

Plein Air brings color to Beloit

By Clint Wolf cwolf@beloitdailynews.com | Posted: Saturday, June 15, 2013 10:00 am

Scenes of the riverfront, of downtown streetscapes and of the Beloit College campus were put to canvas this week.

On Friday night, those scenes created by dozens of artists were fetching bids from guests and gaining blue ribbons and cash awards during the Edge of the Rock Plein Air Art Show and Sale at the Hendricks Center for the Arts in downtown Beloit.

Sarah Kruze, president of the board for Friends of RiverFront, said this marked the seventh year for the Plein Air event and it has grown each year.

“It has grown from a small event to an expanded, beautiful event,” she said.

In 2007 Plein Air had 23 artists manning easels along the Rock River shoreline. This year there were 58 artists in Beloit. There were 81 pieces of art in the art show and sale with an additional 14 pieces for sale in the hallway of the Hendricks Center for the Arts.

Nicki Meyer, executive director of Friends of RiverFront, said the Plein Air event is all about the artists, and the artists keep coming back to Beloit because they feel welcome here.

“I hear over and over from the artists that they love coming to Beloit because it is so open and inviting,” she said.

She noted that 30 percent of the proceeds from the art sale goes to support Friends of RiverFront and its efforts to keep the riverfront animated. Friends of RiverFront is about to begin its series of concerts in Riverside Park called Music and More at Harry’s Place. The first concert will feature the Rhythm Rockets on June 21.

The art sale will continue today from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Hendricks Center for the Arts at the corner of Pleasant Street and Grand Avenue.

Sponsors for the Plein Air Art Show are Regal Beloit, North American Tool, Angus Young Associates and Visit Beloit.

Award winners from the art show are:

- Best in Show, \$1,500 — Matt Holt of Silver Lake, Wis. for “Intersection of Light and Shadow”
- Pride of Beloit, \$1,000 — Kyle Martin for “The Strong Intersection”

- Friends Award, \$1,000 — Jason Prigge of Manitowoc, Wis. for “Teak House”
- Patron of the Arts, \$500 — Richard Dorbin of Milwaukee for “Beloit Alley”
- Spirit of the Arts, \$500 — Jenny Anderson for “From the Bluff”
- Honorable Mention, \$150 — Pat Wafer
- Honorable Mention, \$150 — Martha Hayden

Next Generation Division

- Best in Show, \$100 — Lina Ngo for “June Monday Morning”
 - Superior, \$75 — Annie Laurie Zanter for “Making Ripples”
 - Exceptional, \$50 — Josh Swedlund for “Graffiti at the Landing”
 - Water Color — Roxanne Joos for “Hiding from the Anthropology Building”
 - Oil — Alyssa Markley for “Summer on the River”
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