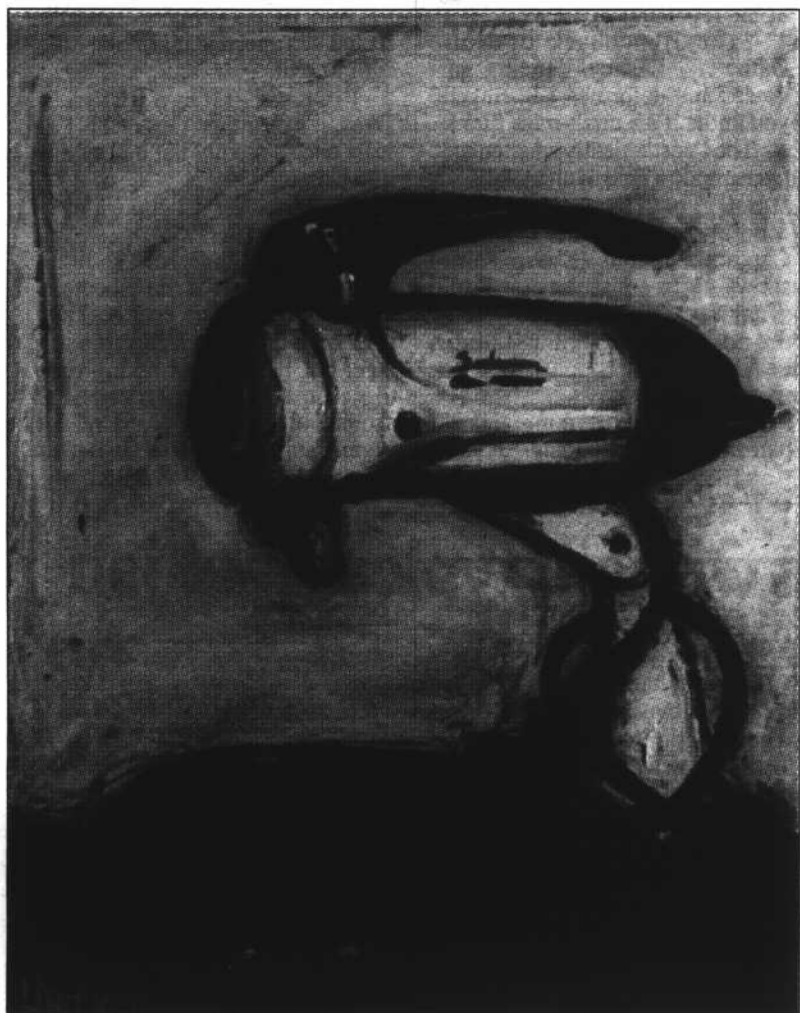


Painter feels joyfully free without typical 'real' job



COURTESY OF GALLERY 9
LAURA NOTHERN, a UNL graduate, created this oil-on-canvas painting, "Sunbeam," in part to playfully spite a former art professor who told her she simply couldn't do a red-yellow-blue composition. The opening reception for her solo show at Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St., is Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

By **JOHN FULWIDER**
Senior Editor

Laura Nothern is living proof that one can take forever to graduate from college, not get a "real" job afterward and love every minute of it.

Her art professors told her she'd never make a living as an artist — that she'd have to get that always loosely defined "real" job and do art on the side.

More than two years after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a bachelor of fine arts degree (on the seven-and-a-half-year plan), Nothern isn't quite making a living yet; she gets some support from her parents. But she's doing what some people only dream of — working full time at a job she passionately loves.

"It's really a joy for me. I mean, I just love painting so much," she says, brimming with enthusiasm and smiling broadly as she paces the hardwood floor of her attic studio.

Nothern has a solo exhibition opening Wednesday at Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St. The opening reception is Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Among her 50-or-so oil still lifes will be "Sunbeam," a portrait of an electric mixer. She picked up the mixer when her neighbors were cleaning out their attic.

Why paint a kitchen appliance?
 "I don't know. I think they just

Please see **NOTHERN** on 8



COURTESY OF NOYES ART GALLERY

"PRAIRIE WINDS," a watercolor landscape by Lois Meysenberg, is one of 50 paintings, sculptures and craft objects created by Nebraska mothers now on display at Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St. The Mothers show's opening reception is Friday evening from 6:30 to 9:30.

Artwork produced by 'Mom' showcased at Noyes gallery

By **JOHN FULWIDER**
Senior Editor

At Noyes Art Gallery right now, there's nothing more American than mom, art and ... art.

The Nebraska Mothers Association's Annual Creative Arts Exhibition is now up at the gallery, 119 S. Ninth St. There are no paintings of apple pie, but among the 50 entries there is something for just about every taste from oil portraits to watercolor landscapes — all produced by Nebraska mothers.

There were three first-place winners in the three categories of a contest held Saturday at Noyes. "Night" by Amy Sadle of Syracuse won in fine arts, "Ancient American Anthropomorphic Figures" by Gretchen Olberding of Burwell took the crafts award and "Self Portrait" by Lincoln's Elise Marie Clarke won in sculpture.

