

Entertainment

Grants Pass Daily Courier

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Visiting artist installs work exploring natural structures at GP Museum of Art

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

Jenni Ward of Santa Cruz, California gets to every one of her art shows.

They're installations, after all. She has to be there to put it all together.

This week Ward's at the Grants Pass Museum of Art installing seven installation areas that all flow together on the theme "Where Art and Nature Meet." She'll speak briefly and take questions tonight during First Friday Live from 5 to 9 p.m.

"It's actually my favorite part, the fun of the unknown," she says while pushing hundreds of ceramic pieces into a wall to form a structure similar to the droppings of mushroom spore. The pieces are designed on the structure of shelf fungi.



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

Artist Jenni Ward's ceramic, "The Hive," is at the Grants Pass Museum of Art.



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Artist Jenni Ward installs "The Lichen Series" at the Grants Pass Museum of Art. She'll answer questions at First Friday tonight.

She tends to make hundreds of individual things that all go together later, she says. So the making part of the art is a bit dull. Putting it all together in a fresh space is where it's at.

Ward's pieces are more typically assembled outdoors, then documented. They all explore the structures of the natural world, "then abstracting and reconstructing those structures — that's what interests me."

But she had been to the museum before. "I love the brick walls and all of the great light," she says. "This has been in the works for about a year."

She had all the dimensions of the walls and spaces on a map and planned the installation accordingly.

The show runs through May 25 at the museum, 229 S.W. G St., upstairs.