

AMERICAN  
**art**  
COLLECTOR



WATCH 4 VIDEOS  
IN THIS ISSUE

*Also Showcasing  
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*



NEAL PHILPOTT

# Intersections with the gorge

**T**he Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is a pristine expanse of flowing blue water, gorgeous green trees and majestic mountains that keep thousands of visitors coming each year to the area surrounded by Washington and Oregon states. It's a place Neal Philpott has been visiting since he moved to Oregon nearly 30 years ago, and it's the star of his new exhibition of more than a dozen works, *Intersections with the Gorge*, open through December 31 at Gallery 903 in Portland, Oregon.

"It's the same as when Lewis and Clark were there, since it's preserved in its natural state," says Philpott, based in Oregon City, Oregon. "It feels like the waterway was cut through the mountains, but the waterway is a reminder the water has more strength than the earth it cut through."

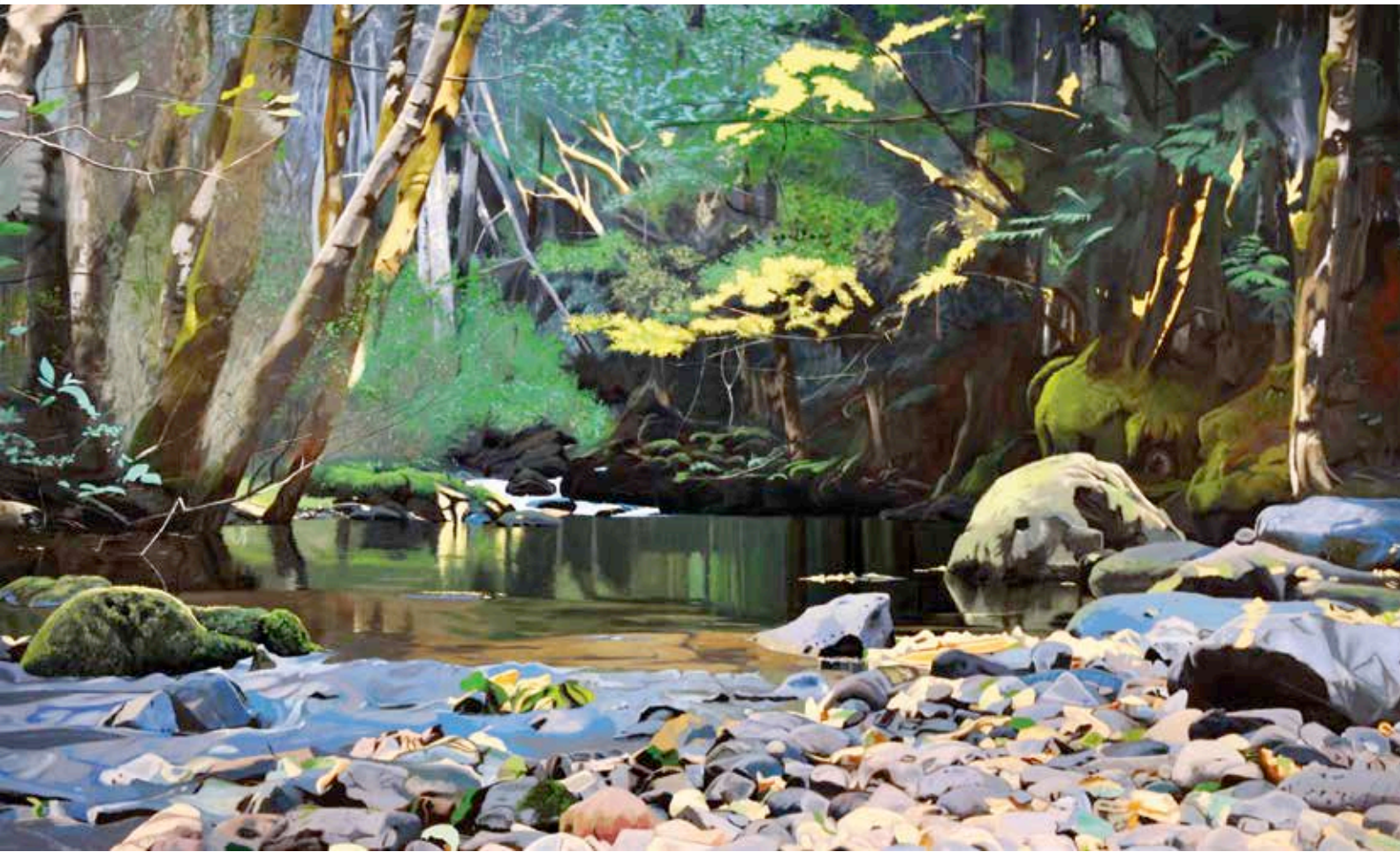
That waterway is seen in works such as *On This Side*, which depicts a view of Oregon looking over to Washington, with contrasting landscape featuring pine trees and rock faces. Philpott says he enjoys portraying heavy-duty contrast in his oil works, which is why he'll often alter his photographic inspirations and play up divergent features.

"In this work, one side is all in the sunlight,



- 1 Neal Philpott photographed in his studio by Marie Naughton.
- 2 *On This Side*, oil, 28 x 66"
- 3 *River Pool*, oil, 40 x 66"
- 4 *Break Out*, oil, 38 x 66"





3



4

and the other side is all in the shadow,” Philpott says. “It was a study of contrast of land mass and light and shadow, with a big chunk of blue down the river.”

*Break Out* is a similarly striking piece, with energetic clouds hovering above the landscape to give it unique light. *River Pool* is a more close-up artwork

focusing on a pool Philpott encountered after a long hike. It’s part of a series of “near views,” which balance the faraway scenes that make up about 90 percent of his body of work. Philpott says he strives to preserve unique occasions punctuated by shadows, reflections and weather in his works, which is a quality that attracted

Gallery 903, which has represented the artist since 2010.

“A master of illumination, Philpott uses light and shadows to capture those fleeting moments that make each interaction with nature unique,” says Gallery 903 owner Herschel L. McGraw. “Whether it is in the forests and streams of the Pacific Northwest, or the mighty Columbia rolling through the Gorge, each moment is stamped in time.”

When characterizing his work, Philpott compares his style to “preservationism,” as he paints places and scenes that may not exist in the future because of environmental changes. He only started painting landscapes when he arrived in Oregon, but his passion for nature dates back to his childhood in Michigan, where he often played in the woods. He says this current collection consists of paintings that speak to him, and he hopes viewers appreciate the landscape experience he conveys.

“If I have a legacy, it’s to remind people what we have and to preserve what we have,” Philpott says. “I hope they want to take a piece of the outdoors and place it indoors.” ●