The three will represent Nebraska April 30 in Scottsdale, Ariz., at the National Art Competition of

the American Mothers Inc.

Clarke's entry in the fine arts category was "Untitled," a watercolor painting. It features Christ as part of a roughly cross-shaped, leafy tree. From the holes in Christ's feet sprout new leaves, and babies clad in pink and blue occupy spaces in the tree's roots.

Clarke, an art student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said her painting has several levels of meaning: that Christ is the tree of life, that all life springs from him, and that he is the sacrifice for child victims of sexual abuse and babies who have died in miscarriages and abortions.

Lincolnite Lois Meysenberg took second place in fine arts in 1993's national competition.

Her two entries in the local competition this year were "Prairie Winds," a watercolor landscape, and the mixed-media "Alley Way New Orleans Style." The self-taught artist of nine years says in her artist's

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LINCOLN GALLERY PREVIEW



COURTESY OF HAYDON ART GALLERY

JOHN LEBOEUF created these tiny sculptures, which will be included in a dual exhibition at Haydon Art Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St. Clockwise from top right are "Gourd Vessel," "Articulated Figure," "Knife" and "Antler Vessel." The exhibition's opening reception is Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

Antler sculptures, photographs part of dual exhibit at Haydon

By **JOHN FULWIDER**
Senior Editor

Open now at Haydon Art Gallery is a dual exhibition by White River, S.D., sculptor John LeBoeuf and Omaha photographer Michael

Flecky.

LeBoeuf's friends collect shed deer and elk antlers for him. Then, when he's not teaching art at White River Public Schools, he carves the antlers into tiny sculptures that

Please see **HAYDON** on 8

Drag queens, art mirrors at Burkholder

By **JOHN FULWIDER**
Senior Editor

"I'm late! I'm late! I'm very, very late!"

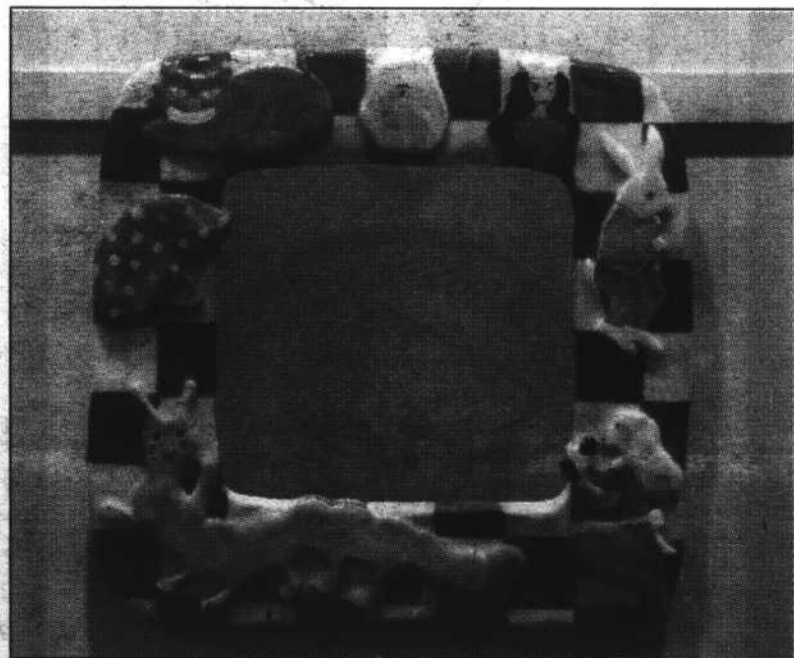
You could show up at a certain Lincoln art gallery March 14 wearing a rabbit costume and screaming the above. Not a single person would look at you funny.

Especially not the drag queens. Or the fortune tellers. Or the magicians.

The art harpies have gone mad. Follow them "Through the Looking Glass."

The Lewis Carroll-esque show at the Burkholder Project promises to be a spectacle, at the very least. Besides seeing more than 10 established artists working outside their usual mediums, there will be Lincoln's beloved drag queens Buddy Starr and Friends in "Bad Taste on a Stick."

Buddy Starr (a.k.a. Paul Pearson, director of Lincoln's Futz theater) promises that her audience will be offended. Never seen Tammy Wynette in a wheelchair wailing



DN PHOTO

MARY CHEN created this untitled art mirror, which exemplifies the theme of the Burkholder Project's next show, "Through the Looking Glass." The show's opening reception is March 14 from 7 to 9 p.m.

"Stand By Your Man"? You will.

Guests are invited to wear costumes (not necessarily of furry bunnies) and munch on the hors d'oeuvres. All for free.

Getting back to the gallery artists — the unusual medium they're working in is art mirrors. That is, mirrors

that have been manipulated in some way. Some pieces will have painted frames, others will have paint applied directly to the glass.

It should be quite the whimsical evening from 7 to 9 at the Burkholder Project, 719 P St. The drag show starts about 8.