



ARTS

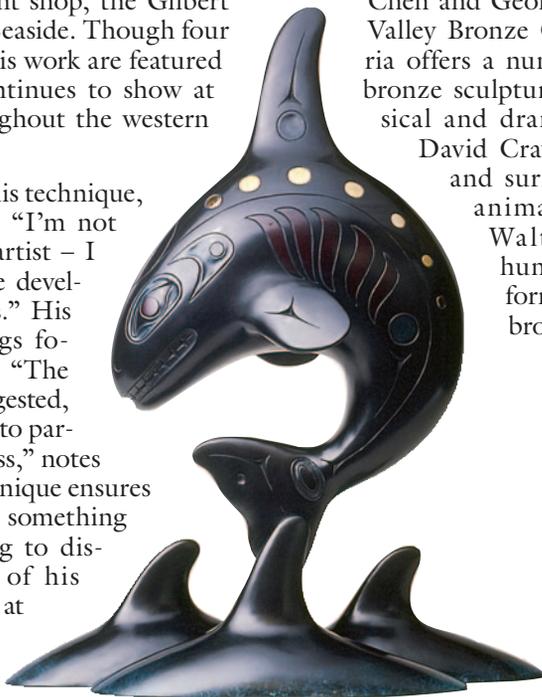
Where The Wild Things Are

By Cyndi Mudge

The richly defined ecosystem of the coast offers inspiration to many artists as they strive to capture Mother Nature's finest work. Bald eagles, blue herons, elk, salmon, owls, sea lions, otters and a plethora of waterfowl offer a rich variety of wildlife to observe and preserve as artistic expressions.

Among the coast's most well known artists is Seaside resident Dave Bartholet, who has gained a national following for his richly detailed paintings of western wildlife. Growing up in Wyoming, Bartholet was attracted to observing wildlife at an early age. By 1982 he was on the road exhibiting at many juried art shows. His inspiration mostly comes from his travels, but the variety of wildlife here on the coast is often featured in his paintings and his work is showcased in hundreds of galleries including the Midwest and California. Over the years Bartholet has owned four galleries, including his current shop, the Gilbert District Gallery in Seaside. Though four hundred pieces of his work are featured here, Bartholet continues to show at juried events throughout the western United States.

In talking about his technique, Bartholet explains, "I'm not a formally trained artist - I have a gift that I've developed over the years." His watercolor paintings focus on the subject. "The habitat is merely suggested, allowing the viewer to participate in the process," notes Bartholet. This technique ensures that there is always something new and interesting to discover about each of his works. Also featured at the Gilbert District Gallery is native



Oregonian and wildlife bronze artist Steven George Fair. Fair began his self-taught artwork carving shed antlers and horn in Alaska. He is recognized as a Master Carver and has won many awards for his bronze sculptures.

Other artists who hear the call of the wild can be found at Pacific City Gallery, which features an abundance of wildlife art. Two of their most popular artists are Carol Kalhagen, a local artist from nearby Hebo, and Eric Leonard, whose copper and driftwood salmon pieces are among their most popular works sold. Kalhagen creates large and dramatic oil paintings on canvas featuring elk, bear, deer and eagles.

If you're hunting for wildlife in bronze, there are a number of sculptors to choose from. The Bronze Coast Gallery in Cannon Beach features works by Deacon, Rosetta, and Jacques and Mary Regat. The Lawrence Gallery in Gleneden Beach features the bronze works of Dan Chen and Georgia Gerber, and Valley Bronze Gallery in Astoria offers a number of wildlife bronze sculptures, both whimsical and dramatic including David Crawford's textural and surreal figures and animals, wildlife by Walter Matia and human and animal forms by Rodd Ambrosion. ■



Above is "High Steppin," a limited edition watercolor by Dave Bartholet whose work is feature at the Gilbert District Gallery in Seaside. At left is "Shadow of the Copper Moon," a limited edition bronze by Jacques and Mary Regat at Bronze Coast Gallery in Cannon Beach.