

Ellensburg artist's work to be showcased in online gallery

By Molly Rosbach

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For those who can't travel around the country to see all his light-reflecting masterpieces in person, the late Richard C. Elliott's artwork will now be available online.

A recent joint initiative by the website POBA: Where the Arts Live and the Washington State Arts Commission aims to showcase local artists on a broader platform.

The initiative chose Elliott, the Ellensburg artist best known for his colorful geometric designs such as the "Circle of Light" atop the Sun Dome in Yakima, to be included in the online collection partly because of his 2008 Governor's Award in the Arts.

POBA's mission is to preserve and promote the work of artists who "have died without recognition of the full measure of their talents or creative legacies." Elliott died in 2008 at age 63.

"It's just wonderful to be sharing it with a broader audience," said Jane Orleman, Elliott's widow and a longtime artist herself. "All his work — you could really say it celebrates life, and of course that's part of what POBA's mission is, is to celebrate the lives of these artists who are gone."

Elliott's energetic artwork, crafted with industrial-grade reflectors, has been displayed in public art commissions all over Washington and Oregon and as far away as New York and North Carolina.

In Washington state alone, ArtsWA installed more than 30 of his pieces in public schools, a release from POBA said.

But his studio art, mostly smaller pieces he created while undergoing chemotherapy during the last year of his life, has not gotten the same exposure, so Orleman is happy POBA will be including it online.

"People that have never heard of Dick go to that website, and they publicize their artists," she said. "So it's reaching a whole new audience."

Orleman says she's "delighted" by the whole thing, and hopes everyone who views Elliott's pieces will feel the same.

"Dick's work is so spiritually positive, that I think it gives people very happy feelings," she said.

To see Elliott's work on the POBA website, visit www.poba.org. Orleman also operates a website with an extensive collection of both their work, at www.reflectorart.com.