

# Artfest draws paintings, photos, sculpture

People milled in and out of easels and tables as they talked with friends and family members and looked at paintings and photos Friday night.

At the second High Plains Artfest Gala, patrons and artists got the first glimpse at work from northwest Kansas, southwest Nebraska and northeast Colorado entered in the annual show. Some left with purchases, while others simply got a taste of what they may like for their homes.

The arena was full, with 147 pieces by 45 adult artists and 53 pieces by 53 students. Categories included watercolor, acrylic, oils, pastels, photography, original handmade ceramics or sculpture, drawing or charcoal and other, which includes graphics and mixed media.

Each of the pieces had been judged by Michael Jilg, who teaches art at Fort Hays State University.

Winners in the adult categories included: • Justine Richardson of Stratton, first, and Deb Goodenberger of McCook, second, for pastels.

• Anne Kennedy of McCook, first, and Norma Stevens of McCook, second, in wa-

tercolor.

• Jess Elwood, Oberlin, first, and Muschi Mues, McCook, second, in acrylic.

• Kathy Leitner, Atwood, first, and Mrs. Mues, second, in drawing.

• Anna Seeber Shaw, Oberlin, first, Susan Brenn, Herndon, second, in ceramics/sculpture.

• Mrs. Leitner, first, and Mrs. Shaw, second, in mixed media.

• Glenn Randolph of McCook, first, and Nina Fortkamp of Wauneta, Mrs. Mues and Rick Johnson of McCook, second, in oil.

• Craig Krizek of Norton, first, and Jennifer Kastens of Herndon, second, in photography.

• Don Dernovich, a professional artist from Culbertson who shows in New York, won Best of Show for a striking oil of a southwestern canyon. K.D. Sowers of Sharon Springs, a niece of Armin and Vicki Sowers of Dresden, won the People's Choice award for her cowboy photo.

Winners in the student categories included:

• Steve Kessler of Hill City, first, and Hannah Woolfer of Colby, second, for

other.

• Jennifer Shaw of Oberlin, first, and Randi Steele of Hayes Center, Neb., second, in watercolor.

• Wes Drain of Hitchcock County, Neb., first, in oil.

• Megan Horinek of Rawlins County, first, and Sarah McDiffett of Norton, second, in pastels.

• Tyrel Strutt of Hill City, first, and Katelyn Clark of Rawlins County, second in acrylic.

• Jordan Zerr of Wheatland, first, and Rebecca Woodall of Wheatland, second, in drawing/charcoal.

• Steve Kreutzer of Hill City, first, and Lucas Michael of Hill City, second, in ceramics.

• Alec Gillespie, Wheatland High, best of show.

One hundred and twenty people attended the gala and purchased 16 of the pieces for \$2,969, said Mary Henzel.

On Saturday and Sunday, the show was open to the public. Around 184 people had the chance to see the pieces before they were picked up on Monday, she said.



**IMAGES OF PARTYGOERS** at the Friday night gala could be seen in the glass of a photograph, "Waiting to be Heard" by Jennifer Kastens of Herndon.



**THIS IMAGE OF A PAIR** of butterflies was captured in an oil painting, "Swallowtails on Thistle," by Marlene Carpenter of Colby.



**SUNFLOWERS IN HAND** was the subject of a photograph, "Picked Just for You," by Jeanie Loudon-Unger of Oberlin. The photo sold during the gala on Friday night.

**Story by Kimberly Davis  
Photos by Cynthia Haynes**



**ENJOYING THE ART**, Deanna Castle (above left) attached a "sold" sticker to the painting of a cat on and Becky Vollertsen checked out the paintings, a quilt that she and husband Ken had just purchased.

