

Summer ARTS

Galleries bring a taste of culture with performance, conceptual work

By Shelley Mika

Staff writer

In the calm of the summer months, a stroll through the sculpture garden may seem like the perfect way to break up the day offering more than soap operas and "Laverne and Shirley" reruns.

That is, until the heat and humidity weigh you down and take away the last bit of motivation left over from getting up from the TV.

But don't fret. The sculpture garden isn't the only place to take an artsy break from the tube. In fact, several local galleries have busy schedules in the coming months, with a variety of eye-pleasing works.

And anyway, checking these out is way cheaper than paying the cable bill.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery: "Documenting Performance/Preserving Concepts," May 2-July 23

This show is a tribute to performance and conceptual art. The focus of this show is to explore how artists have attempted to solve the dilemma of preserving their processes and actions.

The show also presents artists who have worked the tension of preservation and documentation into the fabric of their work. Among others, the artists featured will be Christo, Claes Oldenburg, Terry Allen, Dennis Oppenheim, Michael Heizer and Chris Burden.

Leonard Baskin: "The Ultimate

Need," May 9-July 23

At the center of Baskin's work is a mythological narrative of Jewish culture of the tragedy and heroism of the human condition. Different mediums include drawings, woodcuts, engravings, sculpture and book illustrations.

"The Perpetual Well: Contemporary Art from The Jewish Museum," May 13-July 16

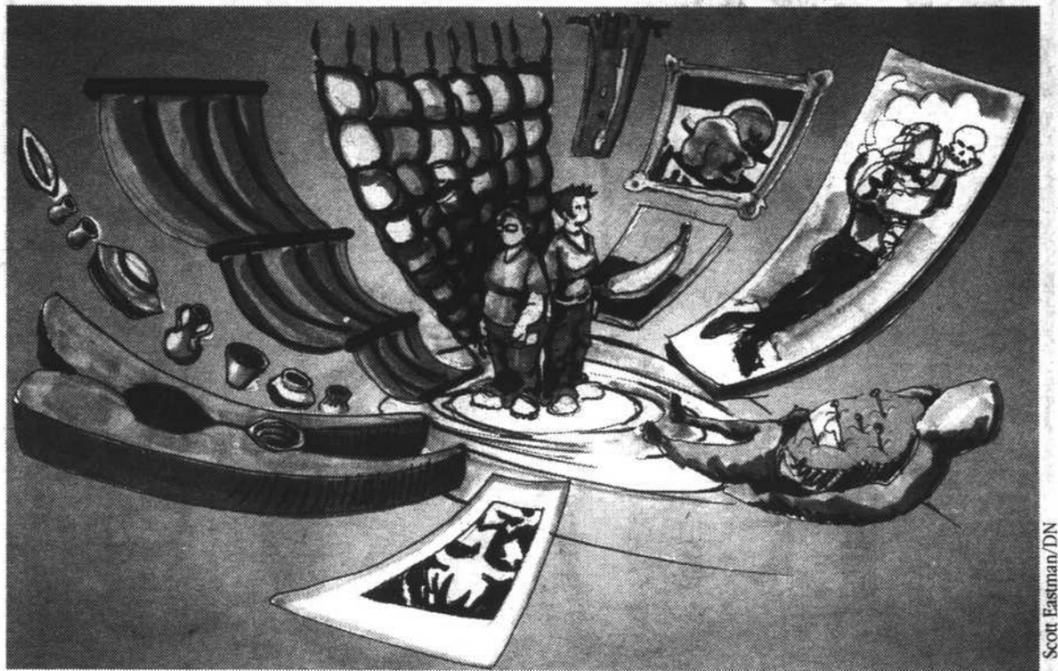
Meant to be an overview of the Jewish experience as seen through the eyes of contemporary artists, this show will include paintings, sculpture, prints, photography and installations borrowed from The Jewish Museum in New York.

The artists represented are both Jewish and non-Jewish, but both share an interest in Jewish issues and iconography. Sixty-three works will be displayed by 65 artists, including Richard Avedon, Dennis Kardon, Deborah Kass, Annie Leibovitz, Joshua Neustein, Adrian Piper, Larry Rivers, Joan Snyder, Doug and Mike Starn and Robert Wilson.

"American Impressionism from the Permanent Collection," July 21-Sept. 24

Having toured six museums in the last two years, this exhibition offers a comprehensive view of the emergence of French Impressionism and its influence on American artists from the late 19th century through the early 20th century. Paintings by Childe Hassam, John Twachtman and William Glackens will be displayed.

"Local Color II: Judith Cherry, Patty Gallimore, David Helm,



Scott Eastman/DN

Larry Roots," July 26-Sept. 17
"Local Color II" will focus on contemporary art by regional artists.

The Burkholder Project:
The Burkholder has three areas where separate shows are displayed. The following lists the shows for each portion of the gallery.

May:
■ **"A Season for Repatriation: Selected Computer Manipulations and Autobiographical Images by Patrick Drake"**

■ **"Pigments of Our Imaginations"**
This show includes batiques by Sammy Lynn and multi-media paintings by Patsy Smith.

■ **"B to the Fifth Power 5x5"**
You do the math. Five paintings by five artists, all, coincidentally starting with the letter B: Brasch, Bantam, Benton, Burkholder and Brown.

June:
■ **"Images from Western Nebraska"**
Artists include Moody Leavitt and Whitmor Barnes.

■ **"Vandenack and the Weaving Guild"**
■ **"Randy Mittan: Photographs"**

July:
■ **"Doris Leikan: paper mache"** and folk artist Linda Williams
■ **"Bobby Sward: Paintings"**
■ **"Shirley Neary: Quilts"**
August:

■ **"Visions in the Hand: A Group Show"**
Artists include Tom Sheppard and Andrea Scott.

