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Grants Pass Daily Courier

RCC's visual arts chair opening a pre-retirement show on Friday

By Edith Decker of the Daily Courier

Students, colleagues and friends of Karl Brake, the chair of the Rogue Community College visual arts department, are especially invited to a public reception for the opening of his new show as he prepares to retire at the end of the academic year.

The reception is Friday, 4-7 p.m. at the library in the Wiseman Building on RCC's Redwood Campus in Grants Pass.

"Inflection Points" includes a selection of his paintings from 2022-2025.

The show will be up through Sept. 30 in the library. His official last day is June 30.

"I'll just keep painting and making music, like always," he said. "I'm taking a sabbatical from teaching for a year or so, and then I may teach workshops and classes here and there."

He's also finishing a textbook on arts and culture.

Brake spent a dozen years as chair of the department and another dozen as director of galleries, while serving as an instructor at RCC. In all, he put in 18 years at the school, often doubling up jobs.

Brake organized a number of special projects at RCC, including a tattoo pageant and the Rogue Valley Artists' Portrait Project.

He also was chair as RCC remodeled a building to house the department on campus, then moving from downtown Grants Pass where it had previously occupied the historic city hall.

Brake, who began his art career in scenic design for performing arts, has over 100 exhibition credits and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and several universities.

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Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.



KARL BRAKE

"Indulgences: Coming and Going" of the Spanish Steps in Rome is among the pieces by Karl Brake showing at RCC's Redwood Campus library.