

ArtFest gala draws crowd to Gateway

Almost 400 pieces of art was on display in the Gateway arena over the weekend for the ninth annual High Plains ArtFest.

The show started out Friday night with a gala attended by more than 200 people. Art patrons, artists, students and organizers gathered to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine, music and, of course, the art.

Patrons paid \$100 per couple for a place at the gala, and if they purchased a piece of art, that money went towards the price.

Show organizer Mary Henzel classified the gala as a huge success.

"Of note, there were many more young people attending the gala than in previous years," she said. "By young people, I'm not referring to students but to young married people from Oberlin."

Over the next two days, she added, another 180 people visited the exhibit.

Area artists showing included Anna Seeber Shaw, Jerry Lohofener, Gisela Fisher, Mary Ewing, Theresea Reeves, Anita Hirsch, Lori Russ, Marcia Lohofener, Erin May, Rhonda May, Neil Marshall, Elizabeth Nedland, Dan Nedland, Julie Plotts, Amanda Sowers, Norma Unger and students Cassandra Canto, McKenna O'Hare and Win-

ter Polivka.

The Gateway staff prepared the hors d'oeuvres, which included shrimp, roast-beef skewers, mini sandwiches, dips, cheeses and dozens of desserts.

There were 303 pieces of art by 100 adult artists in the exhibit and 86 pieces by 47 students from 11 high schools.

Steve Snell, an assistant professor at Hastings College in Nebraska, judged the show. Winners took home cash awards and ribbons.

Area artists winning awards include Ms. Fisher, second in photography; Mrs. Shaw, first in original hand-formed ceramics; Ms. Ewing, first in other 2D art, and first in other 3D art; Mr. Lohofener, second in other 2D art; Mrs. Reeves, two juror merit awards; and Ms. Russ, a juror merit award.

Cheryl Christner of McCook played the harp for gala patrons.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, the Gateway was a beehive as artists came to pick up their work and those who had purchased pieces came to take their treasures home.

The show would not be nearly as successful, Mrs. Henzel said, without all the work of the many volunteers, patrons, artists, visitors and the Gateway staff.



A PAINTING OF A LONGHORN kept a close eye on the goings on at The Gateway over the weekend.



CHATTING DURING THE GALA Friday night, Spring Louderbeck (above left) and Anna Seeber Shaw enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres while viewing the art and listening to music.



CHERYL CHRISTNER OF MCCOOK (above, left) played the harp for gala patrons at The Gateway on Friday. P.T. Shirley (left) looked over the many pieces available for sale. After the show was over Sunday, Bud Kleckner of McCook picked up wife Connie's artwork.

Story and photos by Cynthia Haynes