

## From Wall Street to Fort Rock

### Spring spells the birth of four new regional art galleries

BY ERIK KANCLER

#### SHELLEY HALL GALLERY

Although the Shelley Hall Gallery sits in the heart of downtown Bend, it's easy to walk right by and not even know it's there.

"You have to want to find us," says Hall, the gallery's owner, referring to her second floor space next to the Tower Theatre. But the collection put together by Hall is easily worth the flight of stairs, with its eclectic mix of styles, artists, and a rooftop overlook of Drake Park and Mirror Pond below.

The artists currently featured run the gamut from promising young painters to lifelong artists, and from impressionist to abstract realism and beyond. What you won't find are the classically-styled landscapes familiar to all of us in Central Oregon, although Hall is showing the works of several local artists.

Hall, herself an art consultant, selects her pieces as much for their depth of character as anything else, she says. "I like pieces that continue to evolve the more you look at them," she explains, eyeing a Julie Brown Smith canvas that she's hung opposite her own desk that she says never seems to get old.

Hall is currently featuring the art of Helen and Alan Post, she, a well-regarded sculptor, and he, an influential painter, among roughly a dozen other



SHELLEY HALL IN HER NEWLY OPENED GALLERY

adorning places like the Mercury Diner, McMenamins, Pasta Manga, and the Tower Theatre, consist primarily of landscapes and abstracts, both of which he says reflect his upbringing in rural Wyoming and his many years as an outdoorsman and whitewater guide. And while his landscapes are more literal translations of the world around him, his vividly colored and complexly layered abstracts represent an opportunity to unwind, he says, and explore his own place within nature. "Nothing exists without an environment," says Kinker.

of the sloping forests, and utterly surrounded by the sage brush of Central Oregon's High Plains.

The town is home to a single service station with two pumps out front, where, tucked in a small room in back, past the freezers half-full of Bud-light and the shelves of food and supplies, lies Fort Rock's newest and only art gallery, the Fort Rock Gallery.

The room used to be filled with freezers, some stocked goods, and a table with an old yet still percolating coffee pot, says Sandy Hopkins, who's father built the place in 1969.