

 Slightly
West of
Spokane

14TH ANNUAL STUDIO TOUR
SATURDAY NOV. 30TH, 2024
9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Featuring:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| DENNIS SMITH | NICOLE NUTT | AMANDA SHEPARD | ALEXANDRIA O. | RUTHIE FRANKS |
| ADAM BLALOK | JESSICA VEDA JONES | SUMMER MILSON | CLOIE MILSON | FAITH KING |
| ROSANNE ANDERSON | GAYLE HAVERCROFT | MICHELLE SCHNEIDER | | |



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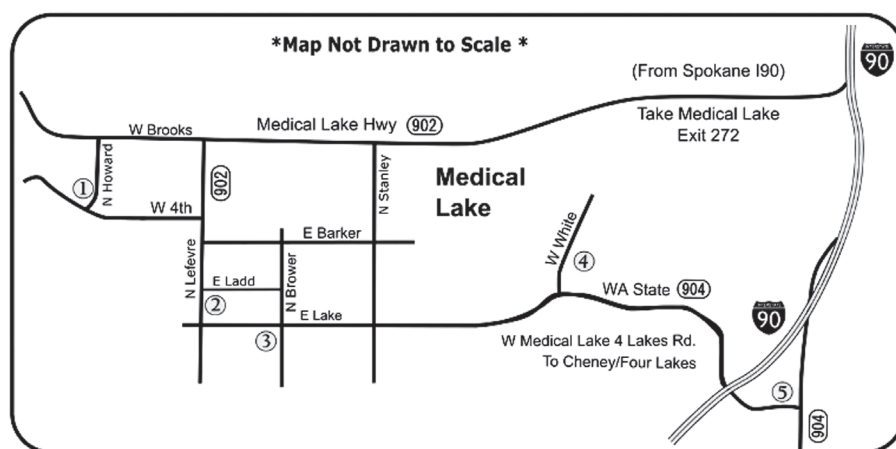
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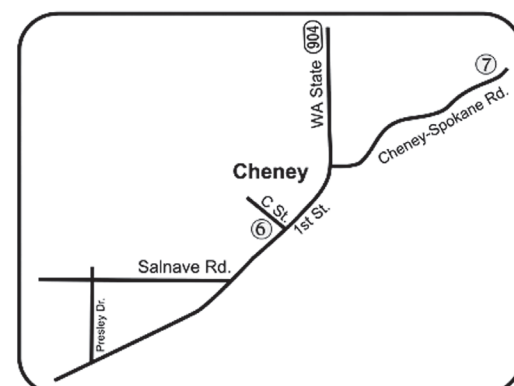
The Slightly West of Spokane supplement is published by the Free Press Publishing Company, Roger Harnack, president. Postage paid to Cheney, Wash. 99004. Published at 1616 W. First Street, Cheney, Wash. 99004.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Cheney Free Press, P.O. Box 218, Cheney, Wash. 99004-0218. ID PUBLICATION #102240

See Map Location Key for each studio address



Look for our signs
along the way



Creativity thrives just slightly west of Spokane

Nestled in Eastern Washington, “Slightly West of Spokane” highlights the creativity of local artists who transform materials into unique works of art. This special section from Free Press Publishing showcases the talents of Dennis Smith, Amanda Shephard, Nicole Nutt, Alexandria Odjonii, Ruthie Franks, Adam Blalock, Jessica Jones, Summer Milson, Chloe Milson, Rosanne Anderson, Gayle Havercroft, Faith King, and Michelle Schneider.

Their work spans pottery, painting, fiber arts, jewelry, photography, and more, reflecting

the diverse talent that shapes the region’s cultural identity. Each piece tells a story, celebrating the artistry that makes this area truly exceptional. Explore the vibrant world slightly west of Spokane.

Silver Twilight Studios.com

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- Metal Artist
- Paintings

Stop No.**1**609 N. Howard St.
Medical Lake**Dennis Smith**

MEDICAL LAKE — Those heading out on the Slightly West of Spokane Studio Artist Tour on Saturday, Nov. 30, will encounter artist Dennis Smith at their first stop.

