

PRESS RELEASE

Kathryn Cotnoir, Erik Sandgren and Dee Vadnais will be showing work at the Lower Columbia College Rose Center for the Arts Gallery, November 13 thru December 8.

The title of the show is **VOYAGES TO HAIDA GWAIL**. The opening reception will be on Tuesday November 12th, 4 pm to 6 pm. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND, meet the artists and hear them give a short gallery talk at 4:30.

The three painters travelled together on Dee's family boat, the SV Blue Pteron, a 43' sailboat, skippered by Dee's husband, Paul Seamons. The two couples made several journeys together which resulted in a large body of work consisting of hundreds of original on-site paintings as well as subsequent work done by each artist. The upcoming exhibit is made up of a selection of paintings, drawings and prints.

The focus of the work in **VOYAGES TO HAIDA GWAIL** is the landscapes of the northwest, British Columbia and SE Alaskan coastal sites. Particular attention was given to the exploration and depiction of First Nation's village sites, totems, and significant artifacts. Two of these trips were spent visiting, learning about and creating paintings in the Gwaii Hanaas National Park Reserve, which contains the United Nation's World Heritage site of Skangwaii. The remaining totem poles and house sites still visible there are the central themes of this show.

Many locations were accessible by water only. The two couples spent many days and weeks at anchor off significant sites, exploring the shores and beaches by dingy and with hikes through the old growth. Three of these trips were made in 2005, 2010 and 2011. Another journey occurred this summer, from Port Townsend to Ketchikan, Prince of Wales Island, Baranoff Island and Sitka, Alaska.

Kathryn Cotnoir and Erik Sandgren are residents of Aberdeen WA. Erik is a professor of art at Greys Harbor College, and a well-known painter, printmaker, muralist and workshop leader in Oregon and Washington. Both artists have work at the Portland Rental Sales Gallery and have shown in galleries throughout the northwest.

Dee, a resident of Deer Island, has most recently shown her work at the University of Portland, in the *Native American Influences: Northwest* exhibit at the Buckley Center Gallery. She has also shown in many juried and invitational exhibits, including a two person show at the Cannon Beach Gallery.