

## Downtown Lincoln

### Artist weaves new images with paintings

By JOHN FULWIDER  
Senior Editor

Betty Jo Axthelm makes watercolor paintings on paper. Nothing unusual there.

Many artists would then frame their work and display it. Not Axthelm. She cuts hers up.

She cuts two new paintings up, then weaves them together to create one entirely new composition from vertical and horizontal strips of the beginning two.

The result is an unusually textured floral portrait that looks like it's made of hundreds of squares — a different approach to the time-honored still life.

An art show including Axthelm's works opens Friday at Noyes Art Gallery.

Axthelm's woven watercolors emerged from experimentation, like so many of her other works in watercolor, oil and acrylic paints. She likes to make pictures of anything she can get her hands on and then arrange in an attractive composition.

"I see beauty in my environment

**Noyes Art Gallery**  
119 S. Ninth St.  
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday



JOHN FULWIDER/DN  
**BETTY JO AXTHELM'S woven watercolors will be on display starting Friday at the Noyes Gallery.**

wherever I look," said Axthelm, who prefers to be called B.J.

Please see **AXTHELM** on 8

## Haydon Gallery to show collection of digital art

From Staff Reports

"The Digital Show: Artists Using Computers," opening Friday at Haydon Gallery, exemplifies the staggering proliferation of technology and its use in contemporary art.

The show is a follow-up to 1996 Haydon exhibitions that focused on the use of computers in weaving and printmaking. "The Digital Show" takes a look at electronic photography and image manipulation.

Anne Pagel, Haydon director, said the creative capabilities of the artists create an aesthetic statement that overcomes the challenges of using the latest technology. Their works, she said, prove that artistic expressions can reach far beyond the media from which they were produced.

Jim Butkus, a graphic arts instructor at Omaha's Metropolitan Community College, organized the show and is one of its featured artists. Other artists are Jill Birschbach, Judith Ernst Cherry, Gary Day, Mary Day, John Derry, Gary Downing, Shelly Fuller, David Helm, Becky Hermann, Tricia Smith Hollins, Lorran Meares, Kat Moser, Peggy Reinecke and Lynn Reynolds.



JOHN FULWIDER/DN  
**THIS UNTITLED PIECE by Omaha artist Jim Butkus was created with a computer and is one of a collection of works for Haydon Gallery's "The Digital Show: Artists Using Computers," opening Friday. The show was organized by Jim Butkus, a graphic arts instructor at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha.**

**Haydon Gallery**  
335 N. Eighth St.  
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday

## Burkholder Project produces shows, new space

From Staff Reports

Opening Friday at The Burkholder Project are three shows and a new exhibition space.

The exhibition space is called The Sampler Gallery and occupies basement space formerly used by the Lincoln Artist's Guild, which is leaving because of financial difficulties.

The Sampler Gallery's purpose is to give artists who aren't members of the Burkholder cooperative a chance

to have a work or two on display. In the space now is a piece from a Lebanese artist, Roula Ayoub, as well as works by artists from South Korea, Seattle, Minneapolis and all over Nebraska.

The space features much-improved lighting and wall coverings.

Upstairs in the Main Gallery Friday will be "Mysteries," a collection of abstract works by Lincoln artist Richard Tyrrell, plus some of his recent landscapes and figurative sketches.

**Burkholder Project**  
719 P St.  
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday

In the Back Gallery will be a group show of abstract works by Burkholder artists.

And the Skylight Gallery will have recent mixed media on paper works by Carol Gallion.

## Omaha artist opens exhibit against Warhol

By JOHN FULWIDER  
Senior Editor

There was a time when Omaha artist Bonnie O'Connell wanted to throw the moneylenders out of the temple — or the Warhol-lovers out of the Art Institute.

When she lived in Chicago, O'Connell considered the Art Institute of Chicago a refuge — a place to see art untainted by the influence of commercialism.

That ended in 1989 when a new pop culture exhibit turned the Institute into what O'Connell called "a Warhol mall."

"The museum had simply been consumed by this whole notion of marketing Warholia," she said. "I was re-



JOHN FULWIDER/DN  
**BONNIE O'CONNELL, an Omaha artist, has published "The Anti-Warhol Museum" in an attempt to rid American society of the pop-culture icon's influence.**

pulsed."  
—Andy Warhol worked in "pop art," making paintings of popular figures and items like Marilyn Monroe, Mickey Mouse and Campbell's Soup

Please see **WARHOL** on 8

**Gallery 9**  
124 S. Ninth St.  
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday,  
noon-5 p.m. Sunday

## Gallery openings bring full bellies, free culture

Free food.

Art lovers go to gallery openings because the experience of viewing fine art enriches their lives. But if life enrichment doesn't top your list of weekend priorities, go for the free food.

We're not talking carrot sticks and ranch dip here. At a recent Haydon Gallery opening, we're talking confections that put The Garden Cafe to shame.

Fresh fruit. Sublime gazpacho dip. Summer sausage. Cheese from around the world and a few other planets besides.

Gallery openings are an experience unto themselves. People dress up and dress down. Some wear the stereotypical all-black. All comers have fun if they want.

That's right, fun. Art shows are a source of cheap entertainment. Actually, not cheap — free. All you have to do is go.

For those who aren't convinced, free up 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and follow this route through Lincoln's four downtown galleries:

1. Start at Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St., not because it's the best gallery (they all have their own charm), but because it's just outside the Haymarket and parking is easier to find. Walk right under the iron arch to the courtyard entrance. Fill up a plate with food from the table just inside. Look around for 30 minutes — don't miss the handmade jewelry in the gift shop.

2. Walk across Ninth Street to Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St. The free food should be in the room to the left of the entrance. Get some, then walk clockwise around the gallery's three exhibit rooms for 30 minutes. You'll end up at the entrance again. Exit.

3. Any other month but February, you would walk or drive to the Burkholder Project, 719 P St. It's across the street from Jabrisco and next door to Ted and Wally's. The free food is usually in one of the artists' studios on the left.

But not Friday. Burkholder isn't having a night opening this month, so go either earlier in the day or another day. Admire the gallery's architecture and foliage as much as the artwork. Allow some extra time, because Burkholder is huge.

4. Run over to Haydon Gallery. Take Eighth Street past The Oven and The Mill. Haydon is about half a block past La Paloma on the same side of the street. There is one exhibit room, so the free food won't be hard to find.

Too bad these things happen only once a month.

Fulwider is a junior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan wire editor.