

# ARTISTIC PORTLAND GALLERY

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021 EDITION



### An Interview with Jennifer Foran

David Friedman from Artistic Portland Gallery:  
**Our October guest artist at the Artistic Portland Gallery is Jennifer Foran. Jennifer, can you tell me a bit about the work you are exhibiting this month?**

Jennifer:

Yeah, the work is a collection of trees that I worked on. A lot of them are inspired by Mount Tabor Park for this particular show. One of my favorite things to do (and you'll see it in this show) is to work with the trunks of the trees, I often work from that angle, I will include the tops of the trees as well, from time to time, but for this particular show, we're going to get a cropping of the trunks. And it kind of allows you to feel like you're more within the forests.

David:

**I know that your work is quite unique, how would you describe your medium?**

Jennifer:

I work with wood panels, and I do wood burning. I like to work with water based wood stain of various colors, so that I can really capture the grain. One thing that's really important with for me with my art is to not cover up the wood to go into it with the intention of making sure I'm incorporating the natural elements of the wood, the knots and the grain.

David:

**How did you get started with this particular media.**

Jennifer

Ironically, I started doing it when I first moved to Portland, and I was looking for a job, I found myself living near Mount Tabor Park. This was in 1999. I spent a lot of time there



*Another Way 36" x 48" x 2" wood panel with wood burned detail, stain & acrylic paint*

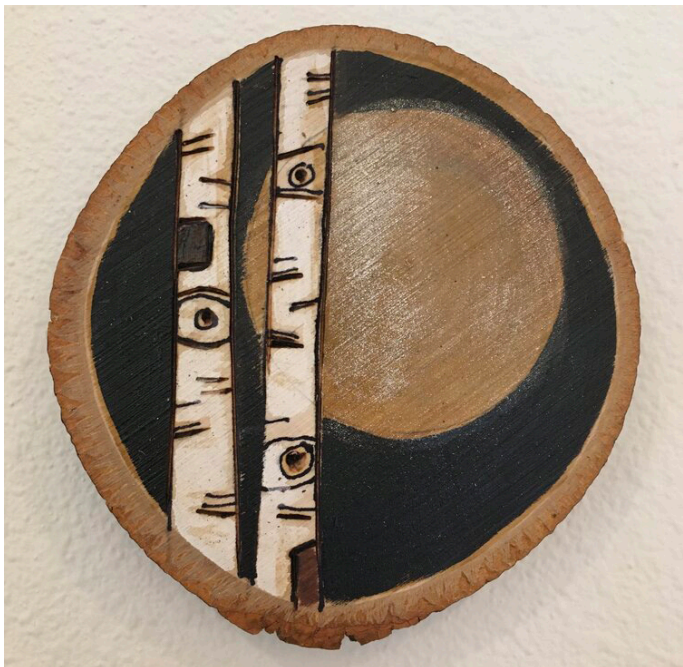
looking for work and wondering why I was in Portland. It was such a magical, inspiring place and I had had a background with painting and drawing. I started to paint trees but I would use old cabinet doors and take off all the layers of paint and then cover the cabinet door back up with paint. And it wasn't until I started working on raw wood that I decided to just really add the wood grain into the tree and at that same time my mom had cleaned out our attic and sent me a wood burning tool which is another important piece my work; I like to incorporate some wood burning. But I use it mostly for contour line, I don't use the wood burning tool in the traditional sense.

David:

**Are you still using that same tool?**

Jennifer:

I did upgrade to a woodcrafters woodburning tool and I usually tend to use the same tip. I don't really use a lot of the shading tips. So I always say I've literally just scratched the surface when it comes to the techniques of wood burning.



David:  
**How did you come to being an artist?**

Jennifer:  
I went to school at Penn State and got a bachelor of science and art education. I got a job at a small nonprofit gallery in Claremont, California, for adults with disabilities. I became the gallery assistant there. I was glad to find Claremont because I was living more near Redlands at the time and tried finding work and was really fortunate to end up there. Claremont is like a diamond in the rough. I was just in survival mode there and it turned out that Southern California wasn't in my favorite place to be. I was only there for eight months, but it was still it was a good experience just to see so many different things there.

