

Native American sculpture dedication planned at COCC

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

The public is invited to meet Lillian Pitt, the sculptor of "She Who Watches" at a dedication ceremony from 5 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, on the Central Oregon Community College campus between Modoc and Metolius halls. Pitt will give a short talk about her sculpture and refreshments will be served.

Pitt's "She Who Watches" sculpture will be dedicated at COCC on June 6. Pitt has been exhibiting her contemporary sculpture, carvings, masks, glass, wearable art, and works on paper for more than 20 years. One of the indigenous people of the Columbia River Gorge, she is called by her Indian name, Wak'amu (Strongly Rooted), by elders of the Warm Springs/Wasco and Yakama tribes.

"She Who Watches," a recurring image in Pitt's work, is based on a Columbia River petroglyph that represents the last of the Woman Chiefs. "I use the ancient stories of my ancestors as a basis for the imagery I create. By doing this I maintain the memory of our 10,000-year history in the Columbia River Gorge and keep the beliefs of my people alive," she said.

Pitt received the Governor's Award of the Oregon Arts Commission in 1990 which declared that she had made "significant contributions to the growth and development of the cultural life of Oregon." Her art has been exhibited and reviewed in the U.S., Europe, New Zealand and Japan.

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