

Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts

Annual event runs Sept. 17-19 in Joseph

By Katy Nesbitt
Go! Magazine

JOSEPH — The 39th annual Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts premieres Friday, Sept. 17, at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., to highlight 95 pieces of artwork accepted from 54 artists.

This year will look a bit different than past festivals. Most notably, due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be no awards show or reception.

On Friday evening the art contest entries will be on display at the Josephy Center and visitors are welcome to view the submissions — paintings, drawings and sculpture — from 7-8:30 p.m. All attendees must wear masks and will need to fol-



Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts/Contributed photo

To watch artists work in the open air, stroll through the Mt. Joseph Lodge Gardens at 404 N. Main Street to view the Quick Draw event from 2-4 p.m. Sept. 18 during the Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts.

low social distancing protocols.

This year's judge is Dennis DeHart, a photographic artist who is a professor at Washington State University.

The exhibit re-opens at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Josephy Center and will include live music.

To enjoy art as it happens, stroll through the Mt. Joseph Lodge Gardens at 404 N. Main St. to view the Quick Draw event Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Artists create their pieces in just 90 minutes, and all will be sold through a written auction. Live

music in the gazebo from 1:30-3:30 p.m. adds to the outdoor event.

A wood-carving demonstration by Wallowa County artist Steve Arment is from noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday in front of the Josephy Center. A long-time

Wallowa County artist, Arment is best known for carving carousel animals and vegetables like his famous carrots. He carved the welcome signs in Wallowa, Lostine and Enterprise, as well as at the Doug McDaniels Stewardship Center and the Enterprise Community Church. His Celtic style scrolls can be seen at Friends in Enterprise (formerly Lear's), and he carved the goat legs on the tables at Arrowhead Chocolates in Joseph.

On Sunday, the art exhibit at the Josephy Center is open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Silent auction bidding ends at 1:30 p.m. Buyers must pick up purchased artwork by 2 p.m.

Sunday's Summer Arts Classic Concert has been canceled.

HISTORY

Several years ago the Wallowa Valley Arts Council and the Josephy Center merged — combining the tradition of the festival with a permanent gallery space on Joseph's Main Street. The festival highlights local and regional artists whose art reflects the natural beauty of Wallowa County — its mountains, rivers, lakes, wildlife and farmland.

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