Grants Pass Daily Courier

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A fashion-forward fundraiser

By Kathleen Alaks of the Daily Courier

To fabric and textile artist Bonnie Campanoli, there's only one way to adequately display clothing and fashion: on a live model.

"Clothing really needs to be seen on somebody, and moving," she says. "Clothing on the wall or a static display just doesn't cut it."

That philosophy is the driving force behind the fall fundraiser for the Southern Oregon Guild.

Artists Rethink Fashion is a three-part series featuring three local fashion designers, who will each host an educational and interactive runway show at the Southern Oregon Guild Gallery in Kerby.

In addition to Campanoli, whose program is on Sept. 26, the artists are Jean Robertson, on Oct. 3 and Caryne Mount, on Nov. 7.

"We first were going to do one show with all three of us. But the logistics of that just didn't come together," says Robertson. "Much better to do individual shows."



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Textile artist Caryne Mount shows some of the detailed design work on a reversible jacket she made from recycled kimonos and obi, the sash worn around kimonos. Mount is one of three fashion designers giving educational and interactive runway shows this fall to benefit the Southern Oregon Guild.

Each designer will share a different approach and unique ways women can create their own style with a quality wardrobe that emphasizes creativity, flexibility and sustainability.

All three also will have a variety of clothing and accessories on display, many of them available for purchase.

Tickets for the series are $20 per show or $50 for all three; the cost includes a selection of appetizers and refreshments.

Campanoli brings her history of world travel to her program, "Creative Closet." Her husband's job as a customer service representative for Boeing aircraft company, has her family living in Brunei, Denmark and England, not to mention trips to Indonesia, South Korea and Africa.

Along the way, she did costuming for both amateur and professional theater companies as well as for her sons' school productions.

She learned a lot about the fashion industry, met local tailors and spent time in Soth Korea's fashion district.

"In my travels, I learned that high fashion is way too wasteful," she says. "You don't need to spend a lot of money to have really nice outfits. People need to dress for their own happiness rather than someone else's."

In her program, Campanoli will explore ways to "rethink things, to look at your wardrobe with a keen eye, and look for different ways of styling, be more creative," she says. "Ask yourself, 'do I always have to wear that with black pants?' Instead of throwing something out, look for ways to re-use it, restyle it."

Campanoli also will stress the importance of properly caring for your clothing.

Robertson spent more than 25 years in grand opera production, set and costume design. She has designed homes and she is currently working on a salmon habitat restoration project on the Coquille River. She also has fashioned dead electronics and computer parts into jewelry.

Fashion design and textiles seem a natural extension of her three-dimensional skills. She is especially inspired by color, texture and form.

Her program, "Vintage Redux," brings her vintage clothing collection together with handmade, restored or repurposed additions.

Her collection includes some Victorian pieces and some 1920s clothing she acquired from a San Fransico opera company.

“It was this gorgeous old stuff with embroidery, beading and some art deco design. Just some really cool fabric,” Robertson says.

She will share ways to transform these vintage components and found material into something wearable.

“I’ll show how to look at vintage in a different way. To take vintage clothes and remodel it into a more useable outfit with different accessories. Or, to take vintage accessories made into something new.”

She also will include some historical perspective, starting with clothing from early periods and moving forward in time, with some history lessons along the way, she says.

Robertson’s three-dimensional background is also being put to use for this series. She designed a runway path through the gallery that will allow each audience member to easily see the models and examine each piece closely, ask questions, and learn about its evolution and construction.

Mount, a sewing and textile teacher at Rogue Community College, has a lifelong love of Japanese textiles and fabrics. Her father would bring home dolls from his business trips to Japan.

“They had the most beautiful clothes. I was taken by the time and the care and the layers that went into them. The stenciling, the embroidery, the dyeing. They were works of art,” she says.

Mount’s one-of-a-kind creations range from small accessories such as bags and scarves and pin cushions to full-sized coats and jackets.

For her reversible jackets, she primarily uses silk from kimono and obi, the sash worn around kimono, which give her unique avenues in terms of color and theme.

Her designs make the most of the fabric’s texture, color and detail. She incorporates intimate details of adornment, such as glass beads, metal charms, unusual buttons.

For her program “Mind to Matter,” Mount says she will “focus on the creative journey, how to get from mind to matter, from an idea in your head to an actual garment.”

The key to putting together functional, wearable pieces, she says, is to take time to play, experiment and visualize.

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Ready to wear

• **WHAT:** Artists Rethink Fashion, a three-part series of educational and interactive runway shows featuring three local designers, a benefit for the Southern Oregon Guild

• **WHEN:** Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and Nov. 7, 1-4 p.m. each day

• **WHERE:** Southern Oregon Guild Gallery & Art Center, 24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby

• **TICKETS:** $20 per show or $50 for the full series

• **SCHEDULE:**

Sept. 26: Creative Closet 101, with Bonnie Campanoli

Oct. 3: Vintage Redux, with Jean Robertson

Nov. 7: Mind to Matter, with Caryne Mount

• **INFORMATION:** Call 541-592-5019 or get tickets at bit.ly/guildfashion26