

Everyday objects inspire Penn State artists

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For most Penn State students, Arts Fest is a chance to return to State College. For some student artists, it's also an opportunity to proudly display their work on campus.

Nadia Wilson, Class of 2010, is one artist featured in the HUB-Robeson Galleries' Art on the Move program.

Her artwork is currently on display in Old Main — in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, Room 206, according to the HUB-Robeson Galleries website.

"I've done a few events on campus and I'm very happy to be a part of any art movement or weekend," Wilson said.

Her two featured pieces — "Violet" and "New Orleans Funeral" — are both large paintings that feature flowers and instruments, Wilson said.

"Nature and music are two of my primary concerns," Wilson said. "I was thinking, 'What if a flower and an instrument went on a date?'"

"New Orleans Funeral" specifically focuses on the beauty and sorrow of a post-Katrina New Orleans, Wilson said.

The University Health Services Building showcases some of the artwork that is a part of the Art on the Move program. Liz Pasquale

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Nadia Wilson
Class of 2010

(senior-drawing and painting) artist," Baker said. "It's mainly a hobby."

Each exhibit on campus will hold extended hours during the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts this weekend, according to the galleries' website. The artwork is constantly in rotation, with most of the pieces currently on display set to change in the beginning of September.

And while current students do not participate in the downtown portion of Arts Fest, some alumni have gotten their work onto South Allen Street.

Jake Johnson, Class of 2008, is a local artist from Bellefonte who was invited to participate in Arts Fest this weekend.

His booth will feature different works including ceramics, porcelain, stoneware and sculpture, Johnson said.

Interacting with other artists and patrons at Arts Fest is one of the benefits to the festival, Johnson said.

"It's a great way to meet the community," Johnson said. "I never get to meet the people, and that's the best part."

Baker's piece, "The Last Supper," is currently on display and is one of five identical copies, Baker said.

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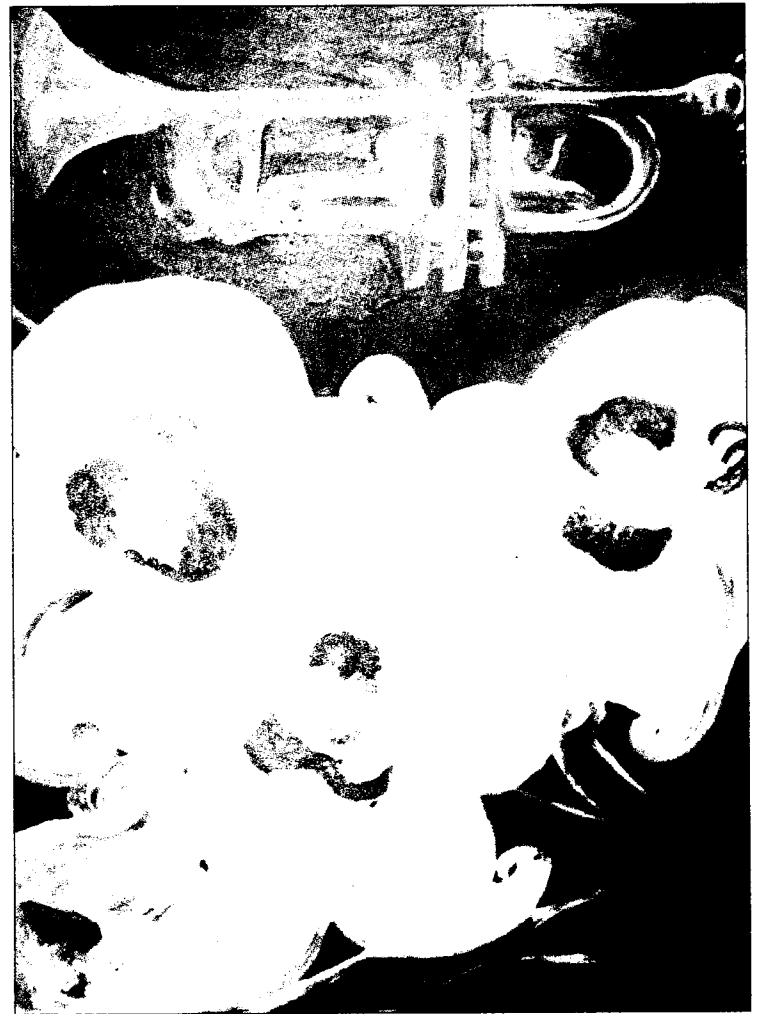
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To e-mail reporter: zjg5012@psu.edu



Courtesy of Nadia Wilson

Nadia Wilson's piece "New Orleans Funeral" sits in Old Main.

Artists sometimes avoid hotel stays

Because of rising prices, traveling artists skip conventional hotels and sleep in dorms, campgrounds and at friend's homes

By Nathan Pipenberg
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For many of the artists at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, State College is just one stop in a flurry of summer festivals, hotel rooms and road trips.

Their travels can be exhausting and non-stop, often featuring nights in motels, friends' apartments and campgrounds. Motels in most towns playing host to similar festivals offer discounted rates to artists, and State College is no exception.

Staff members from State College hotels — like the Nittany Lion Inn, Atherton Hotel and The Penn Stater — said each offers discounted rates for artists, as do many local chain hotels.

But some artists feel the discounts aren't legitimate. Bob Richey, a pastel artist from Bucks County, said prices are first hiked up to nearly double their normal rates for the weekend before the discounts take effect.

"They raise their prices for the festival just like they do at the football games," he said.

Richey, who set up an artist's booth at Arts Fest for the 14th consecutive year, said he discovered a more convenient and affordable place to stay.

Since his annual return to Arts Fest is also a trip back to his alma mater, he chooses to take advantage of a service the Penn State Alumni Association offers to members — he stays in West Residence Halls instead.

Richey calls his stay in State College a "homecoming event," since it's the one festival where he stays with fellow alumni rather than fellow artists.

With West Halls located on Burrowes Street, Richey wakes up only a few blocks from his booth, parks for free and gets a free breakfast in the dorms every morning.

Diane Troxell, a potter from Oxford, N.Y., had similar things to say about her accommodations.

Hotels in State College are abnormally expensive for the weekend, she said. Troxell only stays the first night in town, when she needs to be close by to set up her booth.

Starting Thursday night, she instead makes a 45-minute drive to Mill Hall, Pa., where she stays with friends — a couple she met after the pair visited her store in New York.

Though in the past years she's stopped traveling to as many shows as she used to — cutting down from nearly 30 to 12 — Troxell continues to make an appearance at Arts Fest every year, partly because of the organizers' efforts.

"The organizers know what they're doing," she said.

Arts Fest Operations Manager Carol Baney even offered Troxell a place to stay at her parents' house for the night she spends in town, Troxell said.

"State College is our best show of the year," she said.

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Steph Witt/Collegian

A worker stands and observes his handywork after setting up, rotating and dumping water buckets. The interactive display is part of Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, which will run from July 7 to 11 in downtown State College. The festival showcases hundreds of artists interacting with visitors and selling their creations.

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