

Art Matters



Space travel, #dearMoon project, Anthropocene-era art

By Janet Sellers

Billionaire Yusaku Maezawa conceived a lunar tourism project to bring artists into space. His concept is that artists have the most powerful imaginations to share their experiences in space by bringing back that mystery and wonder to Earth. The entry deadline was earlier this year for artists to apply and send him images and support why they would like to do lunar tourism and be the first artists and lunar tourists in history. Maezawa plans to fly in 2023, bringing artists with him, commissioning them to turn the experience into a project called #dearMoon. It will be the first lunar journey since the final U.S. Apollo mission in 1972.

Holocene vs Anthropocene era: Hands-on or machine on?

Holocene is the name given to the past 11,700 years of the Earth's history, the time since the end of the last major glacial epoch, or ice age. Since then, there have been small-scale climate shifts—notably the Little Ice Age between about 1200 and 1700 A.D.—but in general, the Holocene has been a relatively warm period between ice ages. In the American West, we have rock formations and petroglyphs and pictographs from 40,000 years ago—much before

that time.

In contrast, our current creative visual expression may pale by comparison, but we're also beginning a new art era with the Anthropocene era, named for the human-induced effects on our planet, some harmful, some just interesting. It's named anthropogenic because we humans are generating effects on the planet, an era that humans are looking to dominate the planet and even leave it, and it's a growing culture that includes art.

We're smack in the middle of computer-generated art with alternate reality as well as augmented reality and artificial intelligence for creating things and our culture. The new field of augmented reality and composite imagery has been receiving the usual and customary resistance by some, and the usual and customary acceptance by others who want to be on the edge of new things and new ideas and new representations of ideas such as photo-realistic composites, created using photography and computer editing tools that add in elements of fantasy.

Local art events for July

- Palmer Lake Art Group show at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts runs through Aug. 13; opening



Above: Monument's June 17 Art Hop showcased Bonnie Anthony's abstract paintings at Bella Art and Frame Gallery. Her specialty for the soft, warm sheen to her painting surfaces includes a complex buffing technique. Photo by Janet Sellers.

- reception is 6-8 p.m. July 16, 304 Hwy 105, Palmer Lake.
 - Monument Art Hop in Historic Downtown Monument, July 15, 5-8 p.m.; just drive west on Second Street in Monument and follow the banners.
- Janet Sellers is an artist, photographer and creative imagineer. Contact her at janetsellers@ocn.me

Snapshots of Our Community

Lions Club Fishing Derby, June 5



Above: On Saturday, June 5, the Tri-Lakes Lions Club restarted its annual kids fishing derby. Nearly 300 kids from 4 to 14 years old signed up to catch fish in Palmer Lake and enter their catches into the contest for largest fish. According to the area manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife, over 500 adults participated



by helping the young people rig fishing rods and bait their hooks. The lake had been stocked with trout three times this year before the derby because many fish did not survive the recent drought and low lake levels. The Lions Club provided rods free for those who did not bring their own. Bass Pro Shop was also on hand with several kayaks for anyone who wanted to test their paddling skill. Club members and other volunteers helped with measuring fish and registration. Photo by Steve Pate.

DAR plants perennials, June 8



Above: On June 8, members of the Kinnikinnik Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution planted flowers in boxes at Pine Meadows in Fox Run Regional Park. Perennials were planted and the area was inspected and cleaned. The DAR community service project for the park will continue with monthly inspections and cleaning as weather permits. Photo provided by Pat Hardin Borah.

Black Forest Fire Remembered

By Natalie Barszcz

The Black Forest Fire started on June 11, 2013 and burned 14,280 acres, destroyed 511 homes, and killed two people. On June 11, the eighth anniversary of the fire, residents gathered to remember what happened.

After the pledge of allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 70 and the retiring of the colors, a memorial tribute was held for Ruth Ann Steele, the founder of El Paso County's Slash and Mulch site. Steele's vision for the program that began in the early 1990s was a solution to aid mitigation efforts, but despite the devastating loss during the Black Forest Fire in 2013, there is still ample fuel for another fire to happen again.

Restored youth artwork pictorially depicting the many effects of the fire and spelling the message: RESTORE—RECOVER—REBUILD was unveiled during the event by some of the original artists. The uilleann bag-

pipe/violin duo Blackthorn provided music between programs while about 70 attendees gathered information on property mitigation and emergency preparation.

Lt. Brandon Jones of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District recommended residents create defensible space around their homes to help firefighters protect their property in the event of a fire.

For information on property mitigation, visit: www.bffire.org, blackforesttogether.org, and bflash.org or see notices on page 28.

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Above: Lt. Brandon Jones of the Black Forest Fire/Rescue Protection District spoke to residents at the eighth Black Forest Remembers event at the Log School Park/Black Forest Community Center on June 11. Photo by Natalie Barszcz.