Gallery Nine:
May:
■ **"Doug Marx: Pottery"**
June:
■ **Brian Everman**

Everman will present paintings of fruits and vegetables in pastel colors. Viewers may have seen Everman's work at last year's Farmer's Market.

July:
■ **Annual Invitational**
Members of the gallery will invite a guest artist whose work will hang with their own.

Joslyn Art Gallery, Omaha:
"Soon Come: The Art of Contemporary Jamaica," May 13-June 25

Twenty Jamaican artists present 40 paintings and mixed-media sculptures.

■ **Midlands Invitational 2000: Works on Paper," May 13-July 2**
Joslyn selected art by artists from Nebraska and its six contiguous states. The focus will be works of art created on paper.

■ **Marsden Hartley: American Modern," July 8-Sept. 24**
Drawn mainly from the Weisman Art Museum holdings, the Joslyn presents a retrospective of the early American modernist's paintings and

works on paper. All aspects of Hartley's career will be focused on, from his early landscapes to his work in the American Northeast.

"Twentieth-Century American Drawings from The Arkansas Arts Center Foundation Collection," July 15-Sept. 10

Drawings in pencil, watercolor, pen and ink, charcoal, pastels and silverpoint collected by The Arkansas Arts Center since the early 1970s will be presented. Charles Burchfield, William Glakens, Edward Hopper, Roy Lichtenstein, Reginald Marsh, Georgia O'Keeffe and Jackson Pollock are among the featured artists.

The Bemis Center of Contemporary Art, Omaha:
Jo Harvey Allen and Warren Rosser will continue to be displayed through May.

June 11-August 27th
■ **"Terrestrial"** an installation by Claudia Cuesta
■ **"Pleasure Grounds"** an installation by Lee Boroson

The Venue:
May:
■ **"Into the Garden"** is composed of two sculptors and one black-and-white photographer presenting garden-inspired pieces.

June:
■ **New York artist Penny Feder** shows floral monotypes.

Christina Aguilera, Kenny Rogers and Danzig bring eclectic mix of tunes to Nebraska stages

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Orpheum Theatre in Omaha on May 6.

It's amazing that Rogers is still kickin' it after all these years, especially considering the short-lived collaboration he did with Coolio for a rap rendition of "The Gambler."

While Kenny Rogers and Danzig are pretty big time, what some may be asking about are all these pop phenoms we've been hearing about all year.

What about the cute boy bands and the foxy teenage girls who make more money with one cheesy song than your parents did for a year of hard work?

Fear not, the pop stars are coming for what is, without a doubt, the most hip-hopppinist, zit-poppinist, pants-droppinist show of all summer - Sweetstock III.

The annual show, sponsored by Sweet 98, will be May 20th at the Westfair Amphitheater and will feature Grammy Award-winner Christina Aguilera, those Abercrombie-and-Fitch-guys LFO, Hanson (They're grown up now, but they're still scrumptious.), Smashmouth, Mandy Moore, Eiffel 65 (that blue-da-da-de-dum-da-da-da-de-dum song), the Sugarhill Gang and none other than Tone Loc, presumably for comic relief.

Before this extinction-size event hits the heartland, however, a few shows will help curb the inevitable punk-rock backlash that is sure to hit Nebraska shortly after the boy-girl bands do. On May 14, Against All Authority, a great ska-punk group of rabble-rousers, will play Omaha's only punk club, the Cog Factory, which will feature Wesley Willis on May 15.

On May 11, long-time punkers Link 80 will play Sokol Auditorium, which will feature the Bloodhound Gang, Nerf Herder and Rx Bandits three days later.

On May 17, Cracker and the Counting Crows creep out of the VH1 specials to represent the remnants of the early- to mid-1990s for a show at Omaha's Civic Auditorium. Also riding the waves of a bitchin' comeback is Nine Inch Nails, also playing the Civic on May 30th with A Perfect Circle.

Come June, more than just the ice cream man will be coming through your neighborhood.

On June 1, Hank Williams III is set to play Knickerbocker's, Lincoln's most prolific provider of live music, and on June 4, Omaha natives (well, depending on who you ask), 311 will play the Westfair Amphitheater with Incubus.

Nothing is happening in Nebraska this July, so plan your

vacations for then.

Of course with the month of August also comes the cotton-candy-and-corn-dog barrage known as fair season. This year's fair circuit is sure to make up for July's concert shortcomings as the Douglas County Fair is offering fans what a girl wants with another performance by Christina Aguilera on August 4 and a LeDouxstastic show by Chris LeDoux on August 5.

This year's Nebraska State Fair also has a bomb-diggity line up that includes Dwight Yoakam, one of modern country's only originals, Clay Walker, the Allman Brothers Band, Sawyer Brown and Styx (domoarigato mister roboto). Bust out the shitkickers, folks.

Despite this extensive survey of the summer's musical offerings; I know there are probably about three people out there going "hey, H*Bomb (that's my nickname), what about us Hessians? You said there'd be something for everyone. What are you, a liar?"

Fear not, my Hessian comrades. Take this as an offering from the gods of rock and feather your hair, dust off that tethered denim vest and enjoy the summer.

Cinderella and Poison are playing at Omaha's Levi Carter Park on August 19.

My work here is done.

Big Red

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| ○ Month to month leases | 10'x25' |
| ○ Insurance available | 10x30' |
| ○ Boxing and moving supplies | 13'x20'x40' |
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where everybody wins!

*actual odds of winning are one in 1 million