

Art Mobile Brings Unusual Pieces

Story & photos by
Betty Vanderwielen
Pathfinder

Art Mobile Montana (AMM) instructor Jo Nasvik set up portable art galleries at Seeley-Swan High School, Seeley Lake Elementary and Swan Valley School (SVS) May 4-6. Art pieces were created exclusively by Montana artists and represented a wide variety of media, styles and techniques.

Nasvik discussed several of the art pieces with the various student groups, letting their interest guide her selections and comments. She said in almost every one of the fifty schools she has been to this year, the two pieces which fascinated the kids most were Stephen Glueckert's mechanical art piece "Rock, Paper, Scissors" and her own performance art trash dress.

Glueckert is curator of the Missoula Art Museum as well as an artist in his own right. The art piece he loaned to AMM for the 2014-15 season consisted of three roughly carved wooden hands hooked to a wiring system. In imitation of

the popular children's game for deciding who wins something or who goes first, each hand was carved to resemble one of the positions in rock-paper-scissors – either a closed fist (rock), an open hand (paper) or a closed fist with index and middle fingers extended (scissors). A wire crank at the bottom of the structure caused the wooden hands to move. When the turning stopped, the

hand that was down signified the machine's selection. Students at all grade levels enjoyed the novelty of being able to play with (and against) an art piece.

The trash dress was Nasvik's way of visualizing how much she actually consumed in a month and how much of it she threw away. She also wanted to explore the question of how her buying habits would change if everyone could see exactly what she consumed.

Nasvik explained her process to the students. First she searched thrift shops for a plain white wedding dress with a long train. Then each day, instead of throwing away the wrappers or beverage containers or tickets of whatever she had consumed that day, she sewed the items on her dress instead. She continued doing that for the entire month of February (2012). And every day during that month she wore the dress wherever she went.

Nasvik created a companion book with photos of the dress in progress – pictures of her wearing the dress in the grocery store, of her walking her dog (who wore his own packaging trash), pictures of two friends holding her train when it became too heavy to drag along. In the end, she was unable to keep up with all the debris, though she spent long hours sewing.

The last page of her book reads: "The dress is heavy on my body and heavy on my mind. I can no longer carry the weight of my consumption. It's just too much."

In addition to discussing a number of other art works in the portable AMM exhibit, Nasvik also led the students in art projects. Under her guidance, the younger children created scrap-collage colored paper hats. The fourth through sixth graders at SVS did printmaking and the junior high students did a project using recyclable materials.



The trash dress Jo Nasvik created and wore in February of 2012.



Surrounded by eager youngsters, Jo Nasvik demonstrates the steps for crafting paper hats.



CITIZENS
ALLIANCE BANK

Customer Driven. Community Focused.®



Start your weekend off right with TGIF at Citizens Alliance Bank in Seeley Lake!

Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres & libations!
Meet Kenny Martin, Citizens Alliance Bank new Montana Marketing Manager and celebrate the onset of spring with your neighbors.

Everyone is welcome!
Friday, May 15th
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Member FDIC www.citizensalliancebank.com 



Nasvik discusses the painting "Reservation Wise-Man" with a group of students.



Freshmen Tyson Davis, Keaton Johnson and Cameron Haines play rock-paper-scissors with Glueckert's machine art piece.