RCC hosts two new art exhibits

March 30, 2011

GRANTS PASS — Two new exhibits are set to open at the Rogue Community College art galleries.

The FireHouse Gallery, 214 SW Fourth St., will host “Modern Nostalgia” by Oregon artist Leslie Peterson, March 30 through April 29. A First Friday Art Night reception is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. April 1.

The exhibit features a series of narrative paintings inspired from vintage snapshots that explore concepts of relationships, gender roles, the lives of children and how people work and play. Peterson’s style is rooted in American Regionalism, American Realism, and Modernist movements.

Born and raised in Portland, Peterson first became intrigued by vintage photographs when she was 20 and saw her stepfather’s childhood snapshots for the first time. She attended Parsons School of Design, City University of New York, and The Art Students’ League. She graduated with honors with a BFA in 1991. She returned to Portland, and has since devoted her time to painting, volunteerism, travel, love and adventure.

At the Wiseman Gallery on the RCC Redwood Campus, a collection of photographs by Pam Brekas will be shown April 13 through May 11. Titled “Just Rust… the Ultimate Pallet,” the exhibit is a series of close-up photographs full of unique color combinations and abstract images that explore the textures, colors, and details that can be found in rust.

Since retiring from teaching high school art in California, Brekas has immersed herself in art and photography. She transfers her abstract painting style to her photography, taking countless images of textures, patina, details of buildings, classic cars and motorcycles.

Her photos have been juried in seven international shows and have won awards at the Nevada State Fair, the Carson Valley Photo Club and other venues. She has been awarded Nevada Arts Council jackpot grants, and Sierra Arts Fellowships. Her work can be seen at Brewery Arts Center Gallery in Carson City, and East Fork Gallery in Gardnerville.

She has had solo shows at the Copeland Cultural Arts Center in Minden, Nevada, the Carson Nugget Casino in Carson City, Nevada, St. Mary’s Art Center in Virginia City, Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko and the Merced Multicultural Art Center in Merced, Calif.

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