

Our Mission: "To celebrate and perpetuate the history, art and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy and the American West."



Nature shares its songs to local watercolor artist

Echoes of nature create a hymnal of inspiration for artist Christen Walden. Watercolor paintings of nests, leaves, birds - or even the intricacy of their wings - reveal the details few people see up close in nature.

Details, like the lines and cracks in a dried leaf, or a pebbled bird egg shell, are brought to life through graphite sketching on paper and canvas with the help of a magnifying glass.

Each piece begins with something discovered - like the bird nest found in a plastic container, by her husband, Shawn, or leaves or pinecones picked up on walks in the woods near their home.

Muted tones of grays, greens, browns, blues and red create a hauntingly, ethereal beauty of her, sometimes abstract, art.

This is further complemented by the titles. Christen has a collection of old hymnals where she seeks passages, or she'll look for a Scripture, when naming her completed art.

Eight leaves in a row painted on watercolor paper, and then mounted on a 72"x36" box canvas, is the show signature piece, "Woodland Hymn." Ranging in size from miniature 5x5-inch paintings to 36x24-inches, there are 42 works in the show, available to purchase.

"Leaves, botanicals, and fragments of nature compel me to create visual narratives in watercolor and pencil. The stories are woven in layers of graphite or watercolor paint. The beauty of past seasons reveals itself in the lace of leaves and bones of trees, and it is those vestiges of nature I seek to reveal in my artwork."

Christen Walden sketches in one of her journals on a winter day earlier this year. Above, a peek at some of the art she has created for her show which opens Monday, Aug. 31.

Christen resides in rural Oklahoma with her husband, and her stepdaughter. She teaches art appreciation at Cameron University-Duncan. She earned her B.A. in Art from Cameron University in 2003 and her M.F.A. in painting from Texas Woman's University in 2008. She exhibits her artwork at the Davis and Blevins Gallery in Saint Jo, Texas, owned by Donna Howell-Sickles, known for her vibrant paintings of cowgirls. Donna's work was exhibited at the Heritage Center in 2009.

Christen has had a few solo exhibits throughout Texas and Oklahoma. This will be her first show at the Heritage Center.

Woodland Hymn: Sketches and Paintings by Christen Walden opens Monday, Aug. 31 - Oct. 31. A reception for Christen and Shawn will be held 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. It is open to members and the public.



EDUCATION



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4 Sessions They fill fast - so Book Early!
 Abernathy Boys 9/1 - 10/30/2015
 Holidays on the Trail 11/2 - 12/18/2015
 *New: History Heroes: Famous Figures from the Chisholm Trail Region 1/4 - 3/11/2016
 New: Pick from - Chisholm Trail or Oklahoma Land Giveaways 3/21 - 5/27/2016

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Workshops

Zentangle

Instructor Arlyn Brantley
 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sept. 10 (Thursday)
 sandwiches 5 to 5:30 p.m.
 Cost: Members \$10
 Non-members \$15
 Ages 14 & up



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STOP MOTION VIDEO

Instructor Geoffrey Smith
 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 October 16 & 17
 (Friday and Saturday)
 There will be a 30-minute lunch break each day (bring your own paper bag lunch)
 Cost: Members \$50 Non-members \$70
 Ages 12 & up Class size limit - 24



Upcoming Artist Exhibits

Christen Walden -
 Woodland Hymn
 August 31 - Oct. 31, 2015
 Exhibit Woodland Hymn by watercolor artist Christen Walden. Christen brings out the finer details of nature's still life through her meticulous watercolor paintings and graphite pencil drawings.



The Art of Dylan Cavin
 Nov. 3, 2015 - Jan. 6, 2016
 Artist Reception TBA
 The art of Dylan Cavin is grabbing the attention of Oklahoma galleries and museums. Already with a long list of awards, Dylan Cavin keeps the momentum going. Using authentic ledgers, bank notes and other historical items, he transforms them into works of art.



NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

Thank you to everyone (more than 900 of you!) who came out for the annual National Day of the Cowboy celebration where we honored the legacy of the Singing Cowboy! It was a day of music - thanks to the Cowboys at Heart band, games, and Minnie Pearl's "How-dee!" greetings. Glenda Carlile, children's author, even remarked how much fun she had meeting so many people. Mark July 23, 2016, on your calendar!



Fans of cowboy ballads and country music listen to Allen Wooten and the Cowboys at Heart perform. These photos and more can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail



Kids create at the art station, thanks to Oklahoma Arts Council funding!



Above, cowboy and CTHC board member, Mike Smith visits with a future cowgirl.



Barbara Davis and Camelia Foster gave visitors an AdventureRoad music CD in the afternoon!



A little buckaroo tries his best to "stack the hay bales" with Red Solo cups!



Smiling faces represented the Chisholm Trail Stampedo PRCA Rodeo, helping guests in the theaters.



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