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NEWS RELEASE—June 5, 2008 For immediate release

Our Demonstrating Artists!

ArtFest MidWest “The Other Art Show”
June 28-29, 2008

Media: Press releases & downloadable photos (including demo. artists' work) at www.artfestmidwest.com

Check out ArtFest Midwest pg. 22-23 Intro magazine (Conv. & Visitor's Bureau publication):
http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/businesspub/intro_2008spring

Check www.artfestmidwest.com for complete artist list

ArtFest Midwest was initiated in 2003 as a response to several local artists' requests for a show that would include Iowa artists. The show is always held the same weekend as the Des Moines Arts Festival and will celebrate its sixth year this June. It is offered as an alternative, affordable art show—a complement to the downtown show.

- Expanded for 2008: **Outdoor “ARTIST DEMONSTRATION AREA”**—
Just outside north entrance of Varied Industries Building--ongoing
demonstration of artists' techniques:

Larry Budwig, glass (show processes—not actual demos-- of kiln formed glass)
(Omaha, NE, www.kinddesigns.com)

Art Ciccotti, traditional glassblowing (Ames, Iowa)

Barbra Espey, paper (Quincy, Illinois, www.espebe.com)

Gabrielle-Angelique Kahmann, jewelry wire-bending & harp performance

(Eden Prairie, MN)

Amy Ludwig, bend & texture metal to sculpt (Adams, NE,
www.ludwigcustommetals.com)

Gretchyn Nothouse, hand-built small clay sculptures (Savannah, MO)

Donna Oelmann, wire wrap jewelry (Adel, IA, www.donnaeandesigns.com)

Michael Roate, live caricatures (Des Moines, IA, www.iroatethis.com)

Rhonda Scott & Terrie Hoeffer, jewelry-making techniques—lamp work (making glass beads with a torch), wire wrapping, soldering (Ames, IA,
www.silverleafshop.com)

Abigail West, jewelry—copper etching, glass soldering, findings (Des Moines, IA)

- Indoor EXPANDED **“IOWA ARTIST DEMONSTRATION AREA”**—

Inside the north entrance to the Varied Industries Building—

For the first time, **six Iowa artists** will demonstrate their techniques during the show:

Tera Belinsky-Yoder, glass (Des Moines, Iowa, www.beadygirlbeads.com)—

Tera is a home-grown local lamp work artist and jewelry designer. Her love of jewelry and beads goes back to her childhood when she would go through her grandmother’s boxes of buttons and beads under her grandmother’s sewing machine while she worked. All beads are one-of-a-kind and are made one-at-a-time using a propane/oxygen torch and soft glass.

David Garrison, pastel landscapes & wife Cecile Houel, pastel portraits (Burlington, IA, & Normandy, France), www.david-garrison.com & www.cecile-houel.com)—

A native of Illinois and now resident of Burlington, IA, Garrison has painted all of his life and received his B.A. at Iowa Wesleyan College. He was commissioned to paint two 6x20’ murals for the West Des Moines Marriott Hotel. He’s exhibited in the U.S. as well as France, Russia & Italy. He was chosen to be the Guest of Honor at the Annual Art du Pastel Society of France May of 2008. While doing a show in France, Garrison was asked to present a workshop. He agreed, with the condition that he could have an interpreter. Houel, who speaks five languages, was the interpreter and they married later in 2006. They spend part of their time in Burlington, IA, and part in Normandy, France.

Houel, French native, specializes in pastel portraits. She has studied at the Louvres Schools (specializing in Islamic Arts). She also has exhibited widely in Europe and the U.S. She & her husband were included in a book “The Art of Pastel”—a publication of Art du Pastel en France (organization of international pastel artists working in France).

Kristin Hill, clay (Davenport, Iowa)—

With the helping hand of her father (metalworker and jeweler) and her mother (printmaker and illustrator), Kristin began sculpting with wax at the age of three. Eventually, she focused on raku pottery and sculpture. She will demonstrate, on her pottery wheel, how a lump of clay can be transformed into a graceful, functional piece.

Val Neumann, pottery (Williamsburg, Iowa)—

Val started playing with clay in high school, then continued in college. She’s participated in several pottery competitions—her favorite is the Pottery Festival

at Cambridge, WI. She won the lightweight competition in 2002, followed by being the Grand Champion in 2007 by winning the throw-off on the final day of the event. She was the only woman to win either event!


Rachel Sims, jewelry (Corning, Iowa)—

Rachel left what she calls “a jet setting lifestyle designing luxury watches in Switzerland” to move to Smalltown, USA and create wild jewelry by hand. She decided to finally put her Fine Arts Degree in metal smithing and 10+ years of glass experience to good use. She has dusted off her tools and started a one woman studio. Her jewelry combines the fluidity and spontaneity of glass with the more deliberate nature and permanence of metal.

John Weyer, wood (Sperry, Iowa)—

John learned to carve as a child by watching his great-uncle and his grandfather. He still continues to use the traditional draw knife, spoke shave, chisel and mallet when he carves. Most of the wood he uses is native Iowa hardwood and is air dried at least seven years.

Show details!

- 225 artists selected to participate:
 - almost 50% from Iowa
 - 92% from Midwest
- Check www.artfestmidwest.com for complete artist list
- Expanded outdoor “ARTIST DEMONSTRATION AREA”—traditional glassblowing, metal & pottery sculpting, lampwork jewelry, paper folding, live caricatures, copper soldering & jewelry design
- Iowa’s largest fine art show!
- Sixth annual juried show!
- June 28-29, 10-6 Saturday & 10-5 Sunday
- Iowa State Fairgrounds, Varied Industries Building
- Same weekend as Des Moines Arts Festival
- Artwork Silent Auction to benefit  Orchard Place
- Affordable, alternative show
- Free admission, parking and shuttle between Des Moines Arts Festival and ArtFest Midwest—park at the Fairgrounds for both shows!
- Expanded indoor Iowa artist demonstration area
- Expanded “KidzDuArt” fun!
- Chosen as a “Show-Stopping Startup” in 2003 and described as “overall this show is a hit” by Sunshine Artist Magazine
- Estimated attendance 2003 (by Sunshine Artist Magazine): 30,000

About ArtFest Midwest THE OTHER ART SHOW

ArtFest Midwest THE OTHER ART SHOW began in 2003, after several local Des Moines artists expressed concern about being excluded from the annual downtown art show in June. Stookey Companies is a Des Moines-based family-owned and operated business that has been in existence for 15 years. Stookey Companies also promotes a fine art show at Valley West Mall in West Des Moines, Iowa.

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