

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## THURS., MAY 12

**VOLCANIC INSPIRATION:** Local artist and Studio UFO owner Trish Harding will discuss how she uses northwest icons such as Mount Baker as inspiration for her paintings at a "Living Next to a Volcano" presentation at noon at Whatcom Museum's Old City Hall, 121 Prospect St. An exhibit of the same name will show through June 30 at BelleWood Acres. The Museum Advocates event is free.

📍 [WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG)

**ART TALK:** Artists Mary Coss and John Lucas will share the inspiration and process behind their sculptures featured in the "Contemporary Figure" exhibit at 5:30pm at Sculpture Northwest Gallery, 203 Prospect St. Following a wine and cheese reception, enjoy a slide-show presentation and Q&A with both artists. Suggested donation is \$5.

📍 [WWW.SCULPTURENORTHWEST.ORG](http://WWW.SCULPTURENORTHWEST.ORG)

## SAT., MAY 14

**PET PHOTOGRAPHY:** If you've ever wondered how people get fantastic photos of their pets, sign up in advance for a free "Say Cheese" Pet Photography Class with photographer and animal rescue advocate Brooke Mallory from 11am-1:30pm at the Whatcom Humane Society, 2172 Division St.

📍 733-2080 OR [WWW.WHATCOMHUMANE.ORG](http://WWW.WHATCOMHUMANE.ORG)

**FISHBOY SPRING SHOW:** Peruse and purchase a variety of works by folk artist RR Clark (aka FishBoy) at a Spring Show taking place from 2-9pm at FishBoy Gallery, 617 Virginia St. (near Trader Joe's in the Sunnyland neighborhood).

📍 [WWW.FISHBOYGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.FISHBOYGALLERY.COM)

## SUN., MAY 15

**RETURNING HOME CLOSING:** If you haven't yet seen "Returning Home: Six Decades of Art by Ira Yeager"—which you really should—today is the last day to do so from 12-5pm at Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher Building, 250 Flora St. The exhibit highlights the former Bellinghamster's multifaceted approach to art where figures and landscapes, vibrant colors and abstract lines harmoniously mingle. Entry is \$4.50-\$10.

📍 [WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.WHATCOMMUSEUM.ORG)

**CELEBRATION ART SHOW:** The Bellingham Threshold Singers (BTS) will celebrate receiving a 2016 Mayor's Arts Award and hold an Art Show/Fundraiser from 2-5pm at Trish Harding's Studio UFO, 301 W. Holly St. BTS is a group of women whose purpose is to provide comforting songs to individuals who are struggling to live or struggling to die; to bring ease and peace at life's thresholds. The event will include a raffle of one of Harding's paintings, artworks using the theme of "Threshold," refreshments, a wine wall, live music by the Southside Jazz Trio, and BTS songs sung by members. Entry is \$5.

📍 [WWW.BELLINGHAMTHRESHOLDSINGERS.ORG](http://WWW.BELLINGHAMTHRESHOLDSINGERS.ORG)

## MAY 14-15

**CAMANO STUDIO TOUR:** Check out a variety of creative spaces as part of the encore weekend of the 18th annual Camano Island Studio Tour taking place from 10am-5pm Saturday and Sunday through the lovely land mass. Entry to the self-guided tour put on by the Camano Arts Association is free.

📍 [WWW.CAMANOARTS.ORG](http://WWW.CAMANOARTS.ORG)



# visual

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PHOTO BY ARIC MAYER

BY AMY KEPFERLE

## Welding Rodeo

OF MYTH AND METAL

**I ONCE** got a sneak peek of a ginormous scrap pile that was to be utilized by teams who'd be taking part in that year's "Welding Rodeo" at Bellingham Technical College (BTC). And although I had a difficult time imagining the various works of art that would emerge from creatively wrangling the numerous mountains of metal, I had no doubt the teams who were taking on the challenge of turning scrap into sculpture were up to the task.

Part of the reason I was so confident in their abilities was that the event already had a proven track record. Although the Welding Rodeo started small 15 years ago as a one-day affair with five teams and a budget of around \$400, in the time since BTC welding instructors Jere Donnelly and Don Anderson conceived of hosting the event as a way to bring attention to the college's two-year welding program and the field in general, it has grown by leaps and bounds.

These days, the Welding Rodeo encompasses two days—the first one featuring amateur and student teams, the second being reserved for the pros—and the entire campus gets involved (more on that in a minute).

For those not already in the know, students and professionals follow the same blueprint. They show up before 8am in order to suss out the pile par-

ticulars, and then make a mad dash to secure their scrap when a horn blows to signal the start time. For the next eight hours—other than a 30-minute timed lunch break—the teams work together to bring their themed pieces to life. This year, artists have been tasked with focusing on incorporating "Mythical Creatures" into their finished products.

At 3:30pm Friday, bidding will start via silent auction on the sculptures created

that day. The juried winning sculpture will move on to the professional-level live auction starting at 5pm Saturday. In the past, sculptures have gone for as little as \$50, with \$850 being the average price over the last several years.

"This auction is an incredible opportunity for collectors and art fans to purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of metal art for their home, business or garden," organizers say. "Money spent goes to a great cause, as a portion of the proceeds raised at auction goes to the sculpting team and the remainder goes to help

support BTC welding students."

While attendees are welcome to watch the welders at work throughout the weekend, there'll be plenty of other events that will also spark interest. For example, welders of all ages and skill levels can sign up in advance to compete in a Welding Skills Competition held inside the Morse Center.

Additionally, the BTC Culinary Arts program will be hosting a competition of their own Saturday and Sunday. Instead of working with mounds of metal, an American Culinary Federation-sanctioned Culinary Competition will see students and pros go up against each other in timed battles, including an *Iron Chef*-style competition.

I'm not sure if the food-related fun will also focus on the aforementioned "Mythical Creatures," but my hope is that someone in one of the competitions taking place during the creative weekend will fashion a unicorn. That's not too much to hope for, is it? ☺



### SEE IT

**WHAT:** 15th annual Welding Rodeo

**WHEN:** 8am-5pm Fri., May 13 and 8am-6:30pm Sat., May 14

**WHERE:** Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Ave.

**COST:** Entry is free

**INFO:** [www.weldingrodeo.com](http://www.weldingrodeo.com)