

The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief list of weekend events. Please call the venue for more information.

CONCERTS:

Duffy's, 1412 O St.
Sunday: Molotov Cocktail

Kimball Recital Hall, 301 N. 12th St.
Saturday: Wolfgang Watzinger and Krassimira Jordan
Sunday: Valerie Watts

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Friday: Speed Shift, Crush the Clown
Saturday: Trizomy, One Hip Jim

Lied Center, 301 N. 12th St.
Friday: JubiLIED 10th Anniversary Festival with BeauSoleil

The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway
Friday: Nine Live Cats
Saturday: Ratt

7th Street Loft, 504 S. Seventh St.
Friday and Saturday: Movie Madness

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Friday and Saturday: Radio King

THEATER:

Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St.
All weekend: "Hello, Dolly!"

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "Buena Vista Social Club"

Star City Dinner Theatre Suite 100, 803 Q St.
Friday and Saturday: Andrew Becker in the Comedy Cabaret

GALLERIES:

The Burkholder Project, 719 P St.
All weekend: works by Anne Burkholder, Nancy Childs, Bill Ganzel and Ellen Smith

Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: works by David Alles

Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St.
All weekend: works by Donna Barger

Lentz Center, Morrill Hall, 14th and U streets
All weekend: paintings by Shi Hu

Noyes Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: works by Gretchen Meyers, Susan Barnes, Evelyn Issacs, Lois Meysenburg and Tom Palmerton

The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
All weekend: Black Image and Identity, Modern Masters, Charles Rain's "Magic Realism," "Robert Colescott: Recent Paintings"

Deeper

COURTESY PHOTO
Through works such as "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," Robert Colescott has challenged stereotypes of race, religion and culture.



Meanings

Images are no laughing matter

BY DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

His cartoon-like figures surrounded by bright colors draw people in, but it's the powerful messages in Robert Colescott's paintings that keep their attention.

Beginning today and continuing until Jan. 2, the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets, will be showing an exhibition titled "Robert Colescott: Recent Paintings." The exhibit runs alongside another ongoing exhibition, "Black Image and Identity: African American Art from the Permanent Collection."

Colescott is credited as being one of America's most influential contemporary artists. In 1997 he represented the United States at the 47th Venice Biennale, one of the most important international art exhibitions in the world, with a solo exhibition of 19 of his works.

"Colescott is one of the greatest American artists of this day," said Eddie Dominguez, a professor of art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "People are starting to recognize minority artists, but it takes someone like Colescott to be invited to Venice."

Colescott's work is a mixture of images and vocabulary that can shock and enlighten viewers.

His work illustrates the issues of racism, sexism

and history, all the while telling the story of experience.

"His work is very serious," Dominguez said. "It's very rooted. It presents slavery and repression, the oppressed and the oppressor. It's not light subject matter."

Colescott has stated he uses humor to grab the viewer's attention, but once they begin to understand the piece's meaning, they don't find it quite as funny.

Dominguez agreed, saying although Colescott is a very light-hearted man filled with humor, his work is no laughing matter.

"His work is under the pretense of a joke," he said. "He seduces you with playful figures and garish colors, but once you understand the piece, you're not going to laugh."

Colescott studied in Paris after graduating from Berkeley in 1949. He returned to the United States in the 1950s and began working. He also taught and helped in the development of American art, especially abstract expressionism.

In the 1960s, he had the opportunity to teach and study in Cairo, Egypt. There, he studied the black fig-

Gallery Preview

The Facts

What: "Robert Colescott: Recent Paintings"
Where: Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th & R streets.

When: Sept. 24, 1999 - Jan. 2, 2000

The Skinny: Works by the man whose influence is apparent in most contemporary art.

ure in Egyptian and African art, which had a great impact on his work.

After his return to the United States in 1970, Colescott developed the figurative/narrative style that has become his legacy.

"Anyone who sees his work is impacted," Dominguez said. "The content is very political. It is not beautiful, but incredible and unforgettable."

"He is a role model to people of color. He is a great American artist who does great work."

Dominguez owns one of Colescott's pieces, titled "Lock and Key," which he said is his favorite because he "has lived with it and learned from it."

