



Lawrence ArtWalk 2004

The 10th annual Lawrence ArtWalk

October 23-24, 2004

A self-guided tour of Lawrence artists' studios and other art spaces featuring the visual artists of Douglas County, KS.

For Immediate Release

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Annual event to celebrate its 10th anniversary!!

Lawrence ArtWalk Director, John Wysocki, announces plans to mark the 10th anniversary of one of Lawrence's premier annual arts events, the Lawrence ArtWalk. Plans include:

- Showcasing the work of artists exclusively. In previous years art galleries have also been featured but, for this year, galleries—especially those located in the Downtown area—will be featured in their own exclusive event on the Friday evening immediately before the Lawrence ArtWalk in the Fall Downtown Gallery Walk.
- Holding a preview exhibition of participating artists' work in the weeks immediately before the Lawrence ArtWalk. A public reception will be scheduled and the exhibition will also include a retrospective display of promotional artifacts from the event's first nine years.
- Expanding the contents of the annual Lawrence ArtWalk guidebook and the Lawrence ArtWalk website to better serve as year-round resource guides to artists and the visual arts in Douglas County.
- Launching a brand new logo for Lawrence ArtWalk. Note: this has already been accomplished, and features a graphic designed by Lawrence illustrator Dale Martin.

What started in 1995 as a self-guided, downtown walking tour of a handful of galleries and artists' studios has now grown (in 2003) to over 100 visual artists. This is a fabulous opportunity to discover some of the wonderful artwork created by many of Lawrence and Douglas County's talented visual artists, to meet them in their creative work environments, and to purchase locally produced art. Several Lawrence artists' studios not normally accessible to the general public will be opened especially for the ArtWalk and many artists will offer special demonstrations of their craft.

Participants register as individuals or as part of an artists' collective or group. Artists are required to be residents of Douglas County or have a Lawrence address for their studio or place of work, and artists' collectives must have a Lawrence address at which work is exhibited.

Guidebooks and guide maps will be available in advance in early September. More information is available by visiting the Lawrence ArtWalk website, which is designed and maintained by Wysocki, and features artwork by artists and galleries who have participated in the event since 1999. Artwork by this year's participants will be posted online in September.

Lawrence ArtWalk 2004 hours are Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday, noon - 6 pm.

History

The Lawrence ArtWalk has come to be regarded as one of Lawrence's premier arts events and draws visitors from everywhere, even internationally, who plan their visit to town around the event. The annual Lawrence ArtWalk is always scheduled in late October on the weekend before Halloween and is one of the earliest opportunities for buyers to shop for holiday gifts.

The event was started by Lawrence artist Diana Dunkley and bookstore owner Pat Kehde in 1995 and originally featured just a walking tour of downtown Lawrence galleries and studios. While the original name of the event has been retained, venues are now located all across Lawrence and even beyond! Lawrence photographer and artist, John Wysocki co-organized the event with Sarah Oblinger in 1996-97 and has been organizing the event ever since.

In 1996 (2nd annual), artwork was exhibited by 27 artists, two 'collectives' or groups of artists, and at six art galleries. By 2003 the event had grown to feature over 100 participants: artwork was exhibited at 62 locations in and around Lawrence by 76 artists and five artists' collectives or groups as well as 10 art galleries. Promotional materials have always featured the work of local graphic or fine artists, as follows:

1995: Diana Dunkley.
1996 & 1997: Sarah Oblinger.
1998: Lora Jost.
1999: Barry Fitzgerald.
2000: Dale Martin.
2001: Bobbi Studstill.
2002: Dave Van Hee.
2003: Diana Dunkley.

About John Wysocki

John Wysocki has been organizing the annual Lawrence ArtWalk event ever since 1996 (he was co-organizer with Lawrence artist Sarah Oblinger in '96 and '97). He is a professional photographer specializing in wedding and fine-art photography, who is also a former president of the Lawrence Art Guild (1995-97) and a former organizer of Lawrence's annual, Harvest of Arts festival (1995-96). Since 1993 he has exhibited his fine-art photography in local and regional juried exhibitions, and between 1997-99 he exhibited his work in regional art fairs.

Between September 1994-November 1997 Wysocki was the creator and coordinator of an interactive, educational exhibit, "ArtWorks With Titles," which explored the significance of titles and featured the work of several local artists. The exhibition was displayed in 1996 at the Carnegie Arts Center, Leavenworth, KS, and West Wyandotte Branch, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library; and culminated at the Lawrence Arts Center, October 7-November 1, 1997.

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