

# More than just art

## Valentine's show promises no stupid questions

BY JOHN FULWIDER  
Senior Editor

“  
This gives an excuse to shy people.”

JANNA HARSCH  
artist

Everyone has thought this at least once when talking to artists about their art: What if I ask a stupid question?

Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St., aims to eliminate that worry Friday night from 6:30 to 9:30 at its special Valentine's Day art show, featuring portrait and "people paintings" artist Carlos Reyes.

The plan is to give each gallery visitor a sheet of prepared questions to ask the featured artists. After visitors ask the questions, artists will give them red heart stickers.

Later, the visitor can turn in his or her question sheet, stickers attached, as an entry to win one of several door prizes. A question for artist Janna Harsch, who makes acrylic paintings and wire sculptures of horses, might be as simple as "Why do you like horses so much?"

"This gives an excuse to shy people," Harsch said. The artists have set aside the time specifically to talk to people, she added — so ask away.

Something else new about Friday's show is its location in the

upstairs studios, an area usually closed to the public. Reyes, a guest artist from Wayne, has taken over most of gallery director Julia Noyes' studio to exhibit his works.

Reyes is known for his commissioned portraits, but Friday's show will include a broader range of subjects — paintings of everything from swans to a coffee carafe.

While soaking up friendly affection from Noyes, his friend of more than 30 years ("The show's around Valentine's because Carlos is our sweetheart," Noyes said), Reyes explained how he made "The Gathering," one piece visitors will see Friday.

The painting came from photographs he took at a harvester show in Grand Island, Reyes said. "I like to hang out at places like that and just find the characters," he said.

The character in the foreground with the baseball cap and hands stuck in his pockets struck Reyes the most. He liked how the man's

stance added to the mood of "something impending that I don't know whether I want to hang around for."

The faces in "The Gathering" and Reyes' other non-portraits are deliberately left indistinct so viewers will concentrate on other aspects of the composition, like lighting and shape. What captivates Reyes most about "The Gathering" is the light streaming from behind the men and through their legs.

For those who don't know him from his many appearances in Lincoln, Reyes, 59, taught art at Wayne State College for 10 years before turning to producing his own art full time. He came to Nebraska after living in Kansas. He was born in Oklahoma.

The next logical move would seem to be to South Dakota. But not for Reyes.

"I want to go south," he said with a laugh. "I'm going the wrong direction."

