Marjorie Hirsch recently retired after 12 years as the Archer Gallery director at Clark College in Vancouver.

The art of retirement

Retirement hasn't yet set in for Portland resident Marjorie Hirsch, who retired in June as director of Clark College's Archer Gallery.

That might change in late August or early September, when it has usually been time to prepare for the fall term. "That's when it's really going to hit me," Hirsch said. "September will feel differently."

In the meantime, Hirsch is spending her summer at a second home near Tillamook, Ore. Her latest project is making baskets out of driftwood and kelp.

Having spent 12 years as director of Clark College's art gallery, Hirsch, 57, doesn't envision remaining away from the arts scene for long. "I'm committed to the Northwest art community very much and will always want to be involved at some level," she said. "It's a life calling," Hirsch says that could entail curating exhibits, consulting or working with artists.

Beyond the arts, Hirsch is looking forward to spending time with her family this year.

This fall, Hirsch will attend the opening reception for the first exhibit of the school year at the Archer Gallery. "It's going to be a great opportunity to check in with everybody and see how their summer's gone," she said.