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## OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL UNVEILS FEATURED ILLUSTRATION FOR 43RD ANNUAL CELEBRATION

(OMAHA, Neb.) Apr. 11, 2017 – Each year, the Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF) selects an artist to create a custom piece that is used to promote the annual festival. With submissions from nearly 20 artists both local and national, Desarae Lee was chosen as the 2017 OSAF Featured Illustrator.

A sketch and watercolor artist from Salt Lake City, Lee participated as a juried artist in the 2015 and 2016 Festivals. Her unique technique utilizes pen and ink in a detailed cross-hatching style with some watercolor washes. “I am flattered to have my work represent this great festival. I hope this piece will reach people who may not have otherwise been touched by my artwork,” said Ms. Lee.

The Featured Illustration will be used on the 2017 Festival poster, t-shirt and a variety of marketing materials including print, broadcast and digital. The Featured Illustration has been an OSAF tradition for more than 25 of the Festival’s 43 years. “We have enjoyed working with Desarae this year and look forward to sharing her considerable talents with festivalgoers from throughout the region. OSAF has a strong tradition in the artist community and its always exciting to collaborate with a new artist as they develop their unique vision of the atmosphere created during the Festival,” said Vic Gutman, Executive Director of OSAF.

A founding board member at the Downtown Artist Collective in Salt Lake City, Desarae Lee also teaches art workshops to share her talents with others. Her work has been exhibited at more than 25 art festivals and galleries across the U.S. and she has won awards including Best Illustrator (Salt Lake City Weekly), Best of Show (Tempe Festival of the Arts) and Featured Artist (ArtWalk San Diego). More of Lee’s work can be viewed and purchased at [www.desaraelee.com](http://www.desaraelee.com).

### **About Omaha Summer Arts Festival**

Professional, juried artists selected from more 400 applications will line Farnam Street, from 10th to 15th Streets, June 9 – 11 during the 43rd annual OSAF. The Festival offers three days of free concerts, a variety of food and snack vendors, a beer and wine tent, Young Artist Exhibition and a hands-on Children’s Fair on Saturday and Sunday of festival weekend. New this year, festivalgoers can also make their own art at The Makery’s “DIY Tent.” More information is available at [www.summerarts.org](http://www.summerarts.org).

The Omaha Summer Arts Festival is presented by First National Bank and sponsored by the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund, Presenting Media Sponsor WOWT NBC Omaha, Radio Partner NRG Media, Artists’ Market Sponsor and Official Technology Provider CenturyLink, Children’s Fair Sponsor Nebraska Methodist College, Youth Arts Presenter The Sherwood Foundation, and World Music Pavilion underwriters Heartland Chevy, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. OSAF is also supported by Park Omaha.