



HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

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MEDIA RELEASE
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LOCAL ARTIST'S LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS IN SOFT PASTEL ON VIEW AT HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM IN FEBRUARY

Pat Meras' Light and Shadow will be on view from February 2018 – April 2018



Gig Harbor, WA – Harbor History Museum is excited to announce that the work of local artist Pat Meras will be on view starting Friday, February 16, 2018. *Light and Shadow: Landscape Paintings in Soft Pastel* conveys an emotional and intuitive response to the mystery and serenity of the landscape in light and shadow. Meras paints from scenes of the Northwest and her travels. Photographs, field studies and memories inform her work in the studio. More drawn by the pattern of light and shadow created by the subject, than by the subject itself, these abstract shapes provide a prominent compositional element in Meras' work.

Harbor History Museum members are encouraged to join us on Friday, February 16th for a Member Preview of Pat Meras' *Light and Shadow* from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Enjoy fresh snacks and a cash bar while having the first look at our newest exhibit.

A Montana native, Meras received her BA in Applied Art from Montana State University, Bozeman which included studies abroad in Italy and the Netherlands. After working in charcoal, colored pencil, watercolor, oil pastel, collage and mixed media printmaking, Meras found pastel to be a wonderful link between drawing and painting. It has been her medium of choice for over 20 years.

While living on a lake near Gig Harbor, water, an ever-changing landscape with its dreamy nuances of light became a constant subject to explore. The pastel sticks allow for thick and thin lines, scumbling, deliberate studied strokes and bold gestural mark-making, fostering a passionate poetic language. Working intuitively, with only enough detail to produce the impression that inspired her, Meras hopefully compels the viewer to interpret her work from their own rich pool of memories, impressions and experiences, and in a little different way each time they encounter it. And, of course, it's all about the light.

Questions and inquires may be directed to Zachary Sokolik, Marketing & Events Coordinator at Harbor History Museum at marketing@harborhistorymuseum.org.

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Image credits:

Lopez Island Light (2018) by Pat Meras

About Harbor History Museum: Harbor History Museum creates opportunities to experience the heritage of the greater Gig Harbor communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing the rich history of the area. Our vision is to be the cornerstone that provides a gathering place and a sense of identity for our community. Founded in 1964, the Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society dba Harbor History Museum opened its new facility in 2010. The museum campus includes an 1893 fully restored one-room school house; a 65-foot fishing vessel currently under restoration; 7,000 square feet of exhibition space; and a 900-square foot library, research and meeting room. The Museum provides a variety of public education programs. Our core educational program is the Pioneer School Experience (PSE), which serves over 1,400 students every year. Led by a trained “School Marm,” the children experience a pioneer school classroom complete with lessons, recitations, music, recess, and lunch. Our permanent exhibit features professionally designed exhibitions, larger-than-life experiences, and opportunities for hands-on exploration of our region’s rich history and unique heritage. Artifacts, video kiosks, hands-on exhibits, computer interactives, and a small theater bring Peninsula history to life in our permanent galleries. In addition, the Museum provides 3-5 special exhibits throughout the year so there is always something new to see and experience for our members and visitors.

WINTER HOURS (Jan. – April) — Wednesdays–Fridays 10 am–5 pm, Saturdays 10 pm–4 pm.

SUMMER HOURS (May – Dec.) — Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 am–5 pm, Sundays 12 pm–4 pm.

ADMISSION – Complimentary Admission for all visitors courtesy of the City of Gig Harbor.

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