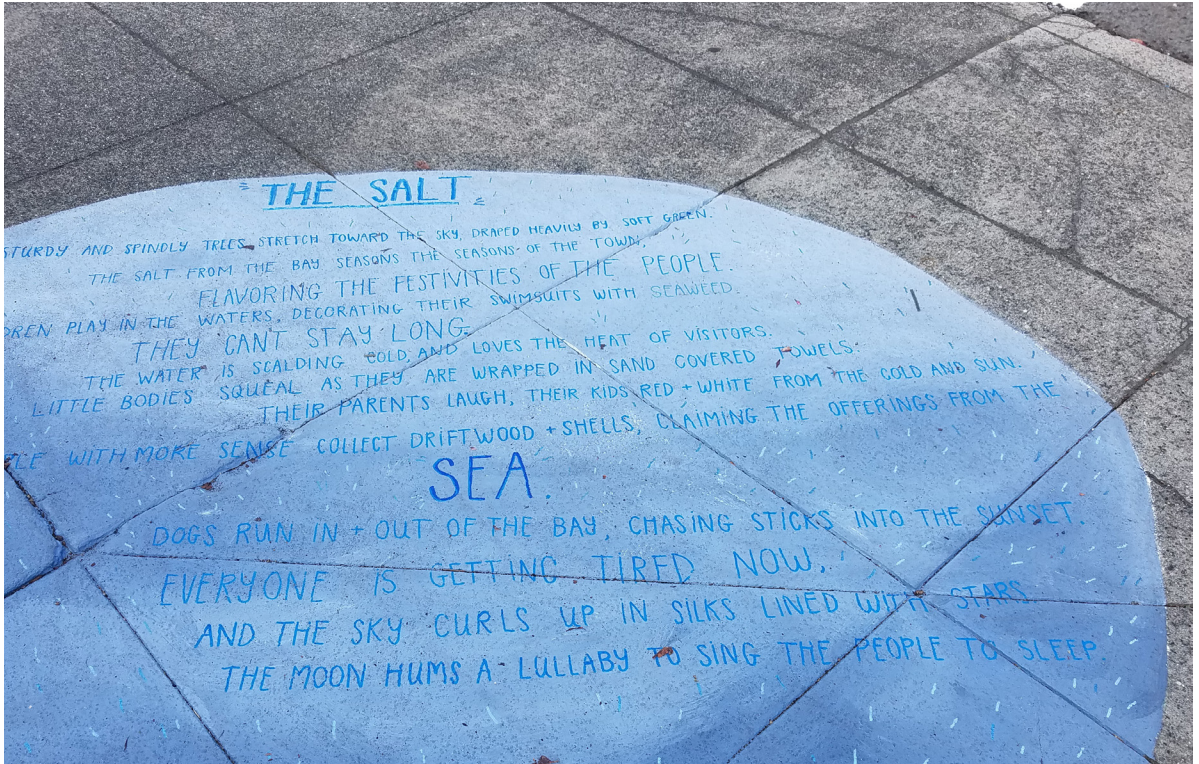
Our new program, Funds for Artists' Resilience, is up and running. You can find out all about it at inkpeople.org/far. Funds for Artists' Resilience (FAR), a program of the Ink People Center for the Arts, is providing artist selection and project management services for a new initiative that will fund public art projects in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties on themes of equity and resilience. We encourage proposals for imaginative multimedia gestures that reflect the unique attributes of this region and the unique challenges community members are facing in these times. Proposed artworks and/or events must be accessible to the public and/or provide opportunities for engagement with members of the community. Possible approaches include: poetry, music, performance, painting, audiovisual production, and community engagement / social praxis. All media are eligible.

We will also be starting a membership drive in September. Be on the lookout for our missives. §



SEPTEMBER 2020

FEATURES



Above: Eureka Street Art Festival sidewalk painting designed and executed by Izzy Unsinger and Jenna Catsos with poem, "The Salt," by Unsinger. Cover: ESAF Native Mural Project in process. Murals here are by Carl Avery, Alme Allen and Julian Lang.

- p. 2: Ink Spawn
- p. 4: Jenna Catsos on the Eureka Street Art Festival
- p. 7: Humboldt Mash-ups at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery
- p. 8: Revisiting Art Benches on the Waterfront

Mission Statement

The Ink People changes lives by connecting our communities with resources for cultural development. We encourage people to exercise their humanity, build civic discourse, and engage their creative potential.

LOVING PUBLIC ART

Jenna Catsos, a director of the 2020 Eureka Street Art Festival, talks about what it takes to bring art to the people



A few days after the Eureka Street Art Festival concluded, Ink News caught up with organizer Jenna Catsos to debrief. Efforts marshaled to make the festival happen in the time of COVID-19 had been fairly heroic, and the experience was still so fresh that aspects of the struggle had yet to fade.

“It was challenging to organize during COVID-19,” Catsos allowed, alluding to the rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic and shifting county guidelines regarding public health. “Rentals, contracts — organizing any event like this involves a lot of moving pieces that are already cumbersome, and with the pandemic it all got a lot more complicated.”

