

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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2019 Best of Show winner Matt Anderson at left. Submitted photo.

For the City Times

STEVENS POINT – On April 5, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., SentryWorld's fieldhouse will be filled with 60 professional artists' booths of all media.

The 48th annual Stevens Point Festival of the Arts (FoA) will welcome artists from around the Midwest to the opportunity to showcase and sell their work.

This event is free and open to the public with additional aspects being a Kids' Art Zone, an art raffle, a local business raffle, and concessions for purchase while perusing the art. Attendees can meet and converse artists at every booth.

For 48 years, Stevens Point FoA has brought artists together for the overall enhancement of the community. With the move to SentryWorld, the festival will have options for future expansions while still offering a quality show and cohesive layout through this transitional year.

Fine artists of all media apply to exhibit at this event and works showcased come from digital art, fiber, glass, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and wood. Confirmed returning artists include: 2019 award winning photographer, Bill Lemke from Waukesha and 2019 award winning wood/furniture artist, Will Wipperfurth of Lake Mills.

With an organizational focus on bettering arts education each year, through the support of local businesses, Community Art Grants are distributed to emerging scholar artists from elementary to college ages.

"Giving back to [the students] is extremely important to me," said FoA Council Chair Jessie Fritsch. "I am a professional artist because of my own experiences and education through the UWSP Fine Art Department. As a student, I received a Festival Community Art award, and that money helped me make the leap into becoming a full-time artist. It brings me pride to be part of the FoA council today and to support future artists here in my community."

The organization hopes to maintain its 48-year reputation of providing a quality show and outlet for artists to connect to a variety of audiences in the attempt to boost societal morale as a whole.

Fritsch added, "Life all too often gets in the way and we forget to look at the beauty all around us. Art reminds us to stop and enjoy life's moments of creativity and awe. I want this event to bring people together to be inspired and uplifted."

The SentryWorld Fieldhouse is located at 601 N. Michigan Ave, Stevens Point.

For more information, visit StevensPointFoA.com.

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