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**NEWS RELEASE—June 23, 2008**

**For immediate release**

## **Our Artist Stories!**

**ArtFest MidWest “The Other Art Show”**

**June 28-29, 2008**

**Media: Press releases & downloadable photos (including demo. artists' work) at  
[www.artfestmidwest.com](http://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](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/businesspub/intro_2008spring)**

**Check [www.artfestmidwest.com](http://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.

- Intriguing stories about our artists:

**Stephen & Karen Steininger (Pottery; Altoona, IA)—**

1) In 2007, Stephen Steininger was commissioned to hand craft a pottery jug to be given to the Queen of England during her visit to Williamsburg:

“This jug, now part of the collection of the Jamestown Museum, was given to Pocahontas in 1615 by Queen Anne and King James I of England.”

See photo "Steinger.origjug"—separate email

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"This jug was created in Iowa by Stephen Steinger as a gift to Queen Elizabeth II from the Jamestown Settlement Foundation on the occasion of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement.) This gift will be presented to the Queen on Friday, May 4, (2007) during her visit to the Settlement in Virginia. The Potters were honored to be a part of this event."

See photo: "Steinger.jug".—separate email

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2) "Well, in 1995 we were contacted by the crew of the movie "Bridges of Madison County" to paint some plates for the throwing-plates-in-the-kitchen scene. They used special 'breakaway' plates and we copied the design of a Johnson Bros. set. We stayed up about a week of very late nights, listening to baseball, and painting plates. A few years later, my parents found one of the broken plates at an auction and had it framed for my husband for Christmas."  
Karen Steinger

3) Stephen Steinger also made the large stained glass piece in 1977 for Spaghetti Works in downtown Des Moines on Court Avenue.

### Jill Flinn (2-dimensional mixed media art; Glasgow, Missouri)—

"My mixed media art work is inspired by animals at our out-of-pocket no-kill shelter. Just as a dog goes around in a circle before it lies down and gets comfortable, our efforts in rescue and art create a "circle of giving" that goes like this:  
An abandoned animal needs a home.  
We find him one, or he stays at our farm with the current 27 dogs we have.  
The now grateful (and neutered) creature inspires designs in our mixed media.  
Money generated by sales of the art work fund more rescues of other wayward pets, who in turn, inspire more art work."  
Jill Flinn

See photo "flinn 02"—media photos at [www.artfestmidwest.com](http://www.artfestmidwest.com)

### Scott Burns (Digital Imagery; Urbana, IL)—

Do mathematics and art mix? Scott Burns is an engineering professor at the University of Illinois who unexpectedly found his artistic expression when conducting research on scientific visualization of numerical methods in engineering design processes. By color coding behaviors of various design algorithms, he began seeing fascinating and complex shapes and patterns appear on the computer screen. Scott decided to refine the process as an art form, and has been exhibiting his work nationally at art fairs and galleries for the past 18 years. He calls the work "Design by Algorithm," and prints the source code of the computer program that created the art on the back of each piece. While Scott continues to teach at the university during the school year, he spends summers traveling to art fairs, and refers to this as a "hobby that has gotten way out of hand."

See photo "Burns01"—media photos at [www.artfestmidwest.com](http://www.artfestmidwest.com)

### Don Nedobeck (Acrylic, Watercolor; Deland, FL)—


Nedobeck was playing Dixieland clarinet with old "Sugar Blues" Clyde McCoy at a resort in South Florida. The three-week engagement turned into a three-day engagement when the resort went "belly-up". With unexpected time on his hands between gigs and a need to continue to support his family back in Milwaukee, Nedobeck resorted to his other love...ART! Don Nedobeck began his career as a full time artist in the winter of 1965.

Over the past three decades he has been creating whimsical fine art for the child in all of us. In 1980 *Ideals/Children's Press* made Nedobeck an irresistible offer. "Provide us with some pre-existing work and we'll find an author to write the story around your originals!" Nedobeck couldn't refuse. Since then Nedobeck has written and illustrated numerous books. To date, more than 700,000 "Nedobooks" are in circulation.

“Life can be a fun adventure if you like drawing, dreaming and playing clarinet!”

See photo “Nedobeck”—separate email.

## **Show details!**

- 225 artists selected to participate:  
almost half from Iowa  
92% from Midwest
- Check [www.artfestmidwest.com](http://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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