



BRET GOTTSCHALL sits with his "Tumbleweed Odyssey," which he painted in 1997, at Club 1427, where his show opened on Wednesday night. MICHAEL WARREN/DN

Club becomes home for artist's work

BY BRET SCHULTE
Assignment Reporter

Nobody knows which came first, the bars or the students, but it's high time Lincoln artists joined the O Street party.

Six months ago, Club 1427, 1427 O St., began featuring the work of local artists on its walls. The exhibitions are held once a month and last for one week.

Dimitri Meares, owner of Club 1427, believes the reason for displaying local art in his bar is quite obvious.

"We just like art," he said.

Wednesday, local artist and University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate Bret Gottschall hung more than 20 pieces of his work on the walls of Club 1427 for patrons to enjoy and possibly purchase.

His paintings tend to focus on one of two separate worlds: one exploring the abstract and spatial, and the other focusing on dark figures in private moments.

"They are both within the realm of realism," Gottschall said, referring to a painting titled "Possible Space I," a collage of lighter tones and shapes lifted from a heavy background.

"I think that people should know that it is something, but not know what it is."

BRET GOTTSCHALL
artist

"I would like to think this is an accurate portrayal of space as I see it," he continued. Although many of Gottschall's pieces are reflections of what he simply dubs "space," they don't necessarily carry a common message.

"I just think they are interesting to look at," he said. "I think that people should know that it is something, but not know what it is."

Not all of Gottschall's paintings deal with such abstract concepts. However, some of his most striking work contains very real, very dark portraits of isolated people.

Gottschall said these paintings reflect his moods. One,

titled "Return to the Studio," depicts a solitary figure looking out a large window with his back turned to the viewer.

The picture was created after Gottschall found a studio to work in after a year-and-a-half search. The mood of the painting is pensive and, despite its calm picture, relays a sense of anxiety.

Gottschall said his "figure" paintings share some common themes.

"I tend to find myself painting the back of people," he said. "They are very voyeurish."

Gottschall's career as an artist began in college where he worked as a graphic artist for the Daily Nebraskan while studying for his bachelor of fine arts degree. While continuing to work on side projects and personal work, Gottschall found employment as an artist at Sandhills Publishing, where he works today.

His paintings have adorned the walls of the Coffee House, 1324 P St., and he has recently been employed to paint the ceiling at a local salon — a job he is more than willing to do for free haircuts.

Meares, who approved Gottschall's exhibit at Club 1427, thinks highly of the paintings.

"Bret's art is beautiful."

Professor to hold harpsichord recital

BY SARAH BAKER
Senior Reporter

It's the piano's older brother, and it's making a comeback.

George Ritchie, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of organ, will perform in a faculty harpsichord recital tonight at St. Mark's Church on the UNL campus.

Ritchie said the harpsichord, an instrument traditionally associated with the baroque period, is gaining new attention in the 20th century.

"A lot of people have recently had a renewed interest in the harpsichord," Ritchie said.

The harpsichord is played with a plectrum, which is a tiny plastic or crow-quill pick.

The plectrum is stuck in the end

of a jack, a wooden stick that sits on the back end of the key. When the key is depressed, its back goes up, pushing the jack up, and the plectrum plucks the string.

Ritchie said contrary to what people might think, there are a lot of harpsichord players.

"The harpsichord is the only instrument, besides the organ, that Bach composed for."

Ritchie said most of the music he will play was written by composer Johann Sebastian Bach.

"It's really a cross section of the music that Bach composed for the keyboard and the harpsichord," he said.

Ritchie said he also will perform a sonata with John Bailey, a UNL professor of flute.

"It's really a wide spectrum of music of different types, all by

Bach," Ritchie said. "This sonata we are going to play is one of Bach's greatest."

Ritchie said the harpsichord is a unique instrument because of its dynamic range of sound.

"The harpsichord is perfect for these melodies because it can combine the individual sounds in logical ways," he said.

Ritchie encouraged people to go to the concert and said it will be more than just a unique musical experience.

"John and I both did extensive research on the performance technique of the 18th century," he said. "To go to this show will be as close as possible as actually hearing how it was played originally."

Ritchie performs tonight at 8 at St. Mark's, 1309 R. St. For more information, call (402) 474-1979.

Theater



Playwright to visit Lincoln for debut

BY JASON HARDY
Senior Reporter

Thirty years ago Mart Crowley took some bold steps in the world of theater performances when he wrote a play called "The Boys in the Band," which was one of the first plays to feature openly gay characters.

Tonight Lincoln will have the chance to experience Crowley's work with a production of his play "For Reasons that Remain Unclear" at the Wagon Train Project. Though the play is directed by and features actors from the Lincoln community,

Crowley will be present at tonight's premiere.

Crowley is visiting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to discuss his work with faculty, students and staff.

The one-act play itself lasts about 90 minutes and is a story of a priest and a Hollywood screenwriter who meet in Rome and confront sexual and emotional secrets from their past.

George Wolf, associate professor of English, said that while the play deals with gay issues, that isn't the main point of the performance.

"These are human issues, not

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