

The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief guide to weekend events. Please call venues for more information.

CONCERTS:

Duffy's, 1412 O St.
Sunday: Oil, Broken Crown

Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.
Friday and Saturday: Rockin' Fossils

Kimball Recital Hall, 12th and R streets
Sunday afternoon: Wind ensemble
Sunday evening: Varsity Chorus, University Chorale and Oratorio Chorus

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Friday: O.X. 45, George zip experience
Saturday: The Mediums, Five Story Fall

The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Hwy.
Friday and Saturday: Decker

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Friday and Saturday: Billy Bacon and the Forbidden Pigs

THEATER:
Blue Barn Theatre, 614 S. 11th St., Omaha
All weekend: "Simpatico"

Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th and R streets
Friday and Saturday: "Spirit of the Dance"

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets
Sunday: "Affliction"

Star City Dinner Theatre, 803 Q St.
All weekend: "Snoopy"

Studio Theater, Temple Building, 12th and R streets
Friday and Saturday: "Unidentified Human Remains"

GALLERIES:
Burkholder Project, 719 P St.
Friday and Saturday: "Collaborations," featuring textile art and photographs by Robert Hillestad and John Nollendorfs

Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: Works by Nebraska Art Council 1998 Artist Fellowship winners

Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St., Suite A
Friday and Saturday: Abstract paintings by Lana Miller

Jostyn Art Museum, 200 Dodge St., Omaha
All weekend: "Searching for Ancient Egypt"

Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.
Saturday morning: Portrait demonstration by Vladimir Sobolev
Friday and Saturday: horse pins and paintings by Janna Harsch, metal sculpture by Michael Fluent, oil landscapes by Keith Lowry and blown glass by Ray Schultz

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "Fletcher Benton: New Constructivism," "New York School Installation"



MEL KELLEY, a Lincoln artist, has made 36 montages using mostly comic book characters that have been cut out and then mounted in 3-D displays that cover his basement walls. SCOTT McCLURG/DN



Collage artist a superman of montage pieces

BY CHRISTOPHER HEINE
Senior staff writer

Before he had surgery, the cartilage below Mel Kelley's right thumb had worn down to fleshy splinters. Pain comes to mind when you hear about what the montage artist had done to himself, working a pair of scissors for 15 years to its functional death by cutting thousands of comic magazines into millions of pieces.

Kelley said he hasn't thought about quitting because of the injury.

"It still gets sore sometimes, but it isn't enough to keep me away from doing this," he said.

He said some kids come back to his house time and time again to view his work.

It's easy to see why.

Kelley's basement is a rainbow-colored celebration of frozen motion, a plethora of wood-framed Incredible Hulks and Spidermans leaping to nowhere as if Mr. Freeze had just chilled solid their heroic, mid-air glides.

Boxes, lined against the wall and stacked thick in a broom closet, are filled with multiple copies of every episode of his favorite comic books.

The room is a comics fan's dream.

Kelley said that some of his mint-condition comics will survive the wrath of his scissors and ambition—others won't.

"I only cut 'em if I have more than one copy," he said. "I'm not nuts."



ART COURTESY OF MEL KELLEY
IN HIS COLLAGES, Kelley goes by the pseudonym Amel, which he marks in every work by a Camel cigarettes wrapper with the "C" cut out.

He said he discovered comic book shops after moving to Lincoln from Denver in 1984.

Kelley said the only super hero he knew of before this was the Incredible Hulk.

"After that, I went from comic shop to comic shop like a kid in a candy store," Kelley said. "A whole world opened up for me."

He had dabbled with three montages that mostly used large magazine images (with a few Incredible Hulks thrown in) before his discovery of the comic stores.



SCOTT McCLURG/DN
KELLEY spends countless hours cutting out the characters that he will use for his 3-D montages.

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