

Biography : Scott Sutton

Scott Sutton received his Bachelors in Fine Arts in 1998, with an emphasis in painting at Oregon State University. During his years at OSU, Scott learned not only how to paint, but also how to make his own oil paints with pigments that he bought. After graduation, Scott moved to Portland, Oregon to pursue his career as a painter and making paints.

After creating art in Portland for a couple of years, Scott then moved to northern New Mexico in 2000 to continue painting and to make paints for other artists. After investing some time into making paints commercially, Scott realized that his true desire was to paint and to educate other artists about the quality difference in hand made paints versus that of the commercial paints. It was during his stay in Taos that he became interested in gathering minerals to use as paints along with the manufactured pigments that he buys.

Scott moved back to Oregon in 2002, where he grew up as a child outside of The Dalles on a 60-acre horse ranch. It was in part, the experiences he had as a child that developed his passion for the natural environment and his interests in exploring what nature has to offer in terms of its beauty, but also the wisdom one can learn from the environment that you become a part of. After settling down in Portland, Scott began taking classes at Marylhurst University to fulfill the prerequisites for the Masters in Arts Therapy. After becoming accepted into the MAT program he decided that the program wasn't right for him, but he still embraced the idea that art can have a healing affect on those that explore the creative process.

In 2004, Scott started teaching after school art at Marysville Elementary and was offered a job teaching art to tribal members at the Portland office of the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde. As part of the classes that he teaches, Scott began collecting minerals from around Oregon and Washington to use as traditional paints that the tribal members could apply to their own art form inspired by the creative designs of their ancestors. After teaching after school art at Marysville Elementary, Scott wrote up a proposal to create art with students during class time that was inspired and funded by the Confluence Project that would ultimately become a part of the new playground design to be built in the summer of 2008. As a result of his new explorations, Scott realized the profound affect of the cultural, historical, and environmental influences within his own paintings as a result of his physical surroundings, and began creating designs for art within the landscape that the general public can interact with.

The Marysville Pictograph Project is one of the projects that Scott has developed and is working on and helping to raise funds for its future development. The Marysville School Park will become a canvas in which the landscape will become a part of the art design that will incorporate the history and culture of the Clackamas Chinook tribe into their own physical environment that now makes up SE Portland, Clackamas, Estacada, Milwaukie, and Oregon City.

The West Eugene Wetlands Butterfly Garden is a proposal for a learning garden and amphitheatre that would use the cultural history of the Willamette Valley, and the relationship of native plants to the Kalapuya tribe that inhabited the Willamette Valley for thousands of years. The gardens would become home to a variety of native plants and flowers that are essential as either a host or nectar source for butterflies native to the area as well, some of which are endangered or threatened. It would be a place for people to learn about the role that not only humans have with the environment, but also the relationships the butterflies, bees, and dragonflies have with these plants as well. The West Eugene Wetlands Education Center is in its planning stages for a "green building" research and education center that allow students within the public school system to learn about the importance of their own natural environments. This design is in the process of being submitted as part of the overall education center that will be built in a disturbed upland location central to the 2500 acres of wetlands that have been set aside for restoration.

WEBSITES

www.scottsuttonart.com
www.marysvillepictographproject.com