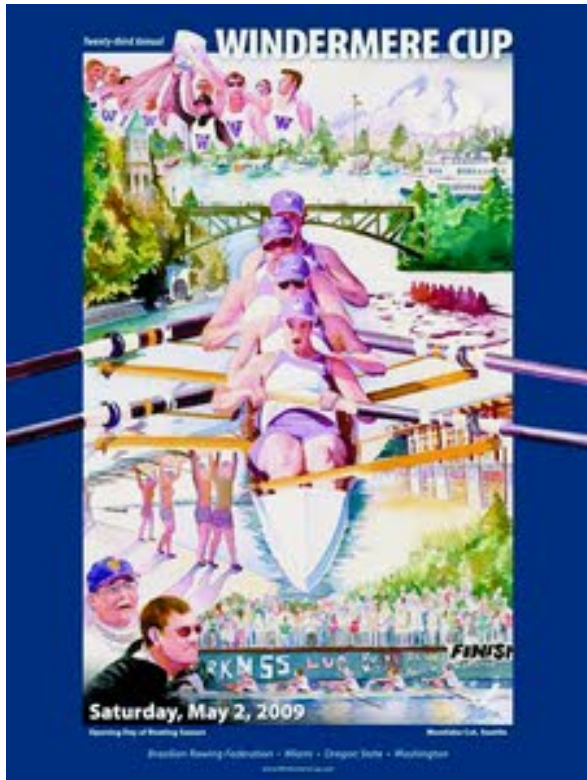


Row your boat: Pullman artist creates Windermere Cup poster

By Brad Girtz, For the Daily News
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Pullman artist Kary Lee sees each piece of art as a learning experience.



For Lee, understanding her subject comes first.

"I get a project that I often know little about, then I learn about it," Lee said. "It is like a research project and that is one thing I like about (art)."

Her latest project is the 2009 Windermere Cup poster. The Windermere Cup is an annual boat race hosted by the University of Washington.

Lee had always liked the posters she had seen from previous years and decided to submit her own work. Windermere liked her artwork and commissioned her to make the poster.

The final design is a collage of pictures featuring rowers preparing and competing. Lee said she designed her poster, so that it has special meaning to people involved in crew. She said she also tried to choose images that mean more to the people involved in the competition.

"As I am looking at stuff, I ask, 'If it were me, what would be important?'" Lee said.

She said the goal of all her work is to capture more of the wonder of the situation. Lee wants to create more than just an eye-catching poster. As a commercial artist, she wants her advertisements to be art.

"The pieces that I do are going to go on people's walls, and they are going to be proud of it and have some connection to it," Lee said.

To help build that connection, Lee visited the site of the Windermere Cup. She also talked with fans and athletes involved in crew.

I like to focus on people and their personalities, and the action of what they are doing, she said.

Although Lee enjoys bringing special meaning to her art, she has a little trouble promoting a UW sporting event.

"I would love to be doing this for departments at Washington State University," Lee said. "Being a Cougar, it was a little bit hard for me to paint the (University of Washington) purple."

Along with creating the poster for Windermere, Lee has made posters for Pullman's National Lentil Festival and illustrated a number of children's books.

When she is not working on her art, Lee works as a real estate agent for Windermere. She said she loves working there both as an artist and selling real estate. This project has helped Lee gain exposure. She said it has unlocked the door to new opportunities.

"There is a niche out there for what I do. I am good at this," Lee said.

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