



**White River Valley Museum
& Mary Olson Farm**
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For Immediate Release

12/8/2014

January 14, 2015 Auburn's White River Valley Museum Opens Of a Feather: Artists, Birds and the Northwest



Golden Eagle, by Seattle artist Tony Angell, 1/3 lithograph with hand painting

While the region's birds roost in the wintry outdoors, admirers can appreciate their beauty in an inspired indoor setting.

Auburn, WA - On January 14, as the Northwest's native eagles dive and feed on local salmon, the **White River Valley Museum** in Auburn opens their powerful art exhibit of works featuring and inspired by birds. *Of a Feather: Artists, Birds and the Northwest* will remain on display in the Museum's temporary exhibit gallery through June 7, 2015.

In this exhibit the **White River Valley Museum** presents seemingly disparate works of art which are tied together by a common subject matter--birds. The collection reveals artists inspired by place and nature, by birds as metaphors for the human experience and hope, and by more than a touch of the divine and mystical. The stunning and eclectic works come from generations of the Northwest's leading artists, including some of the most influential pioneer modernists active from the 1940s through the 1960s.

The exhibit is composed of 26 major pieces of art from 19 Northwest artists, working in a variety of media including stone sculpture, jewelry, sumi-e, printmaking, papier-mâché, oil, acrylic, wood, and

feathers. Highlights include: **Michael Spafford's** print series entitled *13 Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*, **Morris Grave's** oversized and ethereal *Black Swan* and **Bill Holm's** transformation mask, *Sea Eagle Changing to Sun*.

Works of art from an A-list of regional talent are featured, including pieces by **Tony Angell, Mary Ellen Bowers, Kenneth Callahan, Carl Chew, Patty Detzer, Morris Graves, Gaylen Hansen, Bill Holm, Helmi Juvonen, Nadine Kariya, Chris Maynard, Philip McCracken, Glenn Rudolph, Shaun Peterson, James Washington, Cynthia Toops, Hib Sabin, Elizabeth Sandvig** and **Michael Spafford**.

Local artist, scholar and guest curator **Kenneth Greg Watson** comments, "Northwest art lovers are coming to view Auburn's White River Valley Museum as a special place between Seattle and Tacoma where they can experience and enjoy art of the finest quality. *Of a Feather* will continue this Museum's reputation for innovative exhibits with world class art of a broad regional appeal."

Of a Feather is sponsored by 4Culture. All of the artwork is on loan from regional museums, galleries, artists and collectors. January 14 – June 7, 2015 is the only time to see this collection together in the White River Valley Museum's intimate setting. Photos of artwork in the exhibit are available for download on the Museum's website.

Upcoming Program:

Nature Photography Workshop

Saturday, April 18

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Learn the basics of taking great nature shots with instructor Cary Davidson. This workshop will have a classroom component at the Museum as well as a field study at the Mary Olson Farm!

Students must be 13 years of age or older and have transportation.

\$50 per person, registration required.

About the White River Valley Museum

The White River Valley Museum creates an exciting and educational experience for visitors through a series of award-winning exhibits and programs on regional cultures, arts and history. The Museum's artifact collections focus on Puget Sound history, Northwest Native culture, Japanese immigration and the Northern Pacific Railway.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. On the first Thursday of each month the hours are extended from 6 to 8 p.m. It is located at 918 H St. S.E. in Auburn. Regular admission is \$5 adults, \$2 seniors and children, children 2 years of age or younger are always free. Admission is free for everyone all day on the first Thursday and the third Sunday of every month. Call 253-288-7433 or visit www.wrvmuseum.org for event information.

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