

Stop and enjoy the art

By Hilary Dickinson

hdickinson@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Thursday, May 19, 2011 12:00 am

Local art showcased this weekend during ArtWalk

Downtown Beloit businesses this weekend will transform into fine-art galleries featuring everything from wearable art, handcrafted jewelry and fiber art to digitally painted photography, cast bronze pieces, and wood turnings.

The 9th Annual ArtWalk will take place Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brought to you by the Downtown Beloit Association, the eclectic event boasts over 120 artists who will be showcasing their work at 26 downtown businesses and restaurants.

“This has become a very special community tradition for Beloit celebrating the arts in all form, and it’s accessible to all ages and all walks of life,” said Downtown Beloit Association Executive Director Kathleen Braatz. “There is something for everyone.”

For instance, all types of jewelry from contemporary, handmade to custom-crafted can be found at venues such as Annabelle’s, Bagels & More and M&I Bank.

Art collectors can also scope out watercolor paintings, sports-themed acrylic paintings and digitally painted photography on canvas at different venues.

Other types of art on display at ArtWalk will include fiber art at Attic Quilts, handmade scrapbooks at Bushel and Peck’s, cast bronze pieces at Cafe Belwah, gourd art at Gallery ABBA, garden mosaics at Pizzazz, and blue jean purses at Stanton Shoes.

On Saturday beginning at 8 a.m., The Angels Trumpet Plant Annual Plant Sale in the Garden will take place at the Angel Museum. Starting at 10 a.m., the museum will feature a 25 percent off non-consignment item sale in the Heavenly Treasures Gift Shop.

Also on Saturday, the Farmers Market Preview Sale will be going on in the parking lot north of Bushel and Peck’s from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We are thrilled to see over 120 artists,” Braatz said. “The number of artists continues to grow, and we are happy to host five after-hours music venues Friday night.”

These venues are Bushel & Peck’s, Cafe Belwah, Denali’s, Domenico’s Italian Restaurant, and Suds O’Hanahan’s Irish Pub.

To help get art fans around, a free trolley will run Friday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. It will be stopping at most intersections every 15 minutes.

“This event brings people out to celebrate this event as the kick-off of our warm weather event season and to see all our hanging baskets —100 of them — and urns planted, and our beautiful new street and intersection at State & Grand,” Braatz said. “The downtown is in top form to capture the imagination of art-goers and a really fun social time for the community and visitors.”

ArtWalk is sponsored by M&I Bank, Hendricks Development Group, Kerry, the Beloit Daily News and ka-mel-yun.

