

Linda Melerjurgan, Editor

COAST LIFE

Annie O'Mohondro and her salmon Catching fish with ink and paper

North Bend: Library gallery houses artistic paper aquarium of fish and water critters.

PORT ORFORD — Gytaku — it looks and sounds so much more delightful than pushing a fish against a piece of handmade paper in order to record the catch.

It's a Japanese art technique practiced by Annie O'Mohondro. See the results of her work at the North Bend Library throughout May.

A gallery owner from Port Orford, she captures salmon, crab, turtles — and the fish — on her own handmade papers.

"I'm so inspired by the character of the pulps and fibers. Each paper is a one-of-a-kind work of art in itself, before I even begin printing.

The salmon pictured nearby are done on banana Thai paper.

The Gytaku method was popular in Japan in the 1800s.

Unlike Annie's picture with her wisner steelhead on the Sixes River, taken with a camera, the technique involved placing a freshly caught fish directly onto paper.

After recording their catch this way, the printmaker would release the fish back into the ocean or river.

O'Mohondro has worked with Clatsop and steelhead from the Elk and Sixes rivers, but she also used Dungeness crab, black snapper, jack salmon, shrimp and turtles.

"It's a wonderful to immortalize these beautiful spirits of our waters."

The salmon nearby are also part of her "totemic" art — she describes it as recreations that evoke memories of the Pacific Northwest coast.

The method applies color to a surface by placing pigments in a wax vehicle that has been heated to a liquid state. The ground pigment fused in wax is applied to the paper after she burnishes or uses a wood-burning tool to make images on the papers.

O'Mohondro loves to delve into Northwest history and is especially interested in Native American traditions.

She has created her totemic im-

ages in wood — salmon, bison, elk and eagles — using wood burning tools, mixtures of pigments and Danish oils. She favors maple burl.

For her papers, the artist selects a number of exotic fibers ranging from silk and bamboo to banana, bark, mulberry and even lamurud.

The fibers are pressed and dried. When the papers serve as the surface for her oil and pigment technique, the fish or other critters seem to float above the textured surfaces much as they do in streams and rivers.

O'Mohondro has studied early art from the neolithic caves of Europe, to the Roman Empire, as well as the earliest of Northwest images.

The artist says she strives to keep alive the primitive and myth-making nature of these early artists.

When working with animal totems, she says, "I try to imagine their essence. Who were they? By what magic did the life force seek expression through their form? How can I recreate that magic?"

She was born in Spokane, Wash., and brings a regional viewpoint to her art.

Her foster brother, Arnie, a Makah Indian, lived with her family through her childhood.

She also spent time studying with an elder of the Clatsop Tribe in Oregon learning the myths of many Northwest tribes.

She began her artistic training early with private lessons in a range of media and has traveled extensively in Europe, as well as North and South America.

She works at her studio-gallery, the Langlois Louvre, on Highway 101 in Langlois. Call (541) 348-2406.

Her works are on display at The Real Mother Goose Gallery (Portland), Bay of Spirits (Toronto), and Serendipity Galleries (Washington state).

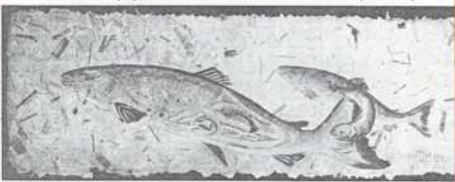
Her works can also be found at galleries in Redwood, Bandon, Port Orford and Gold Beach.

The works will be displayed free, in the gallery, during regular library hours.

Editor's note: North Bend Assistant Librarian Gary Sharp provided information about the display.



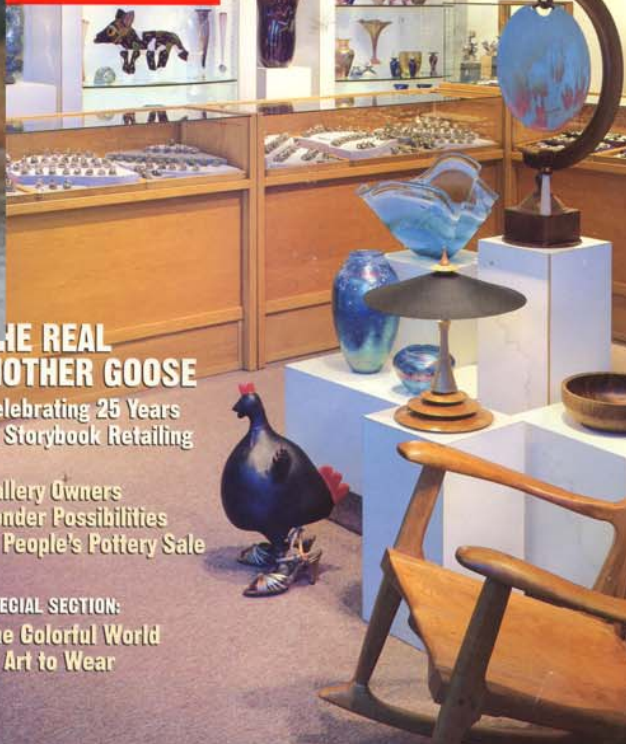
Annie O'Mohondro displays steelhead from the Sixes River used to inspire her Gytaku art.



WHERE TO SEE GYOTAKU

- Check out the artwork in detail:
- **What:** Fish captured in pigments and oils on handmade papers by Annie O'Mohondro.
- **Where:** At the North Bend Library, 1809 Sherman Ave. Call 759-6400 for details.
- **When:** Library hours: Monday-Wednesday, 11-9; Thursday-Saturday 11-5:30; 1-5 Sundays.
- **To find out more:** Talk to Gary Sharp, assistant librarian, or visit the Langlois Louvre Gallery.

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Coquille River runs through Bandon on the Oregon Coast. This Big Hen (moma) was about a 4 years old. We know that by reading scale samples much like a tree ring to determine the age. The counter part to the H.ens are the Bucks

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WEDNESDAY
April 16, 1997
Bandon, Ore.
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O'Mohondro art on display in NB
Annie O'Mohondro creates exquisite images of salmon, crabs, and turtles on handmade paper. Her art will be exhibited at the North Bend Public Library from May 1-31.
"Most of my work is on handmade papers," O'Mohondro says. "I'm so inspired by the character of the pulps and fibers. Each paper is a one-of-a-kind work of art in itself, before I even begin printing."
She often uses the Gytaku method, a popular printmaking process developed by the Japanese in the 1800s. Gytaku was developed before the invention of the camera, and involves placing a freshly caught fish directly onto paper. The Japanese printed fish to record their catch, releasing them back to the river or ocean after making impressions.
O'Mohondro creates art at her working studio and gallery, the Langlois Louvre, in Langlois. Her works are sold in galleries in Oregon (including Portland's The Real Mother Goose) and Washington, and in Toronto, Canada.
This exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.