

**“As I See It”  
Jerry David Cornelia  
March 2 - April 10, 2009**

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00 – 6:30PM Artist Reception with an artist talk at 5:30PM**

**Dawson Community College Art Gallery 126 Glendive, Montana**



On Thursday, March 5th, there will be an artist reception for Jerry David Cornelia in the Dawson Community College Art Gallery 126 from 5:00 – 6:30 with an artist talk at 5:30. This gathering is free and open to the public. Please join us for a viewing of Jerry’s artwork, for conversation, and refreshments. If you can’t make it then, Gallery 126 is open Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm, and Tuesday-Thursday 6:30 – 9:00pm. Jerry’s artwork is on exhibit from March 2 – April 10. For more info: <http://www.dawson.edu/>

Regional art is alive and well in Eastern Montana. It’s amazing how many accomplished and talented artists live and work in our rural communities. One exemplary example is our neighbor, Jerry David Cornelia. After attending fashion design school in Atlanta and a ten year stint in New York City, painting mannequins, creating for store windows, and simultaneously sculpting classical forms and creating a diverse portfolio of paintings, including surrealistic, neo-expressionistic, and neo-primitive styles, Jerry returned to his hometown of Sidney, Montana, in 1995. Jerry says of his return to Montana, "I can make my own world here. There’s a bigger void to fill. I live in a creative vacuum, where one painting inspires the next one and so on."

Nicole R. Todd, director of *Visions West Gallery* of Bozeman, Livingston, and Denver, the gallery that handles Jerry’s artwork, calls him “The Fabulist Painter.” Jerry has been a popular artist in the *Yellowstone Art Museum’s Art Auction* for a number of years, and he is exhibited and collected widely throughout the region. I quote the description of his art work for his one man show at the *Yellowstone Art Museum* in Billings, “Jerry Cornelia is known for his whimsical take on people and animals, and for paintings that tell fragments of stories that keep his viewers wanting more. With no formal art training, Cornelia has successfully compiled an eclectic body of work ranging from neo-primitive to very detailed figurative pieces. He has made a concerted effort not to be limited by self-imposed restrictions on the style or type of art he produces, switching easily from boldly expressionistic work to highly detailed paintings and sculptures. His background in fashion and display lends drama and character to his work, which is further enhanced by subtlety of surface and attention to finish.” Two other distinctive and integral parts of Jerry’s art work are the hand crafted frames and the cryptic titles that embrace his images. For instance, one title: "She might have looked like a simple girl... but Delores was fancy on the inside." gives the image a little twist.

Not only will we have the pleasure of seeing Jerry’s amusing and uniquely colorful artwork on exhibit at Dawson Community College, we will, also, have the opportunity to hang out with him, talk with him, and learn from his eclectic experiences and development as a professional artist at home and abroad.

Jerry claims not to be a thinker, but well. . . I beg to differ. You name it. Jerry loves to explore any and all ideas, no holds barred. He’s got a reservoir of information and a fascinating take on just about any subject you might want to discuss. He enjoys pushing the envelope. There is no limit to his interests, but in particular Jerry will be talking with DCC art students about what it means to be a visual artist, along with some advice on what it takes to have a career in the visual arts. Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to join us for discussion with guest artist, Jerry David Cornelia. On Wednesday, March 4th, Jerry will be visiting with the *Painting I & II* art class from 2-3:15. Then, on Thursday, March 5th, he will meet with *Drawing I & II* from 2-3:15, followed by an artist reception in DCC Art Gallery 126 from 5:00 – 6:30 with an artist talk at 5:30.

To see and read more of Jerry’s artwork, go to: [www.visionswestgallery.com/](http://www.visionswestgallery.com/), [www.artmuseum.org/art/2006/cornelia.php](http://www.artmuseum.org/art/2006/cornelia.php).