David:  
**So after that job, what happened?**

Jennifer:  
Then I moved to Portland on a whim and without a job. Then finally, after several temp jobs, I ended up getting a position as an art teacher in the northwest. That led me to going back to school at Portland State where I became certified to teach in public schools. I ended up teaching in Ridgefield, Washington for about six or seven years. But, all along that time, I would work on my art as well. Then, after having kids I decided that it was easier to to be at home and continue working on my art from home. I've tried teaching Middle School since then, but it's like your hair could be on fire and nobody would put it out. So, I decided I'm just gonna stick with the art.

David:  
**I like that your work is so unique, unique shapes...they don't require framing generally, so they live in a space somewhere between painting and sculpture.**

Jennifer:  
Yeah, I'll have some pieces in the show that are called seedlings, that are smaller, easily affordable pieces but now I've started this Moon Painting series, which is still on wood. Those were inspired by a show for the Chinese Garden gallery in Old Town. But since then, I've continued to take them further. These Moon paintings try to teach people to look up and look down and to look all around. I like to tie the seasons into them as well, because I feel like it's important to pay attention to the changes of each season and consider time. Those are important themes that go in and out of my work. Yet I have to remind myself of those things a lot in the present moment.

David:  
**Do you have any big goals with your artwork this year?**

Jennifer: I'd like to continue to have my works in different places in Portland, but I kind of want to

spread out a little bit more too, especially now, as things are shifting a little bit, just trying to get some things in other places outside of Oregon and just kind of want to spread my message and spread my work. I'm not really sure what that looks like, yet.

David:

**What would you say your message is?**

Jennifer:

I say this in my artist statement, to remember that everything is connected in some way. So, I think that it's important for us to not ignore things that are happening around us whether they're good, or not so great. You can't think it's not gonna affect us or impact us at some point. We need to be aware.

David:

**And you are having a meet and greet at Artistic Portland Gallery this Saturday, October 2nd from 1 pm to 3 pm. 4110 NE Fremont, in the Beaumont-Wilshire neighborhood.**

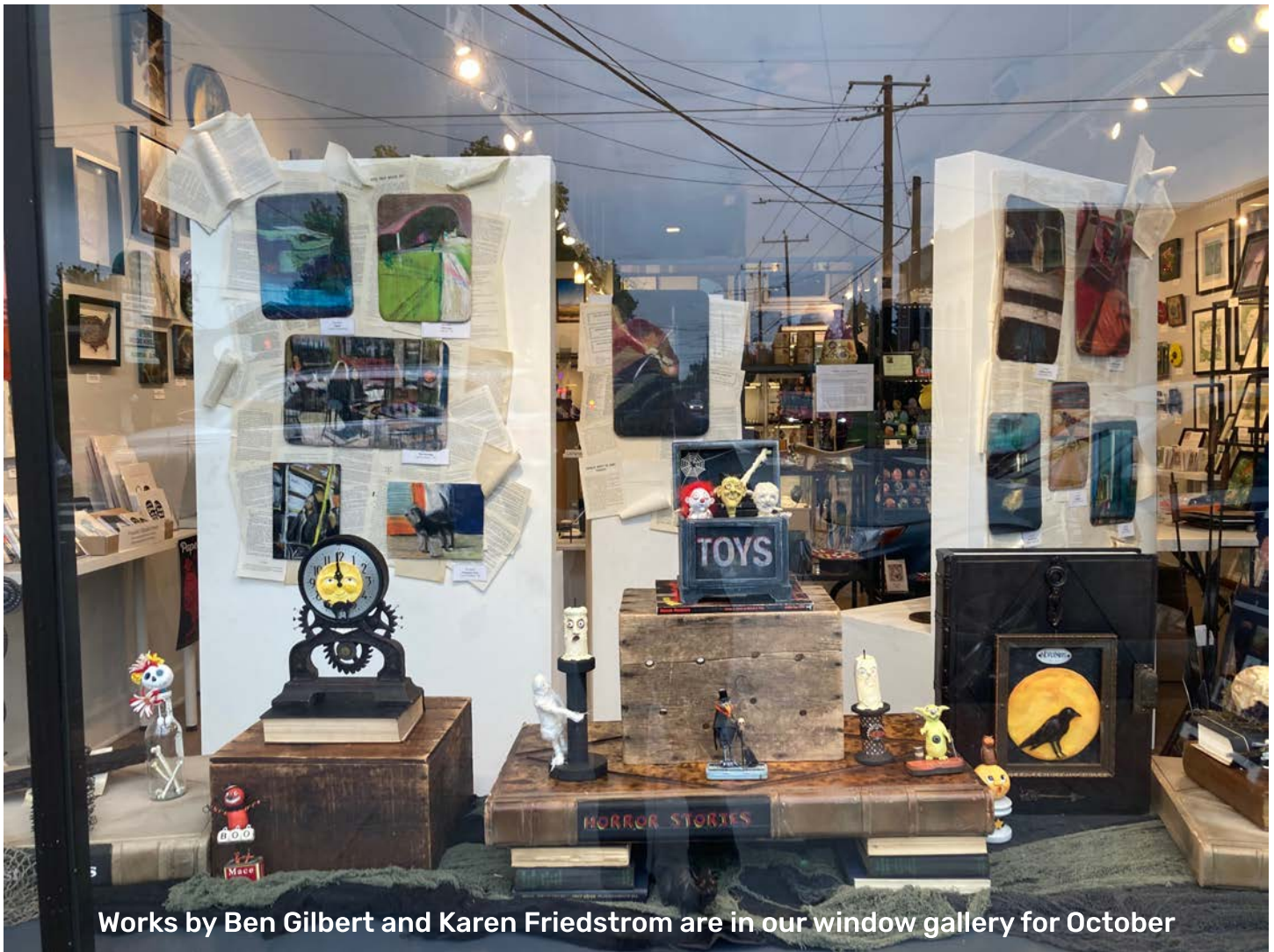
Jennifer:

