



## Area women's work on display at gallery

### Danville Art League nurtures female artists

BY BARBARA GREENBERG

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DANVILLE — Their work is as varied as the artists themselves. The one common bond they share is their gender.

Beginning Monday and continuing through Nov. 10, Danville's Alley Gallery presents "A Celebration of Women in the Arts."

This show runs longer than any in the year since the venue opened. The length of the show is a fitting tribute to the 20 or so women artists whose work will be displayed.

"We wanted to start our second year off with a big bang," David Nolan, gallery curator, said. The idea for a women-only show came to Nolan based on his own experiences.

"About 99 percent of the artists I know are women," the Danville photographer and sculptor said. "For some reason, in this area, there are more women exhibiting than men."

He invited women artists from Vermilion County and the Champaign-Urbana area, where he also exhibits his own work, to participate in this special event. Nolan culled only the best area artists and the best of their work for the show due to the gallery's limited space and the high number of participants.

Local exhibitors include Catherine Johnson, past president of Danville Art League, along with several other members of the group.

One of them, sculptor June Uthe, joined in 1975. Two of her clay busts will be featured in the show.

"Catherine held the art league together for years," Uthe said.

Johnson, who joined the league in the '60s, will exhibit a sample of her paintings in the show. She remembered when the group met in different homes before they found their permanent Sherman Street location.

Roberta Williams, a league member whose sunflower painting will be on display, recalled those times.

"There's a need for artists to have support, to be stimulated by one another," Williams said. "We always said the times we spent together were cheaper than therapy."

Kristen Wolfinbarger recently joined the Art League and brings a very different style to the league.

The 25-year-old part-time DACC student and full-time artist uses a computer in some of her abstract work, including something called



Matt Huber / Commercial-News

Danville Art League member Sabrina Donnelly looks at a piece of art she will display at the Alley Gallery's "A Celebration of Women in the Arts."

fractals.

"That's a math-related way to make visual abstracts," Wolfinbarger explained. "I like working with the human form."

Sabrina Donnelly, a Commercial-News employee and Art League member since 1990, concentrates on watercolors of flowers. One painting she'll exhibit features purple petunias which Nolan termed "Georgia O'Keefe-esque."

Like the other artists whose work will be displayed, Donnelly's also will be for sale.

"I determine the prices based on several factors," she said. "There's the size of the piece and the time it took to complete. Each work is unique."

"There's also the area where you exhibit to take into account."

The artists traveling from Champaign-Urbana represent as much of a variety of styles as those who live nearby.

Nolan described one as working in "wax and color to create sculpture" and another as someone who paints "skin so realistic you feel as if you can pinch it."

Those who'd like to meet the artists as well as view their work may do so at a reception from 7-9 p.m. Friday.

"We've packed the place with really nice work," Nolan said. "Now we'd like to pack it with those interested in art."

#### IF YOU GO

The Alley Gallery, 113 N. Vermilion St., begins its 2007/08 season with "A Celebration of Women in the Arts." The exhibit runs from Monday to Nov. 10, with an artists' reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. Regular gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 3 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call David Nolan at 497-2286.