



City of Ketchum

News Release
May 3, 2016

Encaustic Paintings Adorn City Hall

Ketchum Arts Commission's Art in City Hall Exhibition Begins

KETCHUM, Idaho — Three local artists are displaying their work in City Council Chambers as part of Ketchum's Art in City Hall annual exhibition.

This year the exhibition is of encaustic paintings, also known as hot-wax painting. Encaustic painting involves adding colored pigments to heated beeswax, which is then applied to a hard surface (such as wood), covered with canvas or other materials. Tools and brushes are often used to shape the paint before it cools. Once the wax is cooled, heat lamps and heat guns can be used for additional manipulation of the wax.

Tomorrow Night and *Verdigris* are displayed, courtesy of artist Suzanne Hazlett and the Gail Severn Gallery. Hazlett owns the local financial services firm, Boulder Financial Alliance, and is co-founder and president of the Wood River Valley Studio Tour.

Alison Higdon is exhibiting *Rusty Shores*, *Solace Found* and *Journey*. Higdon teaches arts and crafts to adults and children, plays an active role in children's theater arts and has spent many years as a doula, assisting women during childbirth.

Sharon Maley is displaying four paintings; *Spirit*, *Distant Echo*, *Aqua Weave* and an untitled piece. Maley's work has been published in the book, "100 Artists of the West Coast."

Artists were selected in a juried process by the Ketchum Arts Commission and receive an honorarium of \$350 for lending their work to the city for a year.

"We want to have art throughout our community," Mayor Nina Jonas said. "We appreciate the willingness of our local artists to lend us their work, and the exhibition in City Hall underscores the importance of art in our city."

Art in City Hall was created under her leadership. The current show is the third annual exhibit in the City Hall chambers. The previous two showcased local photographers and fabric artists.

The Ketchum Arts Commission organized and curated the Art in City Hall exhibit. Brochures with more detailed information on Art in City Hall, the sculptures on loan for Art on Fourth, and the Arts Commission's other projects will be available this summer at City Hall, the Town Square kiosk and adjacent Visitor Center.

Photos: *Verdigris*, Suzanne Hazlett artist, *Journey*, Alison Higdon artist and *Aqua Weave*, Sharon Maley artist.

###

About Ketchum Arts Commission

The city of Ketchum Arts Commission was created in 2007 with the objective of integrating arts and culture into the community. Among its initiatives are Cover Art, the wrapping of utility boxes in downtown Ketchum and a ski gondola at the Sun Valley Resort; Art on Fourth, an annual sculpture exhibit; Street Art, which features manhole covers designed by local artists; a rotating exhibit of work by local artists in City Hall; and the development of policies and plans for public art in the community. The commission consists of local volunteers who are active in and passionate about the arts.

About the City of Ketchum

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit ketchumidaho.org.

Contact:

Lisa Enourato
(208) 720-9766, lenourato@ketchumidaho.org

Jo Murray
(208) 726-5869, jo@jomurray.com