



Michelle Paulman/DN

Lois Meysenburg, an artist at Noyes Art Gallery, displays a T-shirt featuring a painting by Rodney Humpal.

## Gallery prints pictures of artists' work on shirts

By Sean McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

Art buffs can not only experience the art at the Noyes Art Gallery, they can literally wear it.

From September until December, the gallery will feature artists' works printed on t-shirts. The gallery, located at 119 S. Ninth St., originally offered the T-shirt service for an exhibit.

The exhibit, entitled "Clothing Optional," was slated for an August run only. However, response to the T-shirts was so positive that the gallery extended the service past August, according to gallery artist Rodney Humpal.

Since Aug. 1, the gallery has sold about 100 shirts, Humpal said. The gallery takes orders from customers

*"The T-shirts' success has come as a big surprise. I think that the shirts will enhance the feeling that this is a casual place where you can enjoy yourself."*

**RODNEY HUMPAL**  
Noyes Art Gallery artist

as to what artist's work they would like to wear and what size they would like. The work is then scanned by local T-shirt shops and sent back to the gallery and to the customer, Humpal said.

The cost of each shirt is \$22.

Because of size limitations, some of the works in the gallery are not available to print on a T-shirt, Humpal said. However, most of the past art works in the gallery, and

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## Little Feat runs away with success using various music styles

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

It is a record company's promotional nightmare.

Country, blues, hard rock, fusion, jazz and "swamp" music—Little Feat has been doing it all since 1969.

On Labor Day, Little Feat will tromp onto the stage at the Nebraska State Fair as part of the Blues Music Festival, with B.B. King, Dr. John and the Muddy Waters tribute band.

Paul Barrere, Little Feat guitarist and vocalist, said the band's eclectic nature made it impossible to put Feat into a category.

"People don't know what to call us. I say, just call us musicians," he laughed.

After the band's front man, Lowell George, passed away in 1979, the remaining band members went their separate ways.

They reunited years later in 1985 and went back to the studio in 1988 to record "Let It Roll." Little Feat has been rolling ever since.

"The funny thing about this band is that even in the seven or eight years we were apart, our band grew in mystique with the advent of classic radio," Barrere said.

He said more people knew about the band, and by the time it reunited, the band's fan base had grown twofold.

After the release of "Let It Roll," Little Feat went on a tour that took it across North America, Europe and Japan. The band's reputation grew and resulted in two more albums, "Representing the Mamba" and "Shake Me Up."

The band went through another personnel change with the departure of vocalist Craig Fuller.

"Craig had become tired of all the comparisons to Lowell," Barrere said. "He was tired of traveling on the road, and he wanted to stay home with his new

baby."

The void then was filled in a unique way. Little Feat found a little woman—Shaun Murphy.

Murphy, whose background includes singing backup for Bob Seger, Phil Collins, Eric Clapton, Michael Bolton, Bruce Hornsby and Glenn Frey, sang with Little Feat on the group's last three records.

Barrere said engaging Murphy as a lead vocalist gave Little Feat a "new shot in the arm."

"It was a left turn for Little Feat to let a lady join the band," Barrere laughed. "We had to clean up the language on the bus."

Barrere said Fuller was more country-oriented, while Murphy leaned toward blues rock.

"She's really more oriented to the bulk of Little Feat rhythm and blues. We're back to being a bit funkier."

Murphy also has more stage presence than Fuller had, Barrere said, which has contributed to the band's recent success and touring gigs, such as the Blues Music Festival.

The festival is a good way to expand Little Feat's audience, Barrere said, because it takes the band to areas—such as Nebraska—where it hasn't received much exposure.

"It's kind of nice how they set this blues fest up," he said. "It's not limited. It's really American music."

For Barrere, the real advantage was being able to play with the legends.

"I've been a big fan of B.B. King and Dr. John," he said. "We've done six shows together, and there's talk of getting together and doing some jamming. There's nothing I would like to do more than to sit down next to the King and play guitar."

The Blues Festival will begin Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Tickets are \$20, \$17 and \$14.

## Diamond Rio's skill is country music's crown jewel

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

Diamond Rio is not into "little ditties."

Like the band's name, its members stress the utmost in quality out of their work. And it shines through.

Diamond Rio was the first country band to have a debut single go No. 1 with 1991's "Meet in the Middle" off the band's self-titled album.

Since then, the group has had No. 1 hits off its 1992 album "Close to the Edge" and its most recent release, "Love a Little Stronger." Diamond Rio was "Country Group of the Year" in 1992 and 1993, and was nominated for a Grammy award in 1994.

Marty Roe, Diamond Rio's lead vocalist, said the band placed a lot of emphasis on its songs to make sure the material released has substance and is not a "little ditty."

"The big songs—the ditty things—make huge hits, but as far as longevity goes, you have to put out quality material," Roe said.

Roe said that although singers like Billy Ray Cyrus received a lot of attention in the short run, they left the spotlight just as quickly as they entered it.

"I think the American people are smart. They might get sucked in once, but they won't get sucked in twice," Roe laughed. "I do like Billy Ray. He's a nice guy. I thought his second album was much better, though."

Quality is still the determining factor.

"If you turn out quality every time, people will respect you. If you turn out work that is sub-par, even if it's a huge hit, people won't get their money's worth."

Artists like Cyrus and Garth Brooks aren't all bad for the image of country music, Roe said.

"They bring people into the record stores and people are going to walk right by that bin that says Diamond Rio," he laughed. "(Cyrus) is in the C's and we're right next door."

What makes Diamond Rio the shining jewel of country music are six experienced musicians and lyrics that ring true to heart.

Jimmy Olander, lead guitar; Gene Johnson, mandolins and vocals; Brian Prout, drums; Dan Truman, keyboards; Dana Williams, bass guitar and vocals; and Roe give Diamond Rio the "cutting edge."

"Jimmy, Dan and Gene are all good as musicians as there are in Nashville. They bring their own styles and differences," Roe said.

Within the musical polish, lies the lyrical truth, Roe said.

"It starts out with a hook idea, a title you get excited about. You get

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Courtesy of International Artist Management

Diamond Rio is, from left: Brian Prout, Jimmy Olander, Dan Truman, Marty Roe, Dana Williams and Gene Johnson.