

# FRAGMENTS: AN ARCHEOLOGY OF MEMORY

## Siskiyou County Veterans in the Arts Initiative

*Art defines our human experience and every solemn or joyous occasion we have in our national, family, and individual lives.*

- Americans for the Arts

### A Collaborative Initiative with:

Siskiyou County Arts Council, coordinating organization

Siskiyou County Veterans Leadership Council, steering committee

Liberty Arts Gallery, cornerstone exhibition

### Veterans in the Arts Initiative

For servicemembers, veterans, and their families, participation in the arts - whether for expressive, educational, recreational, or therapeutic purposes - is proven to build resilience, enhance coping skills, increase self-esteem, and generate well-being. The arts also promote community reintegration and raise awareness about the experiences and struggles of these populations.

This proposed 6-week, countywide initiative will run from late October through November 2018 and will consist of three components:

- Exhibitions, performances and other special events at select venues throughout the county;
- Free workshops in a variety of arts disciplines for veterans, active military and their families designed for relaxation, enjoyment, reflection, inspiration and morale building; and
- Middle and high school field trip program that includes teacher professional development in both history and art.

### Liberty Arts Exhibition – October 26 - November 30, 2018

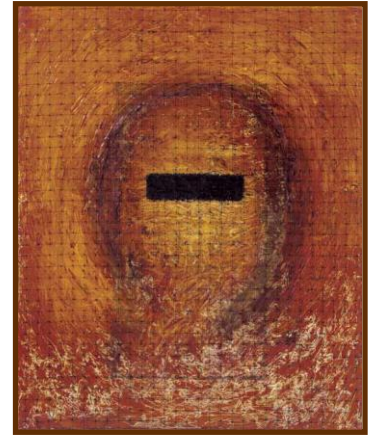
Cornerstone exhibition with featured artists:

- **Kendall Johnson**, Vietnam veteran trying to make sense of his fragmented memories through paintings and writings. He shares with us his many-layered mental, emotional and physical experiences as well as the processes of excavation that inform them. The title of this initiative is taken from the title of his body of work and accompanying writings.
- **Dennis Smith**, Vietnam veteran responsible for creating the sculptures at the Living Memorial Sculpture Garden in Weed.

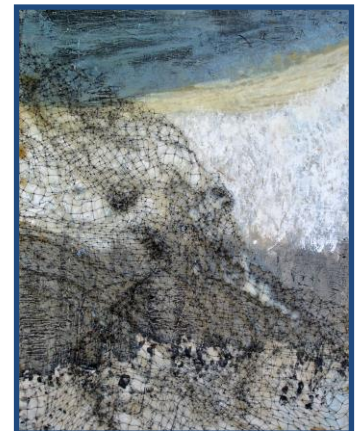


*Why?* Dennis Smith

"It is not uncommon for Vets to feel a lot of emotional pain upon returning home. In this regard I am no different from any other retired warrior. I feel more fortunate than most, because sculpture is a positive way for me to deal with this pain. Being part of the LMSG gave me an opportunity to speak . . . this expression is a giant leap forward in the process of repairing my soul."



*Untitled #18*, Kendall Johnson



"How many months have I been here now?"

It can only have been a few.

I have forgotten.

How does one ever go home when the person who left is now changed?

Can the home that once was ever be the same?"

**SISKIYOU**

COUNTY *Arts* COUNCIL

Cultivating strong and creative communities in Siskiyou County

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