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NEWS RELEASE—June 11, 2008
For immediate release

Local Des Moines Painter Chosen as Featured Artist!

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.

Brandi Powell, painter from Des Moines, has been chosen as our 2008 featured artist. Powell just graduated in April with a B.A. in Graphic Design. She worked for many years in the business arena before she decided in January of 2005 to quit her high-paying HR job and return to school in the art field. She felt it was risky, but felt it was something she had to do. She praises Grand View College and her painting professor, Dennis Kaven. She was chosen as an Emerging Artist at the 2007 Des Moines Arts Festival and sold all of her paintings done in her current palette knife style. She describes her aspirations: “My hope is that the people who purchase my work come home each night from a long day at the office and find that my work makes them smile or feel more relaxed. My work is not about making a political statement or expressing artistic angst - my work is about the little joys in life.” She focuses on print design and illustration. Her illustration work includes both digital and traditional art mediums.

****Her work titled “Champagne” is shown on our **2008 show poster** (image “Powell01” at http://www.stookeyshows.com/media/index_4.html)

Also, see www.brandipowell.com.

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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