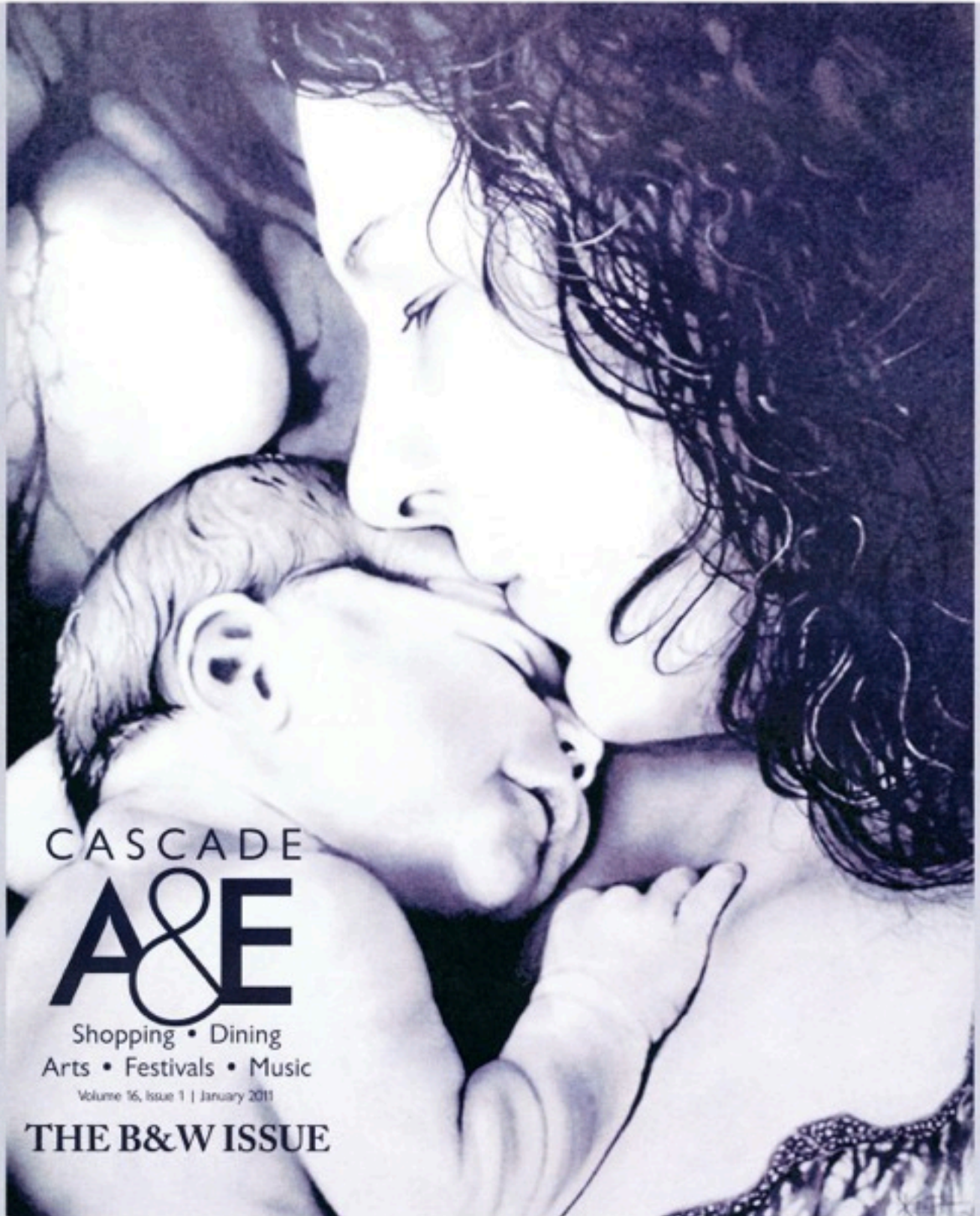


Cascade Arts & Entertainment January 2011 Cover

THE LOVE INSIDE Graphite Painting by Keith Sluder



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THE B&W ISSUE

Keith Sluder Emanates a Vast Creative Field

By VALERIE CLARK
Cascade A&E Editor

Local artist Keith Sluder, whose artwork is featured on the cover of this issue of *Cascade A&E*, has had a long and varied career covering visual arts of all sorts, and he's now reaching out to share his expertise with a fresh crop of aspiring artists.

Sluder has been painting and drawing pictures and cartoons for as long as he can remember, including his first early effort showing a deer drinking from a pond. Since then, he estimates that he's created more than 2,000 paintings and 3,000 sketches.

Sluder's early professional career began not in the creative fields of creating portraits and landscapes, but in the technical aspects of drawing. He graduated from ITT Technical Institute with a degree in drafting and design, and honed his skills on the drafting tables for architectural companies and the aerospace industry.

Soon enough, Sluder, who was born on a small rural farm in Asheville, North Carolina, began to branch out to more artistic endeavors. His childhood influenced his appreciation for the tranquility and beauty of nature, inspiring his realistic style. He describes that style as 'magic realism,' consisting of super realism mixed with



Above: *Bride of Frankenstein*. Right: *John Wayne*.



Poetry in Motion

elements of fantasy.

"To view my artwork is to open a window into another dimension that has no borders, where time stands still and the magic is very real," Sluder said.

Over the years Sluder has become a versatile artist, working in oils and water-based mediums, ink and graphite renderings. He has amassed some 1,500 collectors spanning from Hollywood to Florida and all the way to Japan and China. He's done commissions for Ernest Borgnine, The Dukes Street Tennis Clinic, William Holden, William Fawcett, William Shatner, Peter Breck, a former US Ambassador to China, and many Fortune 500 Corporations. His art has helped raise money for fundraisers through the National Football League, the Ronald McDonald House and the American

Cancer Society. He has owned two galleries and was part owner in a third, and he has been promoted by many galleries and art dealers across the nation. He is a jaded member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon and the Arizona Watercolor Association, and his work is now being featured at Perspectives Fine Art Gallery at 130 Minnesota Ave. in downtown Bend.

Sluder painted A&E's January cover piece, a portrait of a mother and her newborn called *The Love Inside*, to start showcasing his portrait skills with infants and small children along with the compassion demonstrated in his work. He captures the emotion of the scene, along with incredible texture and detail, with layer upon layer of graphite, tirelessly adding and removing value until the portrait is perfect.

He would like to get into doing commissioned portraits for families in Central Oregon, and in addition, he wants to share his portrait skill with anyone who wants to learn. He'll be offering a Portrait Workshop in all media from March 12-13 at Aveller 6000 in the Old Mill District. Artists of all levels are welcome to bring their favorite media along with a picture of their subject to learn about bone structure, facial expression, shading, rendering, skin tone and value, hair techniques and other special effects.

Sluder teaches workshops in Oregon, Washington, Arizona and California. His next Paint & Draw with Keith workshop is coming up Jan. 15-16 at Aveller 6000. In the future he plans to expand his classes to include plein air workshops. www.KeithSluder.com, 541-389-7858

20 Cover Story
Keith Sluder Emanates a Vast
Creative Field



It was a tough decision to select a piece for the cover, but Keith Sluder's portrait of a mother holding her newborn baby tugged at our heartstrings. Sluder hopes the portrait, titled *The Love Inside*, conveys the sense of compassion he brings to all of his art.