

"I'm really drawn to it, I'm not really sure why," said Anderson of the catfish theme. "It has a fantastical element to it. I like the transformation that happens when I add it to a landscape. I'm finding new things about it every time I work with it," he said.

Anderson estimates he has completed close to 50 works with the giant catfish, including oil paintings as shown at the Bemis Underground, and ink on paper. Anderson, who showed his work recently at the Science Fair exhibit, says "very little of my work has been seen, and I feel like it's about time, I'm making work that's ready."

Anderson is preparing to participate in an upcoming show at Retro in the Old Market based around the theme, "What's Behind Roy Orbison's Glasses?" Is it a giant catfish? We'll find out.

Other standout pieces from the show include Michael Burton's exquisite stop motion animations, which portray various scenes through evolving acrylic paintings on a single canvas. Burton makes clear the vision of animation purely for art's sake. Peter Cales' "Ark" is an inspired creation of fine wood-working coupled with imaginative paper-feathered wings. Gary Day, an established local artist, represented well with his two "neurogarden" prints, and Derek Presnall's spiritually-tinged compositions prove to be a revelation in paper collage.

ART OPENINGS

Diamond on 16th

"Fashion in Detritus," featuring 12 visual artists and five fashion designers in a three-day art exhibition/celebration at Omaha's newest art venue. Also featured will be local poets, writers, performers and filmmakers. Opens April 1, through April 3. 5 p.m.-9 p.m., April 1; 2 p.m.-10 p.m., April 2, noon-5 p.m., April 3. 712 S. 16th St. / fashionindetritus.com



Tyler Christian

"Fashion in Detritus" is the latest local installment of the DIY art and fashion upswing. Detritus, as in debris, does not mean clothing fashioned from rubbish. Rather, it is a reference to pulling discarded ideas in from the fringes of society and celebrating them in a diverse creative mix. Organizers Dave Nesbit and Ann Meyers have partnered with many local artists, designers and creative types to pool the fringe talents of Omaha into a weekend extravaganza at the newly revamped Diamond on 16th, formerly the Diamond Bar.

"Ann and I always felt art and fashion were the most exciting when things were pulled from the fringe, and then brought up into the mainstream," said Nesbit. "Like British punk, when things were literally scraps held together by safety pins, or in the U.S., hip-hop culture rising up to become mainstream," he explained.

The three-day art festival kicks off Friday night with an opening of 12 artists' work at the revamped gallery space. "We were interested in the concept of phantom galleries," said Nesbit, "and we connected with the owner of the Diamond, who had already turned the second and third floors of the building into artists' lofts. We worked with him to develop the first floor into a gallery space."

Friday night's opening features readings, performances and artists' reception from 5-8 p.m., followed by an afterparty hosted by the Nerdtron Studio. Saturday, the exhibit opens at 2 p.m., with live performances beginning at 6 p.m. The Detritus fashion show debuts at 8 p.m., organized by local designer Kevin Steward and featuring the work of Audi Kuiken, Chessna Fernald, Elizabeth Schwartz, Juantiesha Christian and Monnie Winslow. Expect a healthy dose of steampunk, goth, Lolita, and other imaginative styles of dress. The fashion show is followed by an afterparty featuring DJs JWreck, Mello Mic and Stephen Bils. Sunday, the doors open at noon for a day screening of local films and shorts with the Omaha Film Festival until the whole shbang closes its doors at 5 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Friday night afterparty, which requires a cover of \$5 before 10 p.m., and \$7 after. A cash bar will be available, and Saturday night, complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Le Voltaire during the fashion show. So actually, it all sounds pretty sweet, and not trashy in the least. Best of all, several artists have donated pieces to be auctioned to benefit the Methodist Hospital Foundation, the organization that helps uninsured and underinsured patients pay their medical bills at Methodist Hospital.

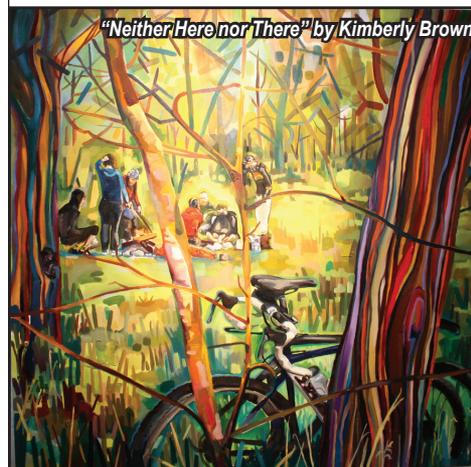
NewBLK Gallery

"Creativity in Crisis: A Kent Bellows Studio Group Benefit Show," including artwork by Miss Cake, Nolan Tredway, Shannon Claire, William Holland, Gerard Pefung, Jason Kline, Jim Kracl, Jake Gillespie, Bryan Klopping, Jamie Hardy, Leann Jensen, Courtney Morrow, Jayson Yesilcimen, Kimberly Brown, and Alex Jochim. Opens April 1, through April 30. Opening reception, 6-10 p.m., April 1. 1213 Jones St. / thenewblk.com/gallery



