

# Arts & Entertainment

## Audience or not, street musicians play on

By Scott Schiefelbein

Downtown Lincoln streetcorners offer musicians a chance to showcase their talent and pick up some extra cash.

According to the County Clerk's office, as long as the musician does not interfere with the flow of pedestrian traffic or ask for money, street performances are legal. Although petitioning for money is not allowed, the musicians do accept donations.

On most days, people walking by can see and hear several performers plying their trades on various corners throughout downtown Lincoln.

During lunch hour, many people stop and listen to

the music and sometimes toss a coin into the open instrument cases the musicians set near them. The listeners don't usually stay long, but with or without an audience, the musicians play their songs.

Jerry Rau said he has been playing his guitar and singing in Lincoln on and off for two years. He travels across the country playing at bars and coffeehouses wherever Rau finds himself, he plays street corners to pick up some money and keep his skills sharp. He said a musician should play music and not be tied to a job with a time clock to support himself. He figures that he earns near the minimum wage playing his songs and he's happier playing music for a low wage than working at a job he wouldn't like.

"If you're doing something positive, that you enjoy,

then it can't be bad," he said.

Rau has released three albums on a cooperative record label based in Minnesota.

Wanda, a fiddler, said she also has performed downtown Lincoln for about two years. She said her main reason for playing corners is money. On most days, she said, she makes enough to pay for lunch, but occasionally she earns enough extra for an evening at a bar.

Downtown Lincoln offers a chance to enjoy and help support local musical talent. These musicians play their songs to an audience that flows with traffic, but the music continues even after the light turns green and the listeners move on to their destinations.

## Sheldon's exhibits help cool summer heat

By Greg Gregerson

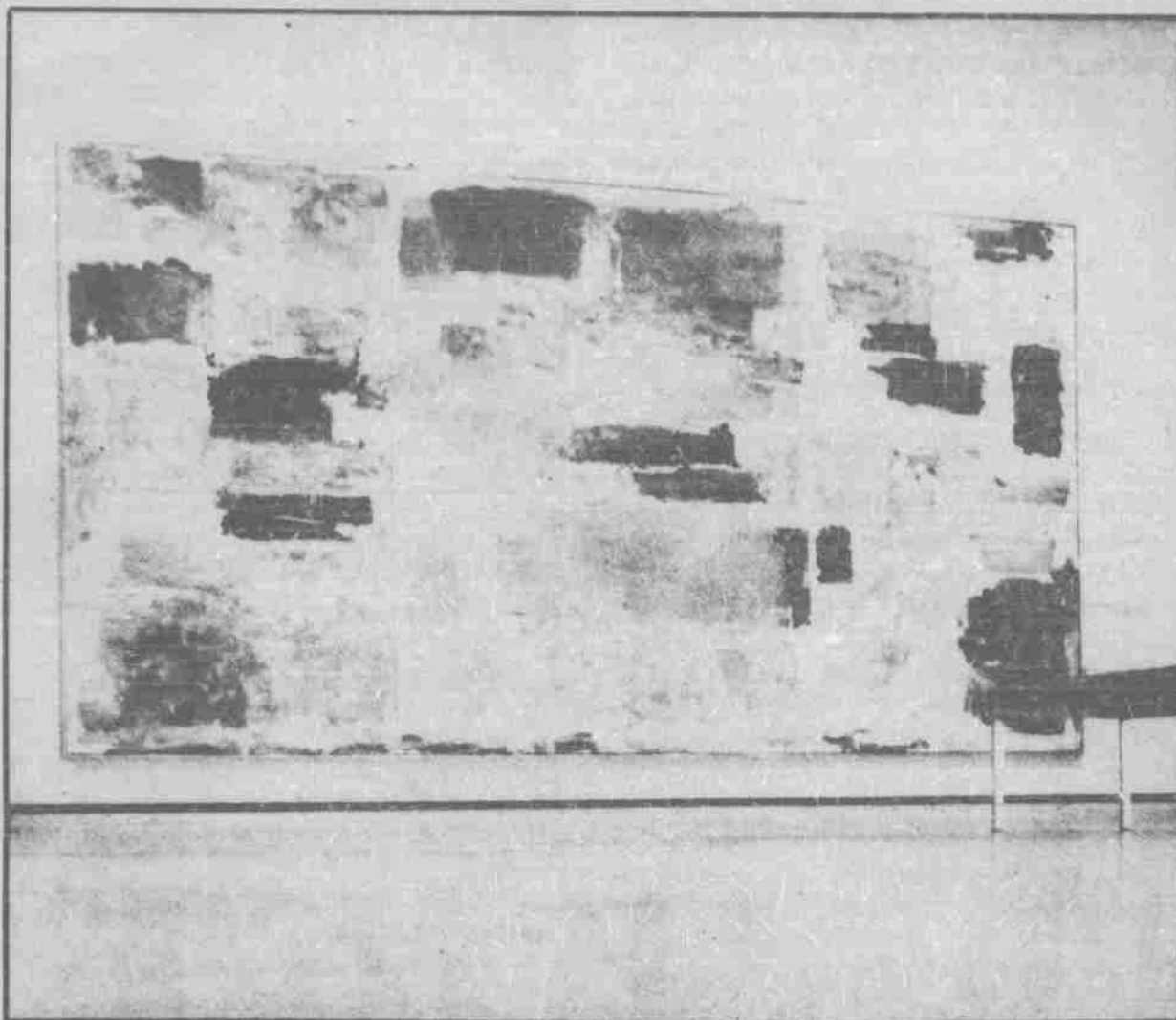
If you enjoy art and want to learn more about it or just want to get in out of the heat and humidity, this is the time to step into the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and see what's new for summer.