Since retiring, he focuses on artwork in mediums including oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil/chalk and pottery, he said, noting he enjoys working with each.

“I particularly enjoy sketching and painting people ... having them come to the studio and sit for me,” he said.

His artwork has been shaped by 35 years working with issues that define the worst and best of history, human nature and “what ugly things man can do to men and women,” he said. Often, his job dealt with isolation, captivity and surviving in hostile environments.

His job was a “reality check into the real world,” he said.

Now, he looks forward to contemporary art.

“Since retirement from this career, I have devoted time and energies into my personal art,” he said. “I look forward to studying and making more contemporary art.”

Recently, he’s been creating more sculptural art, combining ceramics, metal, wood and newspaper.

Smith, a member of the Washington Clay Arts Association, has exhibited at Spokane MAC, Gonzaga Jundt Gal-

lery, Terrain, Chase Gallery, Kolva/Sullivan, Trackside galleries in Spokane and the Clymer Gallery in Ellensburg.

Stop No.**2**Roam Coffee
116 N. LeFevre St.
Medical Lake

Pottery and a coffee. That’s what those on the Slightly West of Spokane Studio Artist Tour will find at Roam Coffee. Amanda Shepard and Nicole Nutt are the feature artists here.

**Nicole Nutt**

Mixed media artist Nicole Nutt will be presenting her works of art here.

“I am a mixed media artist who primarily works with watercolors, acrylic paint and embroidery thread,” Nutt said. “I started experimenting with embroidery on my paintings during the pandemic and fell in love with the process.”

Nutt enjoys making embroidered watercolor collages, she said. She makes them by painting watercolor flowers, cutting them out and then embroidering them back onto a painted canvas or paper.

“I love the dimension and texture that this process adds to my artwork,” she said.

Nutt said she’s a lifelong artist, having developed a love of art and nature as a child growing up in Alaska.

Her grandfather was an artists who made oil paintings of the Alaskan wilderness, she said.

“After studying art in university, I moved to the Spokane/Cheney area with my husband and daughters,” she said. “It was here where I really honed my artistic style. For the past few years that I’ve lived here, I’ve been so inspired by the beautiful nature and wildflowers in this region.”

Nutt paints flowers as a “celebration of the natural world,” she said, noting their growth parallels the human experience.

“After hard winter seasons, flowers always return with their vibrance,” Nutt said. “My art reminds me to cherish and look forward to those beautiful periods of life that are in full bloom.”

**Amanda Shepard**

While Shepard will be showing off her pottery at Roam Coffee, she has “turned a cozy corner of our home into a fully equipped pottery studio, where I throw, glaze, and fire each piece myself.”

She has lived in Medical Lake with her fiancé since 2022.

“This transition not only brought me closer to the person I love, but also allowed me to build a life that revolves around my passion for pottery,” she said. “The process of working with raw clay, shaping it into something functional and beautiful, is something I find deeply fulfilling.”

The slower pace of life here has given Shepard the time to focus on her artwork.

She said she finds inspiration here

from nature, the close-knit community and the local lifestyle.

“While pottery has become my main form of artistic expression, I also enjoy working with polymer clay to craft earrings, exploring new textures and forms,” she said. “Before I found my love for clay, I spent years as a watercolor and acrylic painter.

“This background still influences how I approach my designs, looking for simplicity, balance, and elegance in each piece.

For Shepard, working with clay is “meditative,” she said. “I love the tactile experience of molding the clay, guiding it as it takes shape, and watching as each piece evolves through the stages of throwing, glazing and firing.

Stop No.**3**Silver Twilight Studios
324 E. Lake St.
Medical Lake**Alexandria Odjonii**

Stop No. 3 on the tour features Alexandria Silver, who will open her Medical Lake home-studio to tour-goers.

