



The Noyes Art Gallery is hosting a show for art by mothers sponsored by the Nebraska Mothers Association.

Courtesy Art

Alumni opens art show at 1427

■ A former UNL student opened her first show of 23 paintings.

BY ALEXIS EINERSON

Becky Potter, an alumni of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, opened her art show at Club 1427 on Feb. 21.

With 23 paintings, mostly water color and oil pastels, Potter said she was happy to see the crowd that showed up for her opening.

"There were about 45 people there," Potter said. "I think it was good for a Wednesday night."

The night of her opening Potter sold two paintings, but she said she didn't paint for the money.

In fact, Potter is an optician at the House of Eyewear. She said she loved her job, but painting relaxed her.

"I paint because I enjoy it," Potter said. "It's just an added bonus that I can make money from it."

Potter said she did take time off from painting after she received a bachelor's degree in graphic design and painting from UNL.

In the past two years Potter put together her current show of all flower paintings, mostly abstract.

"I was really nervous," Potter said. "It was a lot of paintings to get done, matted and framed in that time."

Potter said that Club 1427, which will be holding her show until March 21, had been very helpful in supporting her and other local artists.

"I'm just trying to get my art out there," Potter said. "The more people that see it, the better."

Her paintings will not go down for long after the Club 1427 show, however.

Potter said she just received a contract to put her work in the Noyes Art Gallery, and in June she will have her art in Doc's Place, which is located in the Haymarket.

Potter said the best thing about painting, however, was seeing a finished painting for the first time.

"It's so exciting when I see a finished product," Potter said. "I just think, 'wow.'"

"I'm just trying to get my art out there. The more people that see it, the better."

Becky Potter artist

Art contest honors moms

BY CASEY JOHNSON

As Mother's Day once again approaches, we take time to thank Mom for all of the things she has done.

We celebrate the balancing acts they pull off and the contributions they make to the community. So it is only fitting that some of our most talented mothers be recognized for their art.

The Nebraska Mothers Association Annual Creative Arts Competition opened Friday night at the Noyes Gallery, 119 S. 9th St., to those who wished to see that talent.

All of the contests begin at the state level, with the first-prize winners going on to the national contest in Portland, Ore.

All of those advancing are then recognized at a luncheon put on by the Nebraska Mothers Association.

The contest is judged by a jury of individuals with a background in the art field.

There is a \$10 fee for entering the contest, and the only requirements for the entries are that the piece be done by a mother and that it revolve

around some aspect of family life.

The contest labeled as visual arts is one of three mediums that the Mothers Association has. The others are music and writing.

The visual contest has winners in each category of visual arts, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and crafts.

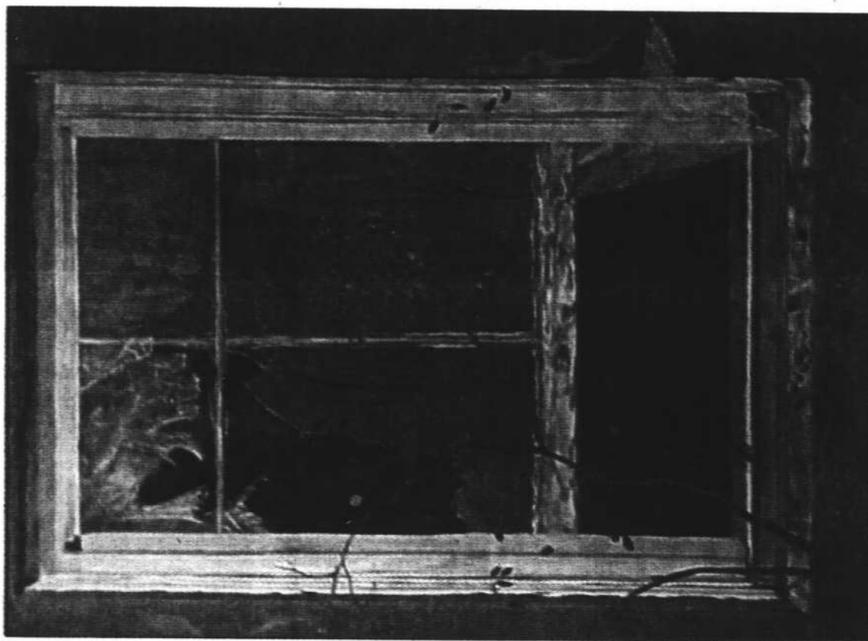
Nebraska Mothers Association and former national president Loris Schwab said the organization was almost 70 years old and the Nebraska chapter had been having an art contest since the 1940s.

She also said that the contest usually had about 40 entries, but this year there were less than 30 pieces.

