

Press Release

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THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



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A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English

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The OE History Night at the Edgefield in March

The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE) continues its monthly series of History Nights at McMenamins pubs with programs at the Power Station Theater at the Edgefield. At each History Night, The OE will look back at the people and events that have shaped our communities. Visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org for History Night locations and more details.

“The Masterpieces at our Doorstep: Columbia River Native American Art History”

Presented by Rebecca Dobkins

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

6:30 p.m.

McMenamins Edgefield Power Station Theater, 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale

Free and open to the public

Did you know that the Columbia River region is home to one of the world’s most extraordinary art histories? In this presentation, curator and anthropologist Rebecca Dobkins will offer an overview of the media and iconography traditional to the region for centuries, as well as discuss contemporary work by Native American artists that reinterprets this rich art history. The walls of the Columbia River Gorge themselves form a gallery, filled with carved images (petroglyphs) such as She Who Watches and painted images (pictographs). Functional and figurative sculptures in stone depict animal, bird, and spirit beings. Klickitat-style coiled baskets employ a rare imbrication technique and Wasco-Wishram woven baskets feature stylized human, condor, elk, and sturgeon figures. Contemporary artists of the Columbia Plateau, such as Lillian Pitt, Pat Courtney Gold, Joe Feddersen, James Lavadour, and many others employ this history in their work in both traditional and modern media, such as glass, painting, print, and metal.

Rebecca Dobkins is a professor of anthropology and curator of Native American art at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem. Her most recent projects include the exhibition *Marie Watt: Lodge*, appearing at the Hallie Ford Museum through April 1, 2012, and the reinstallation of the museum’s permanent collection, entitled *Ancestral Dialogues: Conversations in Native American Art*, funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is a board member of the Oregon Encyclopedia Project, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Folklife Network, and the Native American Art Studies Association.

The OE is an online resource for information on the state’s significant people, places, events, institutions, and biota. Over 1000 entries and essays have been published online and new entries are added every day. For more information visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org.

The OE is a partnership between Portland State University, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and the Oregon Historical Society. The OE has received support from a collaborative of the state’s five cultural partners—the Oregon Arts Council, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the State Historic Preservation Office—with funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon University System, Willamette University, and private donors have provided additional support.