“I love making small wearable metal objects that make a personal connection possible, maybe tell a story, jazz up the uniform, be slightly audacious,” she said of her silversmith works. “Some of my silver collections revolve around the Sisterhood of the Rings, icons and relics, and earrings that have flash and sass.”

In addition, Silver draws and paints, writes poetry, makes art from clay and enjoys photography.

"I'm also hanging out with canvases, paint, tea bag paper, ink and anything else I can possibly run my fingers through," she said. "Things that inspire me artistically are color, pattern, shape, texture and emotion... all powered by luscious coffee."

Stop No.

4

17005 W. White Road
Medical Lake

This tour stop is all about squash and gourds, lives and portraits. Gourd artist Ruthie Franks and painter Adam Blalock will be present to talk to tour-goers.



Adam Blalock

Born in Spokane, Adam Blalock has a fascination with gourds.

"I was born in Spokane, Wash., and grew up in an old farmhouse just south of Spokane along Latah Creek," he said. "As a boy, I was shy and quiet but active, regularly wandering off to explore the creeks and forests surrounding my home. As I grew older, I became intrigued by plant growth and development, eventually finding much joy in growing giant pumpkins and squash, several of which weighed over 1,000 pounds."

In 2004, he was voted "most artis-

tic" in his high school class, but chose to pursue plant science in college.

"Between 2005 and 2016, I only occasionally doodled, instead, preferring to paint in my head, in which I was constantly analyzing, shapes, colors and composition," he said.

But his interest in art was reinvigorated in 2015 after a trip to England.

"The following year, I quit my job, moved to Fort Worth, Texas, and began to work and study in an atelier headed by Ron Cheek, a brilliant artist working in the style of the old masters such as Velasquez, Rembrandt, and Da Vinci," he said. "The daily grind from 9-4 was intense, difficult, and mentally exhausting, but the skills and techniques I gained from the work was worth it."

The atelier closed in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I decided to move back to Spokane. I set up my own working studio and began to practice the skills I learned in the atelier combined with the artwork that I love," he said. "On most days, landscapes are my preferred subject matter, but I also enjoy painting still lives and portraits in a wide range of styles."



Ruthie Franks

"I grow my own gourds at my small farm just east of Medical Lake, where we have lived for the past 22 years," Franks said. "The process begins in mid-February when I start seeds in my greenhouse. By late May I transplant them to my "garden."

They are picked in September and dried for 4-5 months before being cleaned and processed into art.

"My greenhouse becomes my studio in late fall, where I begin working on last season's crop," Franks said.

According to Franks, gourds were first cultivated in Peru and Mexico from 8,000-10,000 B.C.

Unlike all other plants in the vegetable family, gourds were never valued for culinary purposes. Instead, they were valued for their utilitarian purposes as tools, containers, floats, utensils and, in some cases, currency.

Gourds come in many sizes and shapes from the 2-inch tall spinning top to the very large bushel gourd ranging from 15-18 inches in diameter.

Franks said they can be carved, stained, painted and burned into creative and beautiful art pieces and ornaments or, utilitarian functions such as dippers, bowls and plates.

"Learning to grow, dry, clean, stain and carve the varieties of gourds has become a passion for me," she said. "I create templates for carving designs on the gourds with a rotary tool with a variety of bits. Other gourds are only stained if the shape is near perfect.

"I look for each gourd to "speak" to me before I begin the process of creating and incorporating color and design."

"Being able to work from home, surrounded by the peacefulness of Washington, has allowed me to fully embrace this

creative journey.

"It feels like I've found the perfect balance between my life and my art, and I'm excited for what the future holds in this place I now call home."

Stop No.