Julia Noyes, owner of the Noyes Gallery who has had the contest for five or six years, said the Mothers Association has a mixture of people, from professional artists to beginners who have never had work in a gallery.

The participants need not be members of the Mothers Association, but many of them do join after they are exposed to the organization.

Doni Stoner, a mother of



two and a first-place winner in the medium of oil painting, said she found out about the organization through her art teacher and she was going to join the organization because she liked what they stood for.

She also said that as well as art giving her satisfaction, it gave her son another perspective on his mother.

"I am a full-time homemaker, and I am one of the few that are left. And it makes him feel like, 'hey, my mom can do something,' and that charms me more than anything," Stoner said.



Flee from 'See Spot Run's' boring, offensive plot

■ The movie starring David Arquette is filled with sight gags that just aren't funny.

BY SEAN MCCARTHY

See viewer watch movie. Run, viewer, run. The definition of what exactly constitutes a family comedy is about as concrete as what constitutes the phrase "part of a nutritious breakfast." Sure, Coco Puffs are marketed as a breakfast cereal, but they're nothing more than a bowl of chocolate-flavored corn puffs. How the hell can that be nutritious?

In the same vein, how can a movie, filled with dog-poop gags, racist characterizations, zebra farts and a running gag involving a dog treating a man's crotch as a chew toy get categorized as a family comedy?

David Arquette plays Gordon, a dense, bumbling mail carrier who has the hots for one of his neighbors. The object of his affection, Stephanie (Leslie Bibb), has to go on a business trip and is forced to leave her son with the irresponsible Gordon. Stephanie's son, James (Angus Jones), is shy, sheltered and doesn't know how to have fun.

In one of the subplots (heyah, five writers have to

do something for a paycheck), a mob boss (Paul Sorvino), reeling from the loss of half his manhood at the teeth of FBI superdog Agent 11, orders a hit on the pooch. To protect Agent 11, the FBI puts him in a witness protection agency. The dog's primary trainer, Murdoch (Michael Clarke Duncan of "Green Mile" fame), goes through separation anxiety as a result.

Somehow, these two stories get fused together with the skill of a stoned 10th-grade shop student. Gordon learns responsibility while James learns to be a kid and to catch a wicked sugar buzz by ingesting Froot Loops. Meanwhile, the mob boss regurgitates every bad mafia cliché in movies. Even his henchmen lift the running "Godfather III" joke from "The Sopranos."

Dumb family comedies are nothing new: Disney has unloaded a ton of brain-numbing family comedies since the 1960s (any Disney film with Don Knotts in it). However, in order to keep adults interested, many family comedies are having to mix in the crude humor and sexual innuendoes of films like "There's Something About Mary" and "Scary Movie." As a result, adults not only have to sit through the moronic sight of seeing Arquette get nearly shocked to death, but they also have to explain to their kids what the

See Spot Run



funny dog dropped just after he went after the mob boss's privates.

No one gets away clean in this mess. Arquette's movie career is quickly approaching Baldwinesque proportions, and Paul Sorvino is a long way from his performance in the masterful "Goodfellas." The director, John Whitesell, spent more than seven years in directorial purgatory after making "Calendar Girl" in 1993. After this movie, it looks like he won't be directing a major movie again anytime soon.

The only thing more irritating than watching Arquette step and roll in a pile of fresh dog droppings is the blatant racism of the film. The sole Chinese character in the movie is a cab driver who can barely speak English. Arquette's best friend, played by Anthony Anderson, has the grim task of challenging onlookers to a break dancing contest, but his 300-pound frame slams to the pavement before he can even start on his routine.

Two deaf people also are inserted into the film for

no other purpose than a sight gag. "Uh, Director Whitesell, the NAACP is on line one, and the Coalition for People With Disabilities is on line two."

Crude humor is a necessary element in many family movies. However, the better batch of these movies ("The Sandlot" and "The Iron Giant") were able to weave in character development and plot so that the crude humor wasn't the sole element of keeping people glued to the screens.

With any hope, both Sorvino and Duncanson will be able to still find viable parts that can match their talents. In other cases, we can only hope that Arquette will be banished from both film and "Call ATT" commercials after this cinematic abortion. That way at least some good will come out of this movie.

Despite all of the animal violence that occurred in the film, the credits stated that no animals were harmed during filming. Still, that doesn't make up for the scars that will burn in most everybody's mind after walking out of the theater. However, for families, a good dose of Harry Potter and a positive family film should be good remedies to cure those wounds.

"See Spot Run." Rated PG for crude humor and comedic violence. Showing at the Douglas 3 and East Park.