"Inconnu" by Gerard Pefung

"The whole premise of this show comes from our gallery's mission to help provide a platform to use your creativity to fund your life," said NewBLK director Shane Bainbridge recently in a telephone conversation. "Slowly but surely, creativity in the education system has become eroded, we view that as the wrong direction for this country," he said. "In the general system, it has been taken out of the curriculum as a way of livelihood, reduced to an elective, offered marginally or



"Neither Here nor There" by Kimberly Brown

not at all. That is the concept of creativity in crisis. We saw what the Kent Bellows Studio is doing, and we know that is the right direction, so we have wanted to support the work they do there," said Bainbridge.

The "Creativity in Crisis" exhibit, opening at the NewBLK Gallery this Friday, features the work of 16 regional artists. In cooperation with the organization, Half to Help, the featured artists have agreed to donate half of the proceeds of all art sales from this show to the Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts.

The show features a mix of established and emerging artists, some showing for the first time. Highlights of the exhibit include Gerald Pefung's hallucinogenic mixed media, Jamie Hardy's paneled imagery, Kimberly Brown's deft, colorful depiction of light and friendship in the woods, and Nolan Treadway's atmospheric landscapes.

Anderson O'Brien Fine Art

New work by Rein Vanderhill. Opens April 1, through April 24. Opening reception, 6-9 p.m., April 1. 1108 Jackson St. / 402-884-0911 / aobfineart.com

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

All Member Show, featuring work from 35 artists in a variety of mediums. Opens March 29, through May 1. Opening reception, 5-8 p.m., April 1. 405 S. 11th St. / artistsco-opgallery.com

Benson Grind Gallery

New work by Glenda Freeman. Opens April 1, through April 30. Opening reception, 7-9 p.m., April 1. 6107 Maple St. / 402-932-4040 / Gfreemanart.com

Hot Shops Art Center

"Reunion: Old Friends/New Work," featuring work from 26 artists affiliated with the Artists' Cooperative Gallery or the 13th Street Gallery. Opens April 4, through May 1. Opening reception, 7-10 p.m., April 9. "OPS Art Teachers Show," Opens April 4, through April 24. Opening reception, 7-10 p.m., April 9. 1301 Nicholas St. / 402 342-6452 / hotshopsartcenter.com

Old Market Artists Gallery

"Lisa Maciejewski's - The Soul of Guatemala; Jewelry Inspired by an Ancient Culture," opens, exhibited along with art from other member artists. Opens April 1, through April 30. Opening reception, 6-9 p.m., April 1. 1034

Howard St. / 402-346-6569

Passageway Gallery

"Copper Creations by Randy Patzer." Opens April 1, through April 30. Opening reception, 6-9 p.m., April 1. 417 S. 11th St / 402-341-1910

RNG Gallery

"Les Femmes Folles," a group exhibition exploring the feminine, including work from Leslie Diuguid, Wanda Ewing, Rebecca Herskovitz, Jamie Lamaster and Lauren van Wyke. 1915 Leavenworth St. / 402-505-7161

DANCE

Compañía Nacional de Danza 2

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5
Orpheum Theater \$19-\$48

Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 6
Orpheum Theater
\$39-\$59

Trey McIntyre Project

8 p.m., Friday May 20
Orpheum Theater
\$19-\$48

A Midsummer Night's Dream

May 21-22
Rose Theater
\$15-\$35

THEATER

Flat Stanley

April 1-17
Rose Theater
\$16

Madama Butterfly

7:30 p.m., Friday, April 15
2 p.m., Sunday, April 17
Orpheum Theater
\$19-\$79

Steel Magnolias

April 15-May 8
Omaha Community Playhouse
\$21-\$35

Les Misérables

April 26-May 1
Orpheum Theater
\$25-\$77

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

April 29-May 15
Rose Theater
\$16

Tuesdays with Morrie

April 29-May 29
Omaha Community Playhouse
\$21-\$35

Wicked

May 25-June 12
Orpheum Theater
\$39-\$128