

My participation this year in the Hoffman Center for the Arts **Word & Image** show was a gratifying and inspiring experience. It was a delight to work with artist Lydia Hess on two of her artistic pieces that meshed with my poems “Turtle Releasers” and “New Face.” My wife and I vacation each year – beyond Oregon – visiting art museums and galleries around the country, so my writing often turns to ekphrastic poetry. What a pleasure and surprise to have a chance to work with an artist who would use my own poems as inspiration, just as I found it creatively generative to see Lydia’s work that suggested the icon as an artistic form. The evening reception and reading, plus the publication from this event, *Writers and Artists in Dialogue*, introduced me to other writers and artists living and working on the coast. In addition to writing poetry, I am a photographer and painter, so I hope the Hoffman Center will prove a rich resource for me in years to come. Because my wife and I now own a business and have a cottage on the North Coast, we spend a lot of time each year exploring the arts here. Thank you for this opportunity to find a stimulating community of poets, artists and writers with whom to work.