

# Sights OF THE Season

Haymarket galleries develop alternate holiday exhibits that showcase local artists

By SEAN MCCARTHY  
Staff writer

As the holiday buying season hits the art world, many local studios are shunning typical holiday-fare type displays in favor of more ambitious and less structured themes.

The Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St., will feature both bronze and marble sculptures by Ginny Bowers, abstract paintings by Julia Noyes, wood carvings by Vic Schoonover and faux fur designs by Lois Williams. Mike Fluent and Janna Harsch are slated as the featured artists in the main gallery.

Noyes, owner of the Noyes Gallery, said she has been working on her abstract display for more than five years. As she was working on the paintings, she would keep turning them around and work at different angles until she was satisfied with the final product.

"They're not done before they feel right on all four sides," Noyes said.

While Noyes said there was no theme title to this month's display, she said there was an organic connection between all of the artists' work. Aside from the obvious sculptural connection to Schoonover's wood carvings of wildlife, Noyes said Bowers' pieces were organic in their material (stone, bronze) and in their movement. And even though Williams' fur is faux, Noyes said it encouraged an organic connection to patrons by encouraging them to feel Williams' work.

Though Noyes' work is abstract, she used leaves as a recurring theme throughout her 15-plus paintings. While she was painting, she would keep leaves in her pocket for inspiration.

"I'm always picking them up," Noyes said.

The Noyes gallery will have its open house Friday from 6:30 p.m. to



LOCAL ARTIST and gallery co-owner Julia Noyes is one of several local artists with work on display and for sale at the Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.

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9:30 p.m. Russian folk musicians Yelena Sorokin and Luydmila Kuznetsov have been scheduled to provide music for the event.

Gallery Nine, 124 S. Ninth St., is offering a free handmade print to its first 200 visitors during the month of December. The gallery's theme,

"Wrapped Up in Art," features original fine art and crafts from the co-op artists. The reception runs from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday. Keyboardist Daniel Schriber will be on hand for the opening.

The Burkholder Project, 719 P St., is opening three levels of studios for

patrons to view works including sculpture, photography, oil on canvas and stained glass. The theme, "Color Me Christmas," refers to 50 ornaments by 50 artists in the atrium.

Though the ornaments are holiday-themed, artist Bobby Sward said most of the artwork for December was not geared toward Christmas, or anything in particular.

"Nothing around here is typical," Sward said with a laugh. This includes several pieces of wildly painted furniture, including an ornately decorated highchair that even a 3-year-old would treat with respect.

As her contribution to the event, Sward will display floral paintings, a new artistic avenue for the veteran artist. Unlike landscape paintings, Sward said floral paintings demanded

absolute detail.

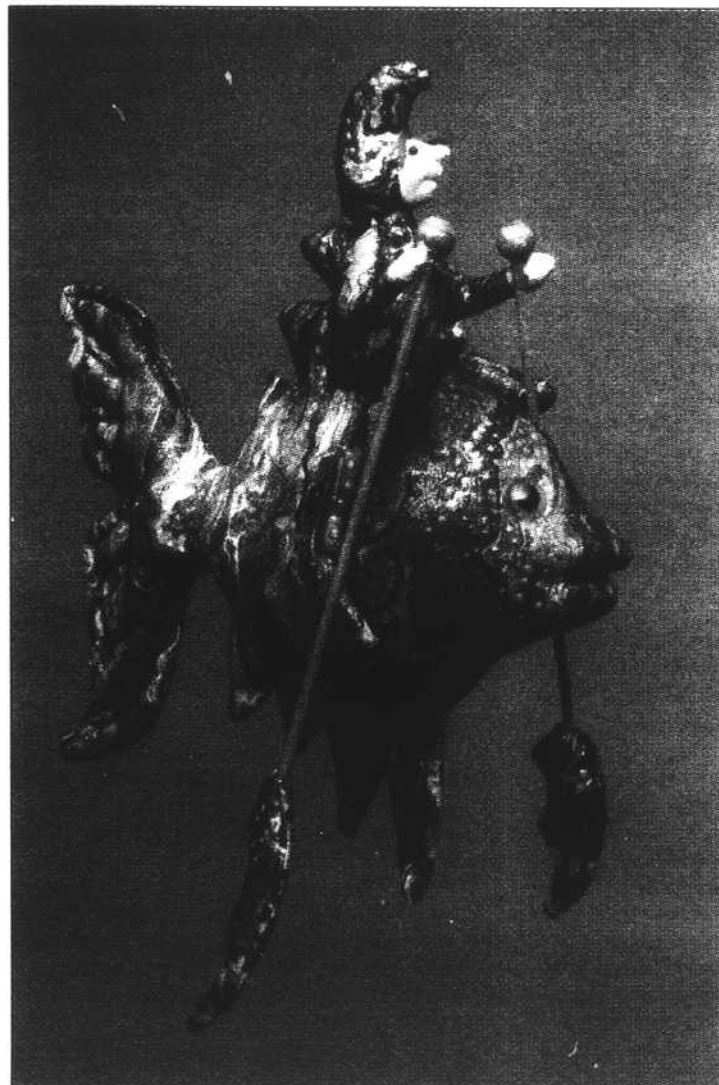
"You can fudge a landscape painting, but not a floral one," she said.

The Burkholder Project will open its doors from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

The Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St., will feature more than 250 new works by 100 of the Haydon artists. The catch: There is only one way to fit so many works in one gallery: small canvases. Artists were required to paint on canvases of an almost intimidatingly tiny size.

Hence the theme of the December show: "Small Treasures." Artists will get the chance to display their "Small Treasures" during the open house from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

With Christmas possibilities such as organic sculpture, painted furniture and miniature paintings, Furbys seem a little ... too easy.



SCOTT McCLURG/DN  
AT LEFT, "MORNING NECTAR," by Jack Stevens, combines pure steel with stainless steel in a sculpture of a trumpet vine with hummingbirds. BOTTOM, "MAGIC LAMPS" by area artist Mayumi Jones

are displayed at the Noyes Art Gallery during the holiday season.

COURTESY ART

AT FAR LEFT, "FISHERMAN," one of several organic pieces at the Burkholder project, was crafted by local artist Julie McCullough, one of 50 featured artists.

CENTER, THE BURKHOLDER PROJECT boasts an array of mediums for the holiday season, including some with spiritual inspiration such as stained glass windows. "Nativity" was created by Juliee Lowe.