No longer able to plan face-to-face, organizers Catsos, Swan Asbury, and Michelle Cartledge “had to move all of our meetings onto Zoom.” Plans for a block party to celebrate the festival’s final weekend were revisited multiple times before being cancelled. “The landscape was shifting be-

neath our feet. We were thinking we’re gonna get to do one thing, then having to pivot.”

Restrictions on travel limited the festival’s scope, but enhanced its depth. “We usually bring in international artists and artists from around the country,” Catsos explained, “but we pivoted to local artists instead — and it turned out really well.” Organizers had previously invited four locally based Native artists to contribute panels to a four-part Native Mural Project. A shortage of available walls prompted them to incorporate text-based art into this year’s festival, inviting local writers to inscribe poems on the sidewalks of the Henderson Center neighborhood. Brokered in part by necessity, these new programming directions turned out to be popular with audiences.

“We started planning the Native Mural Project

Continued on p. 9.

“Heart of the Redwoods,” by Ellie Gainey, in progress during the 2020 Eureka Street Art Festival. Photo credit: Ink People Center for the Arts



CALL FOR ARTISTS

FAR is providing artist selection and project management services for a novel project that will fund the creation of public artworks in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties on themes of *equity* and *resilience*.

Individual: up to \$1000 | Collaboration: up to \$5000



DEADLINE

11:59 pm PST on October 1, 2020.

For more information visit
<http://www.inkpeople.org/FAR> or call (707) 442-8413



HUMBOLDT MASH-UPS: WHERE POETRY & ART COLLIDE

FEATURING LOCAL POETS & ARTISTS

INK PEOPLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
525 7 TH STREET, EUREKA

POETS ARTISTS

MARGOT GENDER
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HAZEL RICKARD
WENDY ROWAN
KATHERINE CECIL LATONIO
REBEKAH JACKSON
VINNIE PELOSO
DANIEL MINTZ
LAURIE BIRDSONG
NEIL TARPEY
ANNE NICKSIC
JAMES HAWLEY
SUSANNA GALLISDORFER
VANESSA VRTIAK
ALINE FABEN
RYAN VAN LENNING
LARRY CRIST
PAT MCCUTCHEON
ANNE FRICKE
GINNY KELLY

SOPHIE VYBORNAY
MIKAYLA DIAZ
REBEKAH EVANS
ANNELISE FARQUHAR
DANA BALLARD
SAMANTHA STONE
STEVEN TAYLOR
TERRY TORGERSOHN
JULIE MCNIEL
ROBERT ADAMS
KYLEE CONRIQUEZ
TAYLOR LARUE
YVONNE KERN
MEREDITH SMITH
BOB DORAN
MIR DE SILVA
KYRIE FLORES
CHERYL RAU
MAIREAD DODD
RYAN JOHNSON

SEPTEMBER 4-30, 2020

VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT:

**TUESDAY-SATURDAY
NOON-5 PM**

CALL: (707) 442-8413

EXPLORING HUMBOLDT COUNTY THROUGH ART!



MASKS REQUIRED

Humboldt Mash-ups:

poetry and art collide at Brenda Tuxford Gallery

On view this month at the Ink People Center for the Arts' Brenda Tuxford Gallery is *Humboldt Mash-ups: Where Poetry and Art Collide*, an exhibition juxtaposing words and images by 40 northern California artists and writers. Curated by Eureka Poet Laureate David Holper and presented in coordination with the Ink People Center for the Arts, *Humboldt Mash-ups* celebrates the everyday. The artworks on display, unassuming in scale and often intimate in their address, illuminate the feel of everyday life in Humboldt County circa 2020. That is to say, they document a state of affairs in which everything — even the everyday itself — has become partly estranged.

"The poems show the beauty of Humboldt County, as well as some of its darknesses," Holper summarized. Many of the paintings, prints and photographs submitted by community members touch on related themes, he explained: "appreciation for the natural world, for people, and for how blessed we are to live in such an amazing place."

The term "mash-up" was popularized in the 1990s to describe creative works - originally, songs - made by blending elements of two or more pre-recorded tracks. For this exhibition Holper worked in collaboration with Izzy Unsinger, one of Eureka's Youth Poet Laureates, to select poems that illuminated visual artists' work and vice versa. The organizers created visual consistency by arranging for the poems to be printed at Just



"Lady in the Pink Lady," 2020, digital illustration by Terry Torgerson, from Humboldt Mash-Ups.

My Type Letterpress in Eureka and placed on gallery walls alongside photographs, paintings, and drawings.

Humboldt Mash-ups runs from September 4 - 30, 2020 at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery, located at 525 7th Street in Eureka. Social distancing guidelines in effect mean this exhibition is open to the public by appointment only. Numbers in the gallery at any given time must be limited, and masking is required. Reserve a time to see the exhibition Tuesday through Saturday between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. by calling (707) 442-8413. \$ 7

RETURN TO THE WATERFRONT:

artists' benches along Eureka's Waterfront Trail turn 2



Two years ago the Ink People Center for the Arts, in partnership with the City of Eureka, was awarded a grant of \$90,000 from the California Arts Council to support the design and construction of 8 benches by regional artists at sites along the 6.3 miles of Eureka's newly constructed Waterfront Trail.

