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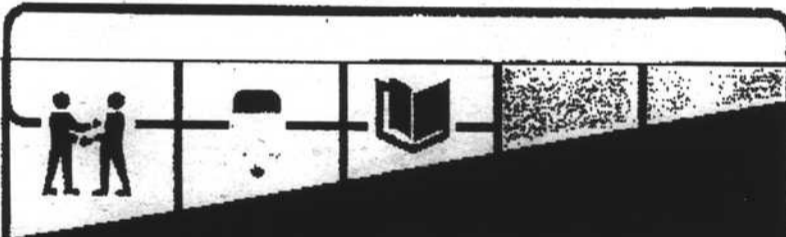
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Study Smarter

Art puzzles, provokes

Lincolnite wants exhibit to take viewers on journey into their own perceptions.

JOSH NICHOLS
Staff writer

Puzzling as it may seem at first, viewers must journey into their own perceptions of meanings and thoughts to understand David Alles' work.

Alles, a local artist, said his art is a reflection of his imagination, giving him a unique style.

He shows this style in prints, sculptures and oil paintings, which will be on display the entire month of September at Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.

An opening reception for his display will be held tonight from 7 to 10 at the gallery.

The display will feature Alles' most recent works, almost all of which were created in the past year.

Those who look at the watercolor works "Playground Brawl," "The Drunk," "The Rodeo" and "Twilight Garden" may not directly interpret what was drawn.

Alles said what he sees when he is developing a piece of art probably will not be what a viewer sees when looking at it.

"What I put down may not be what they interpret it to be," he said. "Five different people may see five different things."

In the artistic statement on his home page on the Web, Alles says, "My art is everything the audience doesn't see, in that I produce art simply out of the love of the process.

"Just as it is a puzzle for me, it should be a puzzle to the observer. Nothing is laid out in black-and-white like a text, but rather it is a journey; a journey into the viewer's own perceptions of meanings and thoughts, which may or may not have any validity in regard to the work. The audience has clearly become part of a larger process."

Alles, a North Platte native, began to develop his love and unique sense of art in junior high and high school.

His mother was an art teacher, he said, and many of his relatives are artists.

Alles pursued his artistic drive at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where in 1996 he received a bachelor of fine arts degree with an emphasis in painting, printing and sculpture.

Although he passionately works year-round and has three different studios in Lincoln, Alles has other plans.

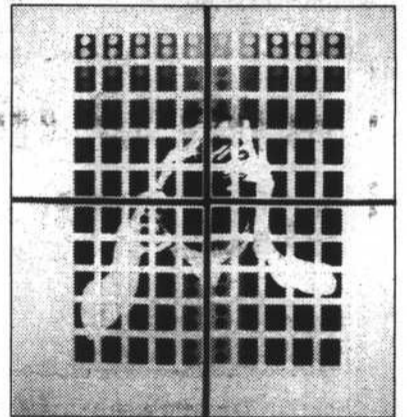
He said his goal is to eventually do monumental work with stone. He already has plans for statues he wants to create.

Alles said he takes pride in his work but likes to move quickly from



Gallery Preview The Facts

What: David Alles
Where: Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
When: Tonight - September
The Skinny: Artist creates "puzzles" for observers.



COURTESY PHOTO

ABOVE: David Alles used ceramic and his traditional bright colors for the 1996 sculpture "The Blues."

BELOW: In "Point of Perspective," Alles expanded on the idea that each viewer brings his or her own perspective to a work of art.

one project to the next.

"I don't try to dwell on a particular piece," he said. "I try to feed off of what I produce and move on."

Along with the Gallery 9 exhibit, his work will be displayed at other locations in the coming months.

One will be held at the Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni Exhibition from Sept. 23 to Oct. 24 at the Elder Gallery, 5000 St. Paul Ave.

To sum up his work, Alles used a scientific term meaning the union of light atomic nuclei to form heavier nuclei, involving the release of huge quantities of energy.

The closing of his artistic statement reads, "Fusion is the key to my imagination that leads me through the process of creation, resulting in a form that I call art."

Nach-O-Fast: Mall's new Mexican eatery doesn't quite measure up

J.J. HARDER
Staff writer

Just when you think there are enough fast food Mexican joints in town — not so fast my friend, as sportscaster Lee Corso would say. Or specifically, Nach-O Fast.

The new Mexican restaurant opened in Gateway Mall less than two months ago and has been serving up south-of-the-border meals ever since. Nach-o Fast is a national chain headquartered in Utah.

The dining experience is no frills, since it's located just off of the food court in the mall. Nach-o Fast offers the standard tacos and nachos, which are also available by-the-bag to go.

The nachos are the specialty, topped

with generous portions of cheese, salsa and especially meat. The wraps are the best and most filling entrees and are loaded with rice, chicken, salsa and guacamole.

Desserts don't stop short of authentic, like Crispos or Cinnamon Twists, for Nach-o Fast has the real deal. The restaurant offers sopapillas, pastries with honey and churros, Spanish delicacies usually dipped in hot chocolate.

While authenticity may be a strong point in some areas, Nach-o Fast follows the rest of the herd by offering "El Sip." It's a frozen fruit shake, and every flavor has a hint of banana for a kick. Sure, "El Sip" is cheesy, but it's actually very thick and tasty.

The two best adjectives to describe the food at Nach-o Fast are huge and monotonous. The portions are very

Restaurant Review The Facts

What: Nach-o Fast
Where: Gateway Mall
Cost: \$5/meal
The Scoop: Another fast food Mexican restaurant comes to town.

large, and you'll get a bargain. But if you try a couple of different things, the taste won't vary that much.

For \$3-\$5 entrees, I can't complain too much. But compared to Lincoln's Mexican classic Amigo's, Nach-o Fast isn't Nach-o Good. Stick with the campus favorite and leave the new place for mallwalkers and teeny-boppers.