

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Jacob Stockinger 252-6480
Fax: 252-6464

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Summer art

Many galleries don something bright & light to match the breezes of the season

By Jacob Stockinger
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There's summer reading, summer music and even summer movies. So why not summer art? Some smaller galleries are so restricted by space, they can't afford to do anything but to mount the best art they can find and show it whenever they can fit it in.

Such is the case at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, 1692 University Ave., while it awaits its move into the Overture Center.

"We schedule shows according to the art and just have to fit artists in as we can," says curator Randall Berndt, also frustrated by lack of parking and only weekday gallery hours. "We don't plan on themes in general. It's just not something we can do."

Yet the fact is that many other galleries in town — and even the larger museums — indeed try to offer different fare for the hot weather.

Often that means art that is lighter, more fanciful and playful with bright colors and seasonal themes including flowers and fruits, landscapes and waterscapes.

"We have scheduled some good shows in the summer," says Russell Panczenko, director of the UW's Elvehjem Museum of Art, which Saturday will open a show of recent acquisitions. "But if it's something that's really intellectually engaging, it would be stupid to put it up in the summer. The number of students drops dramatically from the regular fall and spring semesters. We get people who want to come in here because it's a pleasant place to be and it's



air conditioned. They like art, but they come more for enjoyment than intellectual challenge."

Here is a survey of some other local art dealers and exhibitions with a summer theme:

■ **Fanny Garver Gallery, 230 State St., 256-6755:** "We do change with the season," says director and owner Jack Garver. From June 28 through July 29, he notes, the gallery will feature the fifth annual "Hot Dogs and Cool Cats," a pet-inspired art show that is also a benefit for the Dane County Humane Society. "We do it in the summer around the time of the Madison Art Center's Art Fair on the Square because people tend not to be as serious, and a lot of it is whimsical art. It's popular and it sells well."

"We plan shows differently in summer

than in winter or fall," Garver adds. "People are just in a different frame of mind. Also, the prices tend to be lower than at other times of the year."

"The summer is just different," he says. "We get so many out-of-town visitors that I try to have a broad appeal. In August, we'll have our annual invitational glass show. It fits with the time of year when there is more daylight and has also proven popular."

■ **ProMega Gallery, 5445 E. Cheryl Parkway, off Fish Hatchery Road near Fitchburg:** A two-artist show features the reflection-filled watercolors of Madison artist Douglas Haynes and the color of American Indian artist Damian Charette. The latter's striking black-and-white works on bark paper seem more fall-like or winter-ish, but his bright colors in other prints match Hayne's impressive work as the essence of a good summer show. Through Aug. 30.

■ **Wendy Cooper Gallery, 824 E. Johnson St., 287-1100:** "I do pick different shows for the summer," says owner Wendy Cooper, who came from New York City and has quickly developed a reputation for cutting edge art. "It's based on the fact that not as many people come into the gallery during the summer and it's a chance to show art that is more mainstream and lighter and brighter and has an outdoor theme."

"I reserve that time for work that will be easily accessible and appeal to a wide public," she adds.



Among the summer art currently on show in the Madison area are works by (from top, clockwise) Darlene Coltrain at the Fanny Garver Gallery, Doug Haynes at the ProMega Gallery, and Maria Katzman at the Wendy Cooper Gallery.