The trail traces the contour of Humboldt Bay, winding along the edge of marshlands that have been hunted and fished by indigenous Wiyot people for millennia. The northern section of the trail meanders through former industrial zones tied to Humboldt's logging

and seafood canning industries. The southern section parallels the swift-moving Elk River in the final stages of its journey to the Pacific, providing views of a pristine tidal ecosystem that exists discreetly only a short distance from the gas stations and strip malls of CA Highway 101.

The waterfront benches were designed to relate not only to the trail's stunning waterfront views, but also to the area's layered

Continued on p. 10.
"Mendocino Triple Junction" (2018) by Kyle and Amber Schlagenhauf on the southern Hikshari' Trail. Photo credit: Ink People Center for the Arts.



Continued from p. 4.
 after last year's festival," Catsos explained, "because we wanted to focus on including a broader range of people. A lot of artists oftentimes get left out of these events, and we wanted to reach out to people who were not normally represented. We wanted this year's festival to represent an opening up of the process."

Many of the artists who took part in this year's festival had never previously tackled a public work. "Mural painting can be a gateway to engagement for young artists," Catsos said. "I love creating opportunities for people who haven't painted a mural before, or who haven't yet had the opportunity to work at this scale."

In her "main gig" as an illustrator, Catsos creates quirky, nature-oriented graphics for her design line Pen + Pine. This year she took her hands-on festival involvement to new lengths, working with poets Jacqueline Suskin and Izzy Unsinger to

come up with simple, vivid images suitable for rendering on pavement.

One of those paintings, a tasseled rug in candy colors, seems to float on the sidewalk outside Revolution Bicycles, supporting Suskin's text. Another opens up a blue-gray oval in the sidewalk near the corner of F and Grotto, reminding pedestrians of both the sky and the unseen but proximate ocean. "That was Izzy Unsinger's vision, and her idea," Catsos said. "She helped me paint it. I was really taking her art and her ideas and putting them on the sidewalk."

This year's festival T-shirts sported the bold-face slogan "LOVE PUBLIC ART." Catsos readily elaborated: "I love that public art is something

Continued on p. 11.

Above: Eureka Street Art Festival organizers Swan Asbury, Michelle Cartledge, and Jenna Catsos. Photo credi: Jenna Catsos.



Continued from p. 8.

history. As the project celebrates its two-year anniversary this summer, we checked back in with some of the artists to discuss their projects.

On the southern section of the Waterfront Trail, Amber and Kyle Schlagenhauf's "Mendocino Triple Junction" is possibly the only work of public art that illustrates California geology through the device of metonym, where discrete parts stand for corresponding elements in a much larger whole. Comprised of three huge boulders hand-carved in interlocking shapes, it represents the unique geologic formations generated by seismic activity off the coast of Cape Mendocino, where

three continental plates converge offshore. Granite, representing the North American plate, serves as the backrest. A slab of the blue-green metamorphic stone, schist, represents the Pacific plate. The Gorda plate, which plunges beneath the North American plate at the Cascadia Subduction zone, is represented by basalt.

Kyle Schlagenhauf, a stonemason and geology enthusiast, said he's been thinking about the Mendocino triple junction since his days in the Coast Guard, when "we went past Gorda Point all the time, and I'd look out to sea and think, *it's right there*. It's a place with personal resonance." §

continued from p. 9.

you stumble across, unexpectedly, when you're walking around in the city. I love its accessibility. By no means is it fancy or exclusive."

She said that her involvement with the festival has been motivated by a love of public art, although "I think I'm motivated by a love of Eureka even more. Art can do so much to raise up this city. It broadcasts who we are. It lets people know what kind of city this is, about our values.

"We always like to say that Eureka is an art city. We like to brag about our artist population," she continued, referring to Humboldt County's frequently cited high per capita number of self-reported resident artists, "but if we don't support them, we won't have them. If it's an art

city, then we need to invest in art and artists. We need to spend money."

She paused a moment for reflection. After three years of involvement with the festival, she said, she had perceived "a change in how we think about art, and how artists are thinking about making careers. This is really not unique to Eureka — it's happening everywhere. The tendency is toward more accessible art."

Art that can exist outside endangered and increasingly rare gallery spaces — in public, or online — may be the art that's best equipped to succeed in the new economy, Catsos observed. Since the pandemic hit and the economy declined, "we've lost galleries and museums, all these formal spaces for art. And art has become more informal as a result. In Eureka, maybe we can't have Arts Alive! right now, but we can have events like these." §

Workshops & Classes

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YouTube: [Arising Holistic Center](#)

Facebook: [Arising](#)

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NEW! English Express classes, online!

Tuesdays 7-8 pm, Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am.

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englishexpresshumboldt.org

Facebook: [English Express](#)

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Facebook: Humboldt Ukulele Group for online meet-ups and resources

Contact Deanna: dsander1@arcatanet.com

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Thursdays 5:15-6:15 pm ONLINE

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Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting—no experience necessary.

Facebook: [Humboldt SINGS](#) for virtual song circles
humboldtSINGS@gmail.com

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