

Arts Depot October Art On The Walls Features Local Sailor



The Arts Depot will host a maritime photography exhibit with selected rope work and an interactive knot display as well as objects on loan from the Erie Maritime Museum in Erie, Pennsylvania. The family-friendly monthly Art On The Walls will offer visitors a chance to experience the beauty of sailing on traditionally rigged tall-ships that comes from the will to survive on the open seas. It is entitled "In the Hands of a Sailor." It will run from October 08-30 with an Opening Reception on Thursday, October 08 at 7:00 p.m.

The featured artist is Isaiah Young, formerly of Union City, OH, and he is both a photographer and a sailor of traditionally rigged tall-ships. He is honored to share his adventures and love of the sailing life with all who are interested. A brief visit to his hometown this month will allow for the Arts Depot exhibition of various sized photographs cataloguing his travels.

Since discovering the existence of tall-ships a couple of years ago, Young has been unable to take his eyes off of the sea. Born in Greenville, OH, he attended Mississinawa Valley Elementary School until the fifth grade and graduated from Greenville City Schools in 2000. He made a living as a machinist and inspector at a machine shop for nearly seven years. It wasn't until he became an Ordinary Seaman on the decks of a square rigged tall-ship that he found his true calling in life.

His discovery of this new way of life came after a chance encounter with a magazine article at a friends' house. Further research enlightened Young of the existence of hundreds of large, traditionally rigged sailing vessels throughout the world. He quickly signed up to crew on the *Barque Picton Castle* as a trainee. The *Picton Castle* is based in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia and is rigged just as an early 1900's cargo ship would have been. His first sailing adventure lasted three weeks as they made their way from Newport, Rhode Island to Halifax, Nova Scotia in the company of nearly fifty other tall-ships from around the world.

Young's second voyage onboard, once again as a trainee, was on a reconstructed U.S. Navy ship from 1813. The U.S. Brig Niagara makes its home in Erie, PA where it was originally built and travels the Great Lakes. Onboard the Niagara he applied himself to learning the ways of the sailing ship and all his hard work quickly paid off. Young was hired on as an Ordinary Seaman, a position recognized as an entry level professional deckhand.

Since then he has lived and traveled onboard the Niagara for two full summers while visiting all five of the Great Lakes from Duluth, MN to Montreal, Quebec. Last winter was spent as part of the crew on the Schooner Virginia sailing from Norfolk, VA to Bermuda, several islands in the Bahamas, and many states along the East Coast.

The 2009 sailing season of the U.S. Brig Niagara is now over and the ship has been down-rigged for winter maintenance. Young will continue to work for the ship through the next few winter months patiently awaiting next summer when they will sail again, this time in company of tall-ships from around the globe as part of the ASTA Tall-Ships Challenge.

Young hopes to continue his traditional sailing education in order to advance through the ranks of the ship's crew. For now, he loves the interaction with the crew, the places he visits, and the adventure of climbing to a height of over one hundred feet off of the water to set sail. Many adventures wait over the horizon for this young sailor.

You may view Young's works as well as the rest of the maritime exhibition by coming to the Arts Depot, home of the Art Association of Randolph County, 115 North Howard Street, Union City, Indiana, 47390. Hours are from Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by special appointment. Please call the Arts Depot during open hours with questions at 765-964-7227.