

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2009

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THE ARTISTS' MARKET AND OMAHA'S ARTSEEN OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO BROWSE, PURCHASE AND CREATE ART

The Artists' Market and Omaha's ArtSeen provide many opportunities for Summer Arts Festival patrons to peruse and purchase art, learn about techniques and discover local art-lovers' hot spots. Booths featuring the work of 135 juried artists, plus demonstrations by exceptional local artists will stretch five blocks along Farnam between 10th and 15th Streets.

The Artists' Market will offer a variety of works in an array of media including jewelry, ceramics, fiber, glass, leather, sculpture, metal, paint, wood and more. Participating artists were selected by a jury of local and regional art professionals from a competitive pool of applicants. Artists that went through the jury process for last year's festival and endured the storm were invited back again this year. The majority of them accepted the invitation.

Applicants were evaluated based on technical competence, basic design and originality. Artists' Market artists hail from 22 states in the U.S. Nineteen of the artists (more than ever before) are Nebraska's own.

Jolene Steffen of Crofton, NE has been selling her oil and watercolor paintings at the Festival for about 10 years. "I have come to realize that the main reason I paint and participate in the Festival is that it is a great way for my husband and I to get to know a wide variety of people," she said. Customers often share with her that they appreciate the diversity of her subjects and

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the love she clearly has for her surroundings. Her work weathered last year's storm very well.

Nate Knott creates functional ceramic pieces that were hit hard by the storm, but he rallied for the weekend and wound up having a great experience. "The Omaha Summer Arts Festival is the best festival in the state," he said. "The people of Omaha were wonderful last year—thanking us for staying despite the storm and making it my top sale all year."

Also anticipating great reception from Omaha's Festival-goers is Stacie Knebel—new to the Festival this year. Knebel, of Omaha, received her first camera in sixth-grade and has adored photography ever since, but has never before had an art show. Many of the pieces she'll be selling are animal images she captured while on a three-week safari in Africa last September.

Harold Adams is another new face this year. He began wood turning 21 years ago and uses unique pieces of wood to create bowls, vases, goblets, boxes, ornaments and other distinctive items that he has sold at shows throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado. Adams takes pride in "learning to read wood" and "unleash its inner beauty."

Omaha's ArtSeen, with four locations spread throughout the Artists' Market, encourages a dialogue between local artists and the public. Tents operated by Passageway Gallery, Hot Shops Art Center, Omaha ClayWorks and the Old Market Artists Gallery will exhibit and sell artwork, accept commissions, distribute promotional literature and artist information and offer demonstrations.

Sandy Hagan, Passageway Gallery President, has been demonstrating at Omaha's ArtSeen since it began. "It is a great opportunity to show the community what Passageway Gallery is and just how much we have to offer," she said. "So many Festival-goers think of galleries simply lined with paintings, but we feature so many types of artwork." Hagan will be offering five lampworking demonstrations over the course of the weekend.

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Each day of the festival, Hot Shops' artists Tim Barry, Ron Loken and Dan Toberer will offer blacksmith and pottery demonstrations. Tom Harnack of Omaha ClayWorks will demonstrate clay-throwing.

In addition, the following demonstrations are scheduled:

Old Market Artists Gallery

Friday, June 26

11 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.	Deb Groesser	Oil Painting
1 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.	Dan Kilma	Wood
3 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.	Diane Mattern	Copper, Concrete, Patinas
6 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.	Dede Johnson	Pottery

Saturday, June 27

11 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Dianne Mattern	Copper, Concrete, Patinas
2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.	Dan Kilma	Wood
5 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.	Dede Johnson	Pottery

Sunday, June 28

11 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Dianne Mattern	Copper, Concrete, Patinas
2 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.	Moonfish	Jewelry
3 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.	Lisa Maciejewski	Jewelry

The Passageway Gallery

Friday, June 26

11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.	Paul Nichols	Wheel Thrown Pottery
12 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.	Paul Nichols	Wheel Thrown Pottery
1 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Paul Nichols	Wheel Thrown Pottery
2 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.	Paul Nichols	Wheel Thrown Pottery
3 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.	Margie Shanahan	Wheel Thrown Pottery
4 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.	Carolyn Mason	Scratchboard
5 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.	Carolyn Mason	Scratchboard
6 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.	Dotty Robarge	Painting
7 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.	Dotty Robarge	Painting

Saturday, June 27

11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.	Gerry Klein	Glass
12 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.	Gerry Klein	Glass
1 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Dotty Robarge	Painting
2 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.	Dotty Robarge	Painting

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3 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.	Sandy Hagen	Lampworking
4 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.	Sandy Hagen	Lampworking
5 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.	Sandy Hagen	Lampworking
6 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.	Jeri Martinez	Pastel
7 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.	Jeri Martinez	Pastel

Sunday, June 28

11 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.	Sandy Hagen	Lampworking
12 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.	Sandy Hagen	Lampworking
1 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.	Bev Valentine	Pastel
2 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.	Dar Vande Voort	Painting
3 p.m. to 3:40 p.m.	Dotty Robarge	Painting
4 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.	Jeri Martinez	Pastel

For more information regarding the Omaha Summer Arts Festival presented by First National Bank, the Artists' Market and Omaha's ArtSeen, please visit www.SummerArts.org. Artists interested in participating in the Artists' Market or serving as a Summer Arts Festival juror may also visit the website for more information.

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