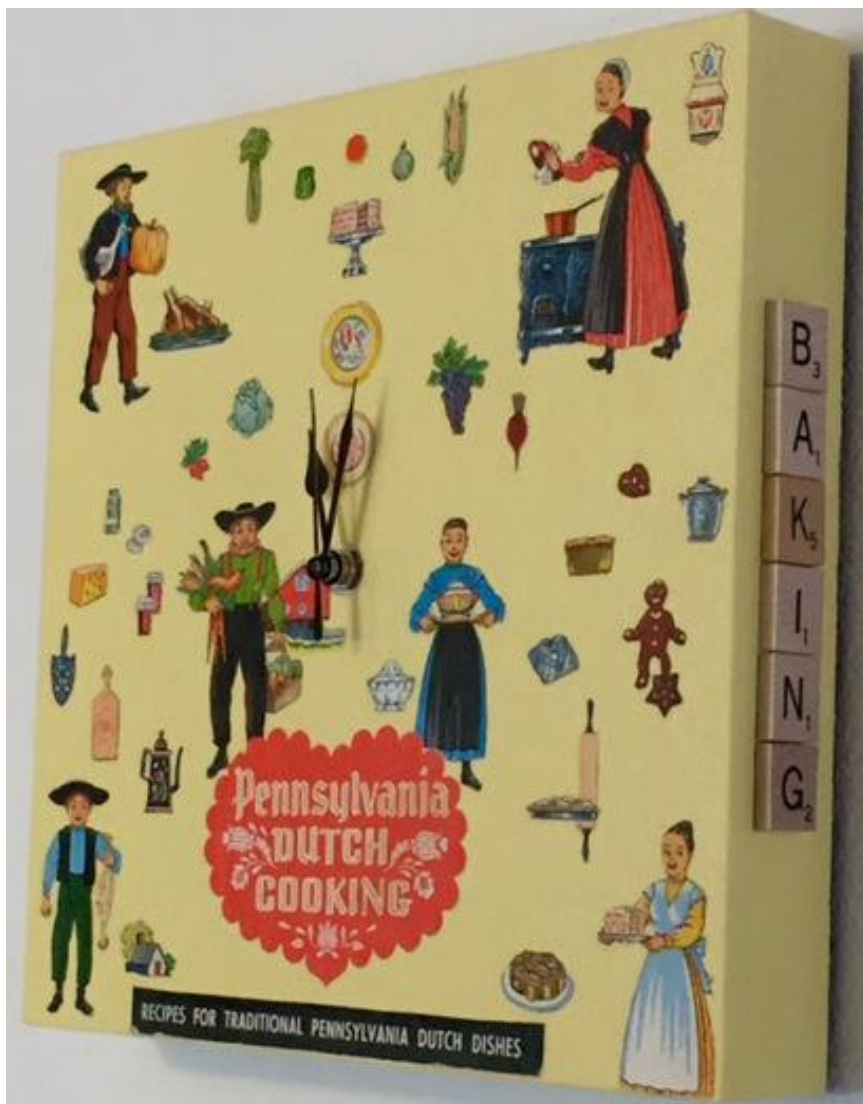


6th annual Altered Books Show and Auction to showcase books as art

By Christine Steele
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If You Go

What: 6th Annual Altered Books Show and Auction, organized by the Friends of the Copper Queen Library

When: 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27. Auction and show, featuring appetizers, wine and art. Bidding begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

Where: Central School Project, 43 Howell Avenue in Old Bisbee

Info: Entries due Thursday, August 25. No cost to enter. No cost to attend. All proceeds, after expenses and artist cuts, go to Friends of the Copper Queen Library to help pay for free events sponsored by the library, such as childrens' summer reading programs, cultural and historical presentations and a film series.

This clock made by James Coull from the cover of a cookbook, is one of the pieces of art that will be featured in the 6th Annual Altered Books Show and Auction at Central School, Saturday, August 27.

BISBEE — Art and literature come together — sort of — in the 6th annual Altered Books Show and Auction, a fundraiser for the Friends of the Copper Queen Library.

The event, which is one of two annual fundraisers for the library, showcases pieces of art created from books.

Organizer James Coull, president of the Friends group, said this year's show is expected to be the biggest one yet.

"Every year we get more art," he said. "Last year we were up to 105 pieces and I suspect we will be well over that this year. The first year we had 65 entries and we have grown every year since."

Bisbee resident Karen Justice came up with the idea several years ago, Coull said.

"She came to the Friends board meeting six years ago and showed us some furniture made of books. We took it on and it worked out and it grew from there."

For the art, the book can be used in any way, as long a part of the book is used, Coull said.

"We have had some pieces that really stretched it," he said. "Last year, Jenny Druckman used book pages in her ceramics and made three pieces that recreated the art from a book with the pages of the book," he said. "We never really know what is going to come in until the day before the show. It's one of my favorite shows in Bisbee for creativity. Unlike other shows, you never know what you are going to see. Every year is going to be different. I think the reason it continues to grow is that more and more people see the possibilities of what can be done."

To accommodate the larger show this year, the event has been moved from the Sam Poe Gallery, where it had been held for the past five years, to the Central School Project, a historic school that has been transformed into an artist hub, with classrooms as studios and the central hallways and other spaces to showcase art.

The event was also moved to August from November so as not to compete with so many other events in the fall and to spread the two library fundraisers — the chocolate tasting and Altered Books — further apart.

"They were three months apart now they are six months apart," Coull said.

The larger space at Central School will allow for more entries as well as more attendees.

"We had 100 more applications this year than last year," Coull said. "With the new technology of using social media to boost events, we get entries from as far away as North Carolina."

Most of entries are from Bisbee and Cochise County artists, though.

"It's a real community event," he added.

The art creations range from lamps and clocks to journals, sculptures and wall hangings, all created from books. All of the art is for sale through a silent auction. Bidding ranges from \$10 to up to \$500 for these original, one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Artists can either take 50 percent of the proceeds or donate all to the Friends group. The event usually raises about \$5,000, Coull said, and the Friends group nets between \$1,800 and \$2,300 after expenses and artist cuts. The funding helps the Friends group pay for free events sponsored by the library, such as childrens' summer reading programs, cultural and historical presentations and a film series.

Admission to the auction and show is free.

The Central School Project is located at 43 Howell Ave. Old Bisbee. The public can visit any time after noon on the day of the show to view the art and place their bids. The actual event, featuring appetizers, wine and art, will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, with bidding ending between 7 and 8 p.m.