

The Artist's Eye: Selections from the Gary Westford Collection

MAY 4–AUGUST 10, 2024

Over the years, Salem artist and collector Gary Westford has donated numerous works of art to the permanent collection of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. These have included psychedelic posters from San Francisco as well as paintings, prints, sculptures, and photographs by Oregon artists Arthur Rundquist, Nelson Sandgren, Claudia Cave, and Sandra Loy (sloy), among others.

The Artist's Eye: Selections from the Gary Westford Collection opens May 4 and continues through August 10, 2024, in the Print Study Center. In addition to some of the works that Westford has already given, the exhibition will include a number of promised gifts, including works by Louis Bunce, Carl Hall, Gregory Grenon, and Carol Hausser.

The Artist's Eye: Selections from the Gary Westford Collection is supported with funds from the HFMA Exhibition Fund and Maribeth Collins Art Exhibition Fund; by advertising support from *The Oregonian/Here Is Oregon*; and by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.



Louis Bunce, *Cove #2*, 1947

Gary Westford: Lifeline (phases of the moon)

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Gary Westford, *The Raft (evening moon rising)*, 2018

Gary Westford (American, born 1947) is a Salem narrative painter and conceptual artist who explores environmental, social justice, and amendment rights issues in his work. Born in Oakland, California, he attended San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his BA and MA degrees, respectively. At Berkeley, he studied with figurative painters Joan Brown and Elmer Bischoff and was greatly influenced by the African American painter Robert Colescott. In the late 1970s, Westford moved to Oregon, where he began a long career as an arts educator at the Oregon State Prison in Salem and at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany.

Gary Westford: Lifeline (phases of the moon) opens May 4 and continues through August 10, 2024, in the Study Gallery. In this particular body of work, the moon plays a significant role as a compositional and metaphorical component of the narratives that Westford constructs; social and/or political events unfold under harvest, silver, blue, and full moons. In addition to the works on display, the exhibition is accompanied by a full-color brochure written by *Oregon Arts Watch* writer David Bates, and Westford will give a free illustrated lecture on June 20 and a free gallery talk on July 9 in conjunction with the exhibition. For further information, see the Calendar of Events.

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