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OMAHA
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY fnbo

EXPLOSION OF ART TAKES OVER AKSARBEN VILLAGE, JUNE 9-11
49th Annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival Showcases Over 130 Artists and 14 Visual Mediums

(OMAHA, Nebr.) June 6, 2023 – Over 130 artists will showcase their work in Aksarben Village June 9 through 11 during the 49th annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival. The Festival is presented by FNBO and admission is free.

The **Artists' Market**, presented by Kiewit Companies, offers a plethora of fine arts and crafts in 14 visual mediums including painting, sculpture, ceramics, glass, photography, jewelry, and more. High-quality artworks span a wide range of prices and styles – there's truly something for all tastes and budgets! Additionally, festivalgoers can visit with the artists in-person as they shop the market, making the search for the "perfect piece" a personal experience.

"I love coming to Omaha every year for the Summer Arts Festival," said Kristi Abbott, a 2D mixed-media artist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. "You can tell what a special event this is just by how many people come out to support artists like myself year after year. I'm excited to see what this year brings!"

For Illinois-based artist Wendy Zoschke, the Omaha Summer Arts Festival has become a family tradition. She showcases her jewelry alongside her husband, Marc, a sculpture artist. "Marc and I love participating in the Omaha Summer Arts Festival," Wendy said. "Omaha is full of art lovers and it's always so much fun to build personal relationships with festivalgoers as they browse the Artists' Market."

The Kiewit Artists' Market hours are Friday, June 9 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Through the **ArtSeen** program, festivalgoers can interact with Omaha's premier art galleries and organizations, while observing the creative process in action by watching live artist demonstrations. ArtSeen booths will be located throughout the Kiewit Artists' Market. Participating galleries include Blacksmith Shop Omaha, Passageway Gallery, Old Market Artists, and Hot Shops.

In addition to the ArtSeen program, the Kiewit Artists' Market will feature **Homegrown Artists**. This program is part of an ongoing effort to cultivate and encourage local artistic talent. Nine local artists will be featured, showcasing artwork in a variety of media including painting, photography, and more.

Every year, OSAF chooses an artist to create a custom piece of art that serves as the featured illustration for the event. Through an application process that took place earlier this year, local artist Jair Rodriguez was selected as the **2023 Featured Illustrator**. Rodriguez's graffiti-inspired work has been showcased in schools, galleries, and live events throughout the local community and around the world. He has a number of murals around Omaha and was a participant in the OSAF Mural Cube Project both in 2021 and 2022. "Working on this year's illustration has been an incredible experience," said Rodriguez. "I've loved working with the OSAF team on the Mural Cube Project the past few years, and I am honored to have my work represent the Festival this year."

This weekend is also your last chance to see the **Mural Cubes!** There are five GIANT cubes located around the city featuring 15 local artists. Visit the OSAF website for location information. A PDF with information about the artists and locations can be found at www.summerarts.org/mural-cubes.

In addition, festivalgoers have the opportunity to visit UNO's **Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center** all weekend during OSAF. The museum houses the world's largest collection of Bak's works, and serves as a hub for intercultural dialogue and education on art, Holocaust education, human rights, and genocide. The museum is open Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.bak.unomaha.edu.

About Omaha Summer Arts Festival

The 49th annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival is Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11 in Aksarben Village. In addition to the Artists' Market, the Festival features live entertainment on two stages, local food vendors, a Children's Fair on Saturday and Sunday, a Young Artist Exhibition, and more. For more information, visit www.summerarts.org and follow the Festival on Facebook and Instagram @omahasummerarts.

The Festival is presented by FNBO, sponsored by Douglas County, The Sherwood Foundation, Kiewit Companies, Noddle Companies, and Aksarben Village, with media partners KETV Channel 7 and Sweet 98.5.

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