5

Veda's beads
3210 W. Medical Lake/Four
Lakes Road

Four Lakes

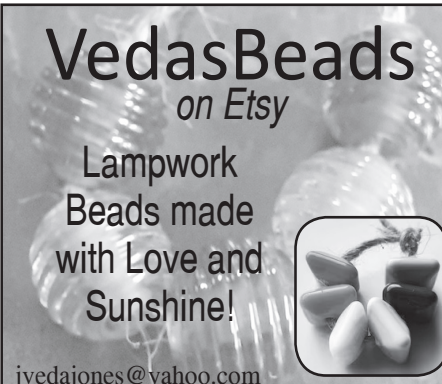
Three artists will be at this location, highlighting their artwork, beads and more. Jessica Veda Jones, the artist

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#5





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Prints by Moriah JoAnn and Carly Bale are available as well.

We also currently have locally handmade wooden trays, pinecone wreaths, jewelry, and socks! All make excellent Christmas presents.

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craftcupboard.com

behind Veda's Beads, will be at Stop No. 5. The stop also features Summer Milson and Cloie Milson.



Jessica Veda Jones-

Jones says she's "obsessed with glass,"

"I started with a simple beginner lampworking kit that my husband gave to me in 2001 and found that even though there was a learning curve, it was pretty easy to get started," she said of her foray into arts. "And wow did I love using a torch to melt glass."

And voila, an artist was born.

"I especially loved the challenges inherent in the medium," she said. "Every new technique, tool, or even new color of glass presents a fun puzzle to figure out."

While working with glass, she "made piles of beads."

Rather than throw them away or give them away, she decided she could create works of art with them, she said.

"That led me to learning how to run an Etsy shop, market my work, set up at shows, network and grow my studio while constantly improving my craft," she said.

Jones said she not only enjoys making art, she enjoys teaching the bead-making skills to other.

"I'd love to see what you create," she said, encouraging those on the arts tour to visit her at Stop No. 5.

Cloie Milson

Cloie Milson will be among those sharing their artistic endeavors at this stop.

"I'm excited to share my creative journey," Cloie Milson said of her opportunity to be included in this year's tour.



"As a rising (high school) sophomore, I'm still exploring my passions. But I know I'm drawn to trying new things, especially when it comes to art and music."

Having studied the violin for the last five years, Cloie Milson said melodies and rhythms inspire her.

Her artwork includes watercolors, experimenting with acrylics and crocheting, she said. Her work will be on display during the tour.

"Nature is a big part of my inspiration," she said. "Growing up on the West Plains, I'm surrounded by beautiful landscapes, vibrant plants and fascinating creatures. I especially love painting mushrooms because they're so whimsical and unique."

That fascination with animals is the inspiration for her to crochet "cute animals"

"And then there's my cat, who is my ultimate muse and constant companion," she said. "I'm obsessed with drawing caricatures of her because she has so much personality, and it's always a fun challenge to capture her quirky expressions on paper."

This year's 14th annual studio tour runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 30.

"I'm excited to be part of the studio tour," she said. It is exciting to showcase my work alongside other talented artists in our community. If you're into nature, music, cats, or just curious about how a high schooler like me sees the world through art, come check out my work.

Look for more artist profiles in the coming weeks in the Cheney Free Press.



Summer Milson

Artist Summer Milson said a "deep connection to nature has shaped both my personal and artistic identity."

"My primary medium is working with fabrics, some of which I hand-dye, to create vessels that represent our connection to the earth."

Milson also works with acrylic paints to express her interpretation of the world.

"Each creation reflects my love for the environment, blending textures and line to evoke different emotions and the things I cherish," she said, noting she enjoys learning about and exploring the combination of different mediums, colors and subjects.

Milson called her artistic endeavors an "ongoing journey."

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to create freely," she said. "My woven fabric bowls, carefully crafted to encase roots and other natural elements, offer a tactile connection between the viewer and the earth, engaging multiple senses in the beauty of nature."

Outside of work, Milson is a mother of three. She has a passion for cooking and enjoys experimenting with flavors.

She also enjoys "dabbling in poetry, using words to express the same emotions and themes I explore in my visual art," she said. "I also enjoy teaching and holding space for others to engage in art-making, believing in the power of creativity to connect and heal."