I look forward to that. It's such a beautiful space. And it's nice to see Artistic Portland in that space. When that space was empty for a while...(I passed by often, as I live in the neighborhood)...I was thinking it would make a perfect gallery. Then one day I drove by, and I'm like, Oh, perfect. So yeah, thank you so much.

# **Our October Guest Artist: Jennifer Foran**

**Meet & Greet Jennifer on  
Saturday, October 2nd, 2021  
from 1 pm until 3 pm**

**Artistic Portland Gallery  
4110 NE Fremont, Portland, OR 97212**



Works by Ben Gilbert and Karen Friedstrom are in our window gallery for October

## **Special One Year Anniversary Event October 16th 10am-6pm**

Come on in and celebrate our 1st Anniversary of our opening on NE Fremont. Come on in and see all of our new work and participate in our in-store scavenger hunt. Prizes for all who participate. There will also be art demonstrations out front, if the weather is nice.

# Happy Halloween

from Artistic Portland Gallery



Now available...felted pumpkins by Jennifer Cook-Chrysos

## Introducing Our Newest Jewelry Artist

# Anne Johnson



**My aspiration is to create beautiful enameled jewelry and creative wall art. I absolutely love the vibrant colors of enamel on metal, and like that transparent enamels let the beautiful metal shine through!**

**In my art, I often incorporate the fold forming technique of metalsmithing to**

**create impressions of what we see in nature, the curve of seashell or the petals and leaves of a flower. It is amazing that heat and pressure allow me to transform a flat piece of metal into a ruffled edge or curvy moon pendant.**

**Powdered enamel glass is adhered to metal and fired to about 1450 degrees in the kiln! As the layers of enamel are added and fired, slight variations occur, each piece is totally unique!**

**As a mom of two active boys I spent years as a volunteer teaching Art Literacy in the elementary schools and have enjoyed sharing different art mediums and techniques with the students!**

**I am a member of the Portland Creative Metal Arts Guild (CMAG), and serve as CMAG Secretary.**

**For the latest images, follow me on social media!**

**[www.instagram.com/ajenamels](http://www.instagram.com/ajenamels)**

**[www.facebook.com/ajenamels](http://www.facebook.com/ajenamels)**





Local Artist Co-op

**Open everyday from  
10 am - 6pm**

**4110 NE Fremont Street  
Portland, Oregon  
in the always delightful  
Beaumont-Wilshire  
Neighborhood**

**[artisticportlandgallery.com](http://artisticportlandgallery.com)**

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