

Melding Art & Philanthropy

Fall Into Art returns for a 6th year.

The Plaza Event Center at Parkade will be overflowing with art in support of a good cause the weekend of Nov. 14 and 15, when the sixth annual Fall Into Art showcase returns. Free and open to the public, the showcase blends art, music and education with fundraising for The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.

“It’s a great organization and we are delighted to be of service and help it out,” says event organizer Farah Nieuwenhuizen. “We are very happy that we can raise funds for the food bank and happy that the artists can showcase their work. We raised \$1,500 last year and hope to raise even more this year.”

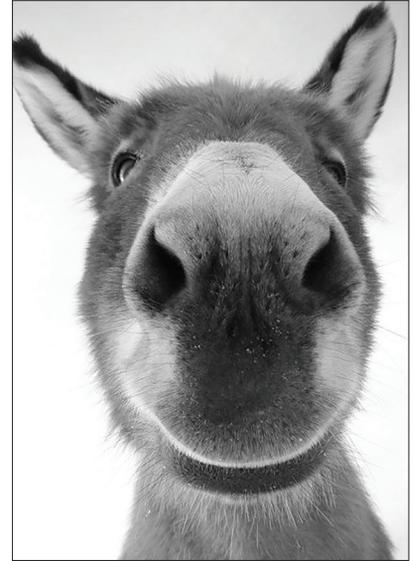
For 2015, Fall Into Art will feature fine arts and crafts by more than 50 artists, as well as art students from Lee Elementary School and Moberly Area Community College. According to Nieuwenhuizen, “When we started, we had only 20 artists but as time has gone on, we’ve grown; now, in our sixth year, we have close to 60!”

Nieuwenhuizen says the event came about because Columbia didn’t have many opportunities for artists to showcase their work, particularly as the holidays approach. She adds that although Fall Into Art is not as large as Art in the Park, held in June, it has the same caliber of work. The many talented artists are predominately local, but the event also draws artists from a broader area. “Last year we had people from Arkansas, Kansas City, St. Louis and Iowa,” Nieuwenhuizen says.

A wide variety of art in all different mediums will be for sale, with certain pieces earmarked for the silent auction, Nieuwenhuizen says. “There will be ceramic pieces, wood, jewelry, paintings, collages, glass and more. We have one person who does printing on cloth and another person who does clothing with recycled fabric.” Another artist — a painter who has illustrated a children’s book — will be signing and selling books.



BRENDA BECK FISHER



KIM CARR



KENT DURK



JOHN PREUS

All artists were asked to contribute a piece of their art for the silent auction that benefits the food bank. A sheet listing the minimum bid accompanies each item. People can sign up with their bid, and the artist will call and alert the highest bidder on Sunday around 3 p.m. Winning bidders may come to the Event Center to write a check directly to the food bank and pick up their items.

Volunteers handing out cookies and cider will greet attendees at the showcase

entrance, and a donation box will be set up for cash contributions. Nieuwenhuizen says that last year visitors gave \$700. Some also brought in canned goods and nonperishable items such as noodles, which were packed up and sent to the food bank.

The showcase runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at 601 Business Loop 70 W. You can find more information at www.fallintoart.org. ©

— PEG GILL