"However, my greatest joy comes

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Supporting Local Artists & the West Plains Community

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CHENEY LIBRARY
610 First St, Cheney

Stop #6 for the
14th Annual Slightly West of Spokane Artists Tour
Saturday, November 30

SCLD
sclld.org

from spending time in the forest, where I love to forage and immerse myself in nature's tranquility.

"I hope my work resonates with you as deeply as the process of creating it fulfills me."

Stop No. 6 Cheney Library 610 First St. Cheney-Spokane

Gayle Havercroft will have his works on display along with Rosanne Anderson and Faith King at the stop at this stop.



Rosanne Anderson

From the military to arts, tour-goers will enjoy visiting with Rosanne Anderson at Stop No. 6 on the tour.

"I spent most of my pre-artist life as a soldier," Anderson said, noting she was a commissioned officer specializing in military intelligence.

Following her service, Anderson and her husband moved to the area, where they branched, raising cattle, horses and sheep.

"That's when my art began – sheep," she said. "I now spin, weave, knit, crochet, and just recently added embroidery."

Anderson raises her own sheep for the fiber she uses in her artwork. She also takes in rescue sheep in need of care.

"I also purchase other fleeces that are just too lovely to pass up," she said.

Anderson's love for the arts really took off while she was teaching middle school.

"I was excited to see how much my sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders could really do," she said. "It was always fun to read their stories, see their artwork, and then laminate each page for them to create their very own book."

During her time as a teacher, she also got into drama, speech contests and staging plays and skits.

"I'd been a shy student, afraid to speak in front of people," she said. "I really wanted my students to avoid that fear and see how effective they could really be."

She also took up writing.

Now, Anderson enjoys teaching fiber-arts classes, making clothing such as hats mittens and scarves, and weaving rugs.

"I love setting up my vending booth where all the colors and pretty things come together in one sparkly place," she said. "Being part of the fabulous artists in Slightly West of Spokane has been extremely interesting and educational.

"The artists put in lots of work throughout the year to put on the art tour, but it is so worth it."



Gayle Havercroft

Dating back to the first century AD, block printing involves using a carved block of wood.

"Then you ink up the image that you

have left, put paper on it and rub the back or run it through a press," block artist Gayle Havercroft said. "If you do a specific scene, the image needs to be done in the negative so the results are the correct orientation."

Havercroft is one of three artists at this stop.

His lifelong passion was always to be an artist, he said. The problem, however, is how to remain an artist as you mature.

"I remember as a child wanting to be an artist," he said. "I had an uncle who was a good artist in oil painting, and since he was the hero of my young life, I wanted to emulate him."

Havercroft said Westerns were the mainstay of TV and movie theaters when he was growing up, so that's where he started.

"I remember drawing a stagecoach and thinking it was a masterpiece," he said. "I saw it many years later, but it wasn't too great."

Named after his grandfather, Havercroft has lived in the Cheney-Spokane area for 35 years.

Growing up, art and music were his favorite school subjects.

"Eventually, I had to make a choice," he said. "I chose music, being part of groups doing 60-70 gigs a year. I did get an art fix by going through an architectural drafting program."

In his early 30s, Havercroft and his wife purchased "a bare piece of land."

"From there, I always had the dream of doing art in my retirement, and started gearing up for that 6 or 7 years ago by participating in some street fairs," he said. "After being free with my art as a child, I have ended up doing probably the pickiest form of art, that being block (or relief) printing."

Havercroft's first block print was in seventh-grade.

"I really enjoyed the process of it," he said. "Another opportunity to do one in ninth-grade and in college solidified my want of doing them."

In 2001, Havercroft started making block prints of the Grand Canyon over a visit to the southwest.

Those scenes didn't sell, so he started making block prints of the northwest.

"I started doing local scenes, particularly the Palouse," he said.

His block prints have taken off.