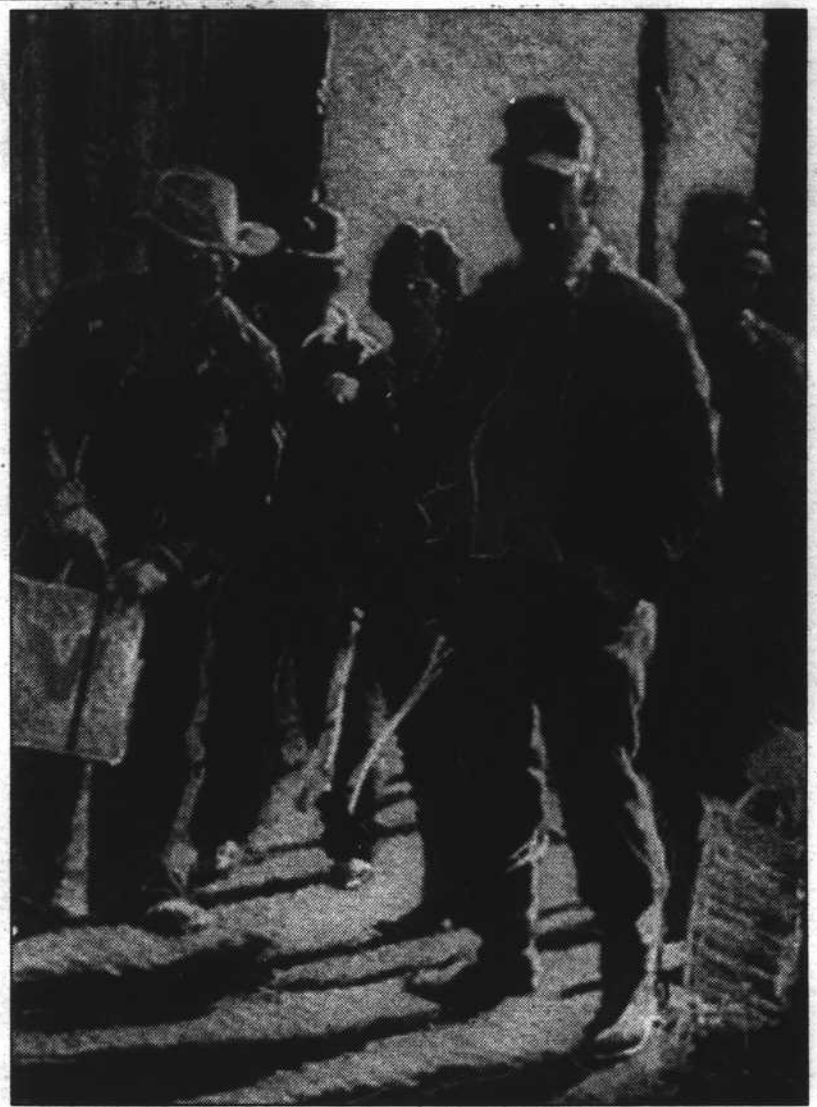


PHOTO COURTESY OF NOYES ART GALLERY

"THE GATHERING" is just one of the paintings by Carlos Reyes that will be on display during the Noyes Art Gallery's special Valentine's Day art show this Friday.

# Set sights on 'Trainspotting' for superb new release

BY GERRY BELTZ  
Film Critic

Yee-haw! There are a whole lotta new releases this week, and most of them are well worth the rental price. The pick of the week helps celebrate (what else?) Valentine's Day.

"A Very Brady Sequel" — Well, they sure didn't waste any time slapping this flick together, given the success of the original.

Now, the whole flaky family and crew is on vacation in Hawaii when Carol's (Shelley Long) ex-boyfriend shows up and wants to steal her back.

Some laughs, but it looks like a rush job on the script. Rent it only if you're desperate for comedy or big lapels.

"First Kid" — Sinbad plays a secret service agent who is determined to help a youngster learn how to have a good time.

Yep, more of Sinbad's antics, but the kids will like this one. Rent this one ahead of "A Very Brady Sequel" if you need some comedy.

"Trainspotting" — One of 1996's best releases was a Scottish import — based on Irvine Welsh's masterful novel of the same name — that told the story of heroin addicts slugging it out in the streets of Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. But because of its subject matter and its sickeningly realistic examination of the drug subculture, "Trainspotting" also may prove to be one of the Academy Awards' most neglected films of the year.

The main character is Mark Renton (Ewan McGregor), a quick-minded lowlife who spends one half of the film trying to kick his habit, and the other half trying to get a fix to feed it. The supporting cast, particularly the frenetic performance by Ewen Bremner, rounds the film out to near perfection.

This is a harshly told, biting funny film that gets better each time you see it, so be sure to hit the stores hard looking for this one.

"Feeling Minnesota" — This not-so-funny romantic comedy falls victim to a plot with so many twists and turns that it's a miracle it doesn't collapse in on itself.

Keanu Reeves stars as a lonely guy who runs off with his brother's new bride (Cameron Diaz). And as if that wasn't enough to cause some family problems, his brother works for a mob boss (Delroy Lindo), who is determined to get his trusty employee's wife back at any cost.

The expected madness and hilarity ensue, but the fast-paced story line doesn't allow any time for any real character development, and the whole film degenerates into a series of loosely connected anecdotes and half-baked characters.

### New Videos

"Grace of My Heart" — Ileana Douglas stars in this film about an up-and-coming singer who must maneuver her way not only through the music industry, but also through the hordes of men (including Matt Dillon and John Turturro) who try to get a piece of her success.

Director/screenwriter Alison Anders (whose "Gas, Food, Lodging" showed much more promise than this delivered) unfortunately lets her well-placed characters and the fine abilities of her cast become muddled in an overwrought story line.

But the cast alone makes this film worth seeing, and if you don't mind waiting a little bit longer, this one will arrive at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater on Feb. 20 for a two-week big screen engagement.

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