



2015

“The
One
Who
Reached
The
Star”

Artist:
Michelle
Van Slyke

Metal Sculpture
City Hall



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sammamish Arts Commission to Present the Work of

Michele Van Slyke and Kent Van Slyke **YOU & ME | ME & YOU**

October 16, 2015 – January 16, 2016



Sammamish, WA – The Sammamish Arts Commission is pleased to present the work of Kent and Michele Van Slyke in an exhibition titled **YOU & ME | ME & YOU** opening on October 16, 2015 in the Sammamish City Hall Commons Gallery and running through January 16, 2016. **A public reception for the artists is planned for Thursday, October 22, 2015 from 6:00-8:00pm in the Commons Gallery.**

This gathering of work created by husband and wife, Kent and Michele Van Slyke is proof that two artists can be exposed to the same experiences and express themselves in a very different manner.

Kent and Michele have lived and created together for 50 years, their work reflecting their life, divided between the Pacific Northwest and France and also their travels, including several trips to China where Michele taught metal sculpture 12 years ago.

Kent, with a background as a graphic designer and creative director, favors the camera and the

-more-

computer, while Michele, who has created many public artworks in the U.S., France and Japan, as well as numerous commissions for private clients, welds and grinds steel and aluminum.

They have kept a studio on Bainbridge Island for 45 years

Michele Van Slyke began soldering metal into sculptures as a college student, stepping out of traditional gender bounds. Born and raised in France, Michele studied at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Heidelberg in Germany. Kent founded the Island Treasure Award and together the Van Slykes helped found the Bainbridge Arts and Humanities Council.

In addition to her public art installations on Bainbridge Island, Michele also has work at Children's, Swedish, and Virginia Mason Hospitals in Seattle; the University of Washington Bothell; The Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Ore., as well as on projects in Edmonds, Lynnwood, Auburn, Kent and, further afield, Japan and China.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Sammamish Arts Commission, the City of Sammamish and 4Culture.



The Sammamish Arts Commission offers a year-round series of exhibitions in the City Hall Commons Gallery with a primary focus on regional artists. Arts Commission information website: <http://www.ci.sammamish.wa.us/Group.aspx?ID=3>,

Sammamish City Hall is located high atop the Sammamish Plateau, at the intersection of 228th Ave. SE and SE 8th Street. Exhibition is on view during regular City Hall hours Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm. Directions can be found on the City web site: www.ci.sammamish.wa.us.

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Images: (L) Michele Van Slyke: 30x30" *China on my mind #1* Mixed media
(R) Kent Van Slyke: 20x30" *Serenity* Photo composition

SAMMAMISH ARTS COMMISSION
IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

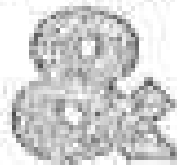
YOU&ME|ME&YOU

OCTOBER 16, 2015 - JANUARY 15, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 6-8 PM



Michele Van Slyke



Kent Van Slyke



SAMMAMISH COMMONS GALLERY
SAMMAMISH CITY HALL / 801-228 AVENUE SE



YOU
&
ME
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YOU

YOU
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ME



MICHELE VAN SLYKE

YOU & ME | **ME & YOU**



KENT VAN SLYKE

Husband, wife artists display together for first time

By Tom Corrigan
tcorrigan@tsapress.com

They will have been married for 50 years as of next month and each has been doing their own art projects for many years as well.

Yet, they have never collaborated on a project, have never even had their work displayed together.

That's about to change. At age 72 and 70, respectively, husband and wife team Kent and Michele Van Slyke are the latest artists whose work is on display in the Sammamish City Hall Commons Art Gallery. "You & Me, Me & You" will feature the steel

sculpture of Michele and the photography of Kent.

A reception is from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 22 in the Commons Gallery. The exhibit runs through Jan. 16.

"We are very different in our work," said Michele, who added she doesn't really remember ever not being an artist, though she says she went to college to become an interpreter. She admits that was mostly to make her parents happy.

As for Kent, he spent most of his life as a graphic designer working in advertising. He's now retired and photography has become front and center to him.

Both Michele and Kent are inspired by the many trips they have taken to France (where Michele was born), to Japan and to China. For the show, Kent's photos are largely images from those trips. In fact, the wall of a second-floor balcony in City Hall is covered with photos from Europe and China.

Michele works mostly with welded steel. She said the Sammamish show provided an interesting challenge in that she had to find pieces to fit the space. The hallway inside City Hall is lined with columns on both sides. For one column, Michele created an all new piece, a flock of birds, with one small bird gliding in front and reaching the stars ahead of the others.

Michele said she uses a lot of birds and wing shapes in her work, as well as nature in general.

The show is designed to demonstrate how two people, who are about as close as two people can get, can have the same experience but express that experience in totally

different ways. For the most part, the two are intertwining their displays in Sammamish.

"It's two different points of view," Kent said. "It's going to be very interesting."

"It's kind of difficult to combine the two media," Michele added.

And while they have not specifically ever worked together, they do bounce ideas off of each other in the Bainbridge Island studio they have shared for 40 years.

"We don't step on each others toes," Kent said. "I'm basically a 2-dimensional person and she is very much a 3-dimensional person."

Michele has created a lot of public art around the area, including in front of the Issaquah Library. She has completed pieces for spots in Japan and China as well. She admits to a fascination with China and its culture.

"I actually tried to teach myself Chinese on my own when I was 8," she said.



By Greg Farrar

Michele Van Slyke arranges her 2009, 9 x 9 1/2 x 4-inch steel, copper and aluminum leaf sculpture, 'Peony Vase,' for the "You & Me, Me & You" show with her husband, Kent Van Slyke.