"I have been showing my art in many different places locally, having participated in Artfest, Manito Art Festival and 33 Artist Market, and numerous galleries," he said. "I will also be showing at the Little Spokane River Artist Studio Tour in September. I'm also a member of the River Ridge Association of Fine Arts, and serve as the curator of the art shown at the Indaba Coffee Shop on Riverside in Spokane."



Faith King

Faith King has been passionate about art for as long as she can remember. Her journey began at age 10 when she received her first digital camera, sparking a lifelong love for capturing the world around her.

Today, King operates her own pho-

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tography business, combining her creativity with a desire to inspire others through her work.

In addition to photography, King finds joy in painting, which she describes as a peaceful escape from the fast-paced world.

"It's a time where I can slow down and appreciate the blessings and beauty around me," she said.

For King, art is more than a profession—it's a way to connect with others and celebrate the extraordinary and everyday beauty of life. "My goal is to inspire this feeling in everyone I create for," she said.

Stop No.

7

15204 S. Cheney
Spokane Road
Cheney-Spokane
Michelle Schneider



Studio potter Michelle Schneider comes from a line of pottery aficionados.

"My grandparents were friends with the Coeur d' Alene potter Glenn Shern and handmade pottery was used in their home, as well as my childhood home," Schneider said. "My first clay class was at Bonners Ferry High School in 1989. I created a set of bowls and I distinctly remember using carving and glaze to

capture the beauty of a ripe field of wheat, something we can appreciate in Cheney."

Schneider said her mother still has those bowls.

"The memory of crafting them is crisp in my mind," she said. "I kept my hands in clay after high school, taking classes at Whitworth college for two years, fueling my interest."

But life took her on a different path that led to a teaching degree from University of Texas-El Paso, marrying her high school sweetheart and raising a family.

"In March 2010, I started taking classes from Adam Scoggin of Blue Heron Pottery in Cheney, and my life changed forever," she said. "Adam demonstrated to me the lifestyle I had dreamed of."

Scoggin was trained by the potter Marguerite Wildenhain at Pond Farm in California.

He taught Schneider to use strict techniques and exacting standards.

By 2011, she was on the studio tour.

"It was very encouraging," she said. "I cannot underestimate the influence Adam had on me. His generosity, friendship, and support opened my eyes to the possibilities of being an artist."

Scoggin passed away in 2023, but she continues his pottery traditions.

"It is the inherent nature of the materials that keeps me captivated and showing up in my studio every day," she said. "Clay is unique in its ability to take any shape and show any texture. Being a potter requires me to understand design, timing, moisture management, nature of my materials, geology, chemistry, etc."

"Most potters also have a touch of pyromania, and firing the pots is very intriguing," she said. "I really enjoy developing my depth of knowledge and know that will continue as long as I am a potter."

At her studio, expect to see functional and sculptural pottery, fired in her kilns in the garage.

"My work comes alive when it is used and enjoyed," she said. "I incorporate wild clay and wood ash in my pots, connecting them to the local landscape. I also make pots that are fired in a metal barrel in the driveway, capturing the smoke and flame of the moment."

"We will have a delicious spread of snacks and drinks. Sharing my studio fulfills my lifelong dream of becoming an artist, closing the circle that opened years ago."



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#4

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#6

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Above, self-taught Adam Blalock paints classic-realism from observed nature. Below, handcrafted in the flame, kiln annealed for durability custom mushroom beads made by Veda Jones.



Metal jewelry made by artist Alexandria Odjonii.



Amanda Shepard's hand-made and hand-painted ceramic pottery.



Floral collage created by Amanda Nutt shows display of foliage blended with pastels and water-color style painting.



 A scenic painting of a river flowing through a landscape, with a logo for "Slightly West of Spokane" overlaid. The logo features a stylized bird or wing design and the text "Slightly West of Spokane". The background is a soft, painterly landscape with a river, grassy banks, and distant hills.

Join us for our 14th annual studio tour
Saturday November 30th,
2024 from 9:00am
to 4:00pm