For those with an eye for landscape photography there is a showing of Nebraska landscapes by Grand Island painter/photographer Hal Holoun in the art shop.

Holoun, the former exhibition director of the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, has had numerous exhibits throughout the Midwest, including the Sheldon in 1981.

Holoun's work reflects his fascination for the special character of Nebraska terrain. He emphasizes his immediate response to the outdoors in his work, and the important feeling he has for being "a part of the flow of things."

For those interested in contemporary three-dimensional art the art shop also has a showing by sculptor Dan Paragine of Unadilla. The Sheldon exhibit consists of five works — two in bronze, two in alabaster and one in



Joan Mitchell's "Plowed Field," one of the works in the Blaffer Collection of American Abstract Expressionism.

painting plywood. The artist also used steel and painted steel to create his impressions. Besides the Sheldon showing, people can see Paragine's work on a larger scale at several Lincoln and Omaha locations.

The largest of the three summer exhibits at the Sheldon is the Sara Blaffer Foundation collection of American abstract expressionism. For people unfamiliar with abstract expressionism, this is one of the best times to find out about it first hand.

Donald Doe, assistant director of the Sheldon said of Blaffer's work, "The collection is one of the best finest private collections of this art form in the country."

The 28 works by different artists of which 24 are currently at the Sheldon, were assembled in 1975 by Blaffer heiress to the Texaco Oil fortune.

Abstract expressionism is art in which artists attempt to convey their attitudes and emotions through non-representational means.

Most of the paintings are large-scale, using a wide range of colors. The styles vary a great deal as well, while maintaining the abstract, non-realistic feeling.

## Nebraska art scene in full spring bloom

Artyfacts . . .

The spring semester may have ended, but Nebraska's art scene is in full bloom. Some of the highlights:

• Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum has opened its 18th biennial show. UNL art and graphics professor Keith Jacob-

The first three shows have biographed Jackson Pollock, Arshile Gorky and Franz Kline and Willem De Kooning. The shows are introduced by Dustin Hoffman (who adds a nice self-deprecatory plebian air to the production) and consist of interviews with fellow artists and spoken excerpts from the featured artist's memoirs. Much insight is given into the baffling process known as the "creative process."

The show is both inspiring and sadly touching as the viewer faces the life of an artist like Pollock in utter poverty through fame and success, ending with discouragement and self-destruction. Luckily the series never stoops into cheap romanticism and steers clear of any editorial comments. Suggestion: If you don't have a color TV, go to a friend's house.

• Speaking of abstract expressionists, or "A-E" in art circles, the Sheldon currently is showing the Sarah Blaffer collection. Its high-quality work overall is in keeping with the Sheldon tradition. The gallery is the real jewel around these parts and is probably the best way I can think of to spend a hot Nebraskan summer afternoon. It's relaxing, it's free and it's running through July 29.

**Billy Shaffer**

shagen was selected as grand prize winner by judges and Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Director George Neubert. The show runs through June 24.

• Lincoln's newest showspace, the Eleventh Street Gallery, currently is displaying "Three on the Figure." The show features the watercolors of Jim Jacobi and Brad Krieger and the photos of Carol Dobrovoly.

This new artist-operated place is a wonderful idea for Lincoln art and artists and its sorely needed if the Capitol City is to develop its cultural scope. It is at 11th and M streets and deserves your patronage. Congrats to all involved at the new place and good luck.

• There's a wonderful series running on public television at 10 p.m. on Tuesdays. "Strokes of Genius" chronicles the lives of six abstract Expressionists.

