

← Back

Wunderkammer is hosting a two-day event where local artists can display and sell their work

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For many artists, selling their work is just as important as the creative process. But finding the right market can be difficult.

Luckily, Dan Swartz at Wunderkammer gallery, 3402 Fairfield Ave., is providing an outlet for artists to share their passion while selling their goods Saturday and Sunday at the Wunderkammer Shops.

The pop-up shopping market is a way for artisans to display, market and sell their work. The shop this weekend will feature a wide range of creative work including original oil paintings, ceramics, printmaking, jewelry, clothing, leatherwork and more.

Swartz said choosing artists can be difficult, given the many talented people in and around Fort Wayne, but he tries to feature artists representing a variety of styles and backgrounds.

Swartz is giving the artists more room for creativity during the market, too.

Typically, during an event there will be an existing exhibit on the gallery's walls. But at the moment, Swartz is offering not only booth space for the artists, but also wall space.

"This was perfect in our schedule because we don't have a show up at the moment," he said.

Artist Michael Rhoades is thrilled about the opportunity to be involved in the market. A self-proclaimed prolific oil painter, Rhoades is always painting, and over the last seven years, he has built up quite a collection of paintings for sale.

"I like to call my work abstract realism, which is of course an oxymoron," Rhoades said. "The form is just a container for the color. The work varies to leaning more toward the abstract and then more toward the realism, but there's always a blend of the two. It's all oil paintings with a lot of color."

One painting that will be on sale is called "The Road to Hana," inspired by his honeymoon to Maui last year.

"The road to Hana is a winding road that goes up through the mountains, often one-lane, and passes over bridges," Rhoades said. "It is absolutely the most beautiful place I've ever seen in the world."

A few months after the trip, he woke up in the middle of the night and was inspired. He went down to his studio and started a series of paintings based on inspirations of being in Maui.

The abstract painting features layers of color, including bright blues with long brushstrokes resembling the fluidity of the ocean and samples of green representing the lush vegetation of the natural habitat.

Rhoades has changed his typical pricing structure for the pop-up market. Normally, original oil paintings can go for a hefty sum, especially depending on the size, but Rhoades' goal is to make oil paintings available for all people, not just the wealthy.

The Wunderkammer event also is a preview for the Three Rivers Festival's Art in the Park. Not only will TRF representatives be at the market to share information on how artists can get involved in this year's festival, but organizers are also giving the power to the people during the People's Choice Award.

Each visitor will have the chance to vote for his or her favorite artist at the market, and the winner will be guaranteed direct entry into the TRF Arts in the Park festival, which eliminates the application process and the \$220 entry fee.

Art popping up

WHAT: Wunderkammer pop-up shops and TRF Art in the Park preview.

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: Wunderkammer, 3402 Fairfield Ave.

COST: Free admission

INFORMATION: For more information about the event, visit www.facebook.com/WunderkammerCompany.

Upcoming events

* 7-11 p.m. Jan. 31, Wunderkammer is hosting a Fort Wayne Fringe Festival fundraiser, from which all proceeds go directly to support alternative performers and performances in northeast Indiana. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$15 for paid Wunderkammer Company and Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana members. Tickets can be purchased at www.squareup.com/market/wunderkammer-company. Visit www.facebook.com/events/929384497073358.

* Noon-3 p.m. Feb. 8, Wunderkammer will host its first Seed Swap and Garden Planning in partnership with Food Not Lawns-Fort Wayne and Young Urban Homesteaders. At the event, people can trade seeds, learn more about plants that work well in Indiana climate and begin planning gardens for spring. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/819451084760253.

Photo (2) Dan Swartz, curator at Wunderkammer Company, stands inside the gallery at 3401 Fairfield Ave. Swartz has been hosting pop-up markets at the gallery quarterly as a way to help artists sell and market their work. File photo Artist Michael Rhoades is thrilled about the opportunity to be involved in the pop-up market at Wunderkammer Company. One painting he plans to offer for sale at this weekend's pop-up market is called "The Road to Hana," inspired by his honeymoon to Maui last year. Photo courtesy of Michael Rhoades

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Page: 6T

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