But, Dominguez said, viewers can learn from all of Colescott's works.

"I know that I will have to go and see (the pieces) several times. You have to get over the powerfulness of them and get to the message."

"It's like a good book you want to read several times, because you are afraid that you might have missed something. His work is going down in art history."

Cajun band spices up Lied Center's 10th anniversary

BY JOSH NICHOLS
Staff writer

The Lied Plaza will feature some hot Cajun spice straight from Louisiana this evening.

As part of their 10th anniversary celebration, JubiLied, the Lied Center has invited folk extraordinaires BeauSoleil.

Described in Rolling Stone as "the best damn dance band you'll ever hear," the Grammy award-winning group returns to Lincoln for the first time since 1996, when they sold out two shows at the Lied.

The free outdoor celebration will kick off at 5 p.m. with BeauSoleil going on stage at 8:30 p.m.

"We plan to bring Louisiana to Nebraska for a night," said lead singer and fiddler, Michael Doucet.

BeauSoleil, whose compact disc "L'Amour Ou La Folie" won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album two years ago, has been playing its style of Louisiana folk for more than 20 years.

Doucet, founder of the group, said their goal in the beginning was to preserve the Cajun music tradition that has been passed down through generations.

Cajuns are descendants of 17th cen-

tury French settlers of Nova Scotia, Canada. The settlers were driven from their land in 1755 because of their refusal to declare an allegiance to either France or England.

Many of the refugees ended up in Louisiana. When they spoke of their old home in Nova Scotia, they nicknamed it "Beau Soleil" for "good sun."

An important part of the Cajun culture was the French music they passed down through generations.

In the twentieth century, Cajun music began to absorb characteristics from outside influences, such as country music and blues.

In the late '60s, Doucet played rock music, but he was influenced by the old French music he heard when he went to France in 1973.

"In France, the old songs were still very much alive, even though they'd originated centuries ago," he said in a press release.

BeauSoleil helps maintain the Cajun tradition by singing about the culture's history in many of its songs.

Along with historical lyrics, Doucet said, the band's songs are about everything from card games to love.

Doucet sings most of BeauSoleil's songs in French.

Although many audience members

don't understand the French lyrics, Doucet said, an understanding still comes through in BeauSoleil's music.

"Our music contains a universality of feelings that everyone has endured at one time," Doucet said.

Suzi Shugert, one of the JubiLied coordinators, said, "It wouldn't make any difference what words they sang, their music is so great."

Much of what BeauSoleil will play tonight will be music from its latest CD, "Cajunization."

Like the performance on the Lied Plaza this evening, many of the band's shows are outdoors, where people can sit in the grass and relax or dance to the upbeat fiddles, drums and accordion.

"At our concerts, you can get up and dance or sit and listen to your heart pace with the music," Doucet said.

BeauSoleil's rich blend of sounds are compliments of a six-person group.

Doucet is lead vocalist and fiddler. He is accompanied by his brother, David Doucet, on guitar, Jimmy Breaux on accordion, Al Tharp on banjo and electric guitar, Tommy Alesi on drums and Billy Ware on a variety of different percussion instruments.

Doucet described the six men in the group as "the luckiest people in the world" doing what they love to do.

Lied Center

The Facts

What: 10th Anniversary Lied Celebration

Where: Lied Plaza

When: Tonight, 5 to 10 p.m.

Cost: free

The Skinny: Grammy winners BeauSoleil will perform.

Also performing will be the Lightning Bugs, Kusi Taki and Li'l Slim and the Back-Alley Blues Band.

The event will also feature an interactive street painting with glow in the dark chalk combining the work of professional artists and children.

Throughout the festival site, magicians, jugglers, balloon artists, face painters and clowns will entertain.

On the west side of the Sheldon Art Gallery, the Lincoln Irish Dancers and Sabor Mexicana will perform.

Food and beverages will be served throughout the evening. Tickets for food and beverages can be bought at the festival. The price is \$5 for 8 tickets.

Shugert encouraged people to come early and enjoy the evening's festivities.

"It will be an incredible show," said Doucet.