

Two Views of Lewis and Clark From Native American Eyes

Opening Thurs. Dec. 2: Works from Lillian Pitt and John Potter Illustrate Native American Perspective

A new pin designed by noted Native American artist Lillian Pitt especially for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial celebration highlights the December show at Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery.



Lillian Pitt

Also featured is the work of Ojibwa artist John Potter, whose wry observations about the Corps of Discovery are captured in a series of four oil paintings including a Charles Russell-esque scene "The Shoshone Discover Lewis & Clark", showing warriors on horseback gazing down into a valley where the adventurers are trudging along on foot.

Lillian Pitt's brother Louie Pitt Jr. is on the board of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon, and Executive Director Barbara Allen is thrilled to have an example of Lillian's work to promote the celebration.

"The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial has many tribal partners but Lillian's image is the first time Native American art has been included in a show," says Allen. "It sends a clear message that this is a tribal story."

Pitt's pin is entitled "Warm Spring Stick Indian" and is available in both copper (\$14.95) and pewter (\$11.95). Stick Indians are a Columbia River Plateau tribal tradition. Known as "Little People" or "Unknown People" in the Ichishkiin language, they are always present and live on high ground from which they look down on the tribe and protect it.

Lillian Pitt is known for translating petroglyphs—rock paintings—into other mediums. The Columbia River figure "She Who Watches" is a familiar character in her work. She works in bronze, copper, feathers and precious metals, and is adept at firing clay in anagama and raku techniques. Pitt will also show bronze and ceramic masks, bronze statues and mixed media sculptures.

Pitt has been awarded numerous public art commissions—most recently for stations along the new light rail line running north to the Columbia River. She received the Governor's Award for the Arts in 1990.



John Potter

Potter's paintings offer another view of the Corps of Discovery expedition, which he explains tongue-in-cheek:

"Imagine hungry guests coming to your house. You feed them, give them a place to sleep, and when they leave they take your furniture, interesting items they see around your home and ask if they can borrow your car."

Both artists will be on hand at the show's opening celebration from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Thursday December 2.



"Ancestral Spirit"
Clay mask by Lillian Pitt.
10"L x 10"W x 2"



Warm Spring Stick Indian



"Shoshone Discover Lewis & Clark"
Oil painting by John Potter. 28" by 22"

Bonnie Kahn says Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery is significant as the beginning of tremendous cultural change.

"There were tremendous repercussions on the environment, many of which continue to this day. As we look back 200 years in our nation's history, we celebrate our discoveries, mourn those who have passed before us, and remember lessons of our ancestors. The season of giving is also a time for reflection. We realize that our past helps us to define our future."

The pewter version of the pin is \$11.95, and a copper version is \$14.95. The pins are available to the public for purchase in Portland at the *Oregon Historical Society* and at *Made in Oregon* stores, or can be ordered online at www.lewisandclarktrail.com and www.whateverendeavor.com. Other locations to purchase the pin along the Lewis & Clark Historic Trail can be found at www.lcbo.net.

Design and production of the pin is sponsored by Tuality Healthcare, a non-profit community hospital serving Washington County. All proceeds from the sale of the pin will benefit the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon (LCBO). LCBO is a nonprofit organization dedicated to coordinating Oregon's commemoration of the Corps of Discovery's journey through Oregon two hundred years ago.

For more information about The Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon contact Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in Oregon Executive Director Barbara Allen, P.O. Box 10004, Portland, Oregon 97296, or call 503-768-7444.

For more information about the show contact:

Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery, 1524 NW 23rd Avenue, Portland, 97210, (503) 293-9414; www.bonniekahngallery.com. **Opening night Thursday, December 2, 5 pm—9 pm.**

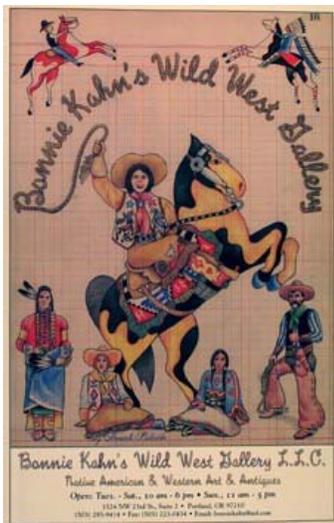
Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery: 1524 NW 23rd St., Portland Oregon, 97210.

Regular hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 am—6 pm; Sun. 11 am—5 pm

About Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery

This Gallery is considered one of the cultural trustees of the American West. Working with contemporary Native American artists across the western US, the Gallery presents unique wood and stone carvings, beadwork, hand crafted silver jewelry, rare basketry, and antique photographs and paintings of the West. While the Gallery specializes in collectible art, it also has a wide selection of affordable art and jewelry. Bonnie's goals are to preserve cultural artifacts, increase opportunities for native American artists, and to host a comfortable venue for the public to discover, enjoy, and acquire, art created by Native Americans.

Bonnie Kahn has over twenty years of hands-on experience working with Native American art. A former teacher on the Makah Indian Reservation, Kahn has been building private and corporate collections of Native American and western art throughout the United States and abroad. Producer and co-producer of documentaries on Native Art, author, lecturer, and former curator of the Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Pamplin Jr. collection of Western and Native American art, Kahn brings a vast amount of knowledge to the Portland art market.



Frank Salcido's affectionate tribute to Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery. 11" x 17" poster, \$15 signed, \$10 unsigned