

2 artists put work on display

Collaboration resulted in 18 pieces

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COVINGTON, Ind. — Mike Byers and Dave Nolan are both artists as well as friends.

Byers of Williamsport prefers to work with glass, metal and wood, while Nolan of Danville is known for his photography.

The men recently combined their artistic pursuits into an 18-piece collection called "Open and Shut." Byers created containers or boxes that house one of Nolan's images.

The results of their collaboration will be on display at the Fourth Street Gallery in Covington beginning Saturday with a reception from 6:30-9 p.m. EDT. Guests will be served cider, wine, cheese and other snacks. The collection will be on display through Nov. 8.

"It's a very unique collection," said Debra Duncan, co-owner of the Fourth Street Gallery. "The artists will be here to explain themselves and their creations."

All of the pieces in the collection are for sale.

Some of the containers resemble shadow boxes. Another looks like a miniature Greek temple. Other containers were created from metal or wood and have a small door or window that when moved exposes one of Nolan's images.

One container is crafted from a ship's propeller bushing, and another from an old meter base. Byers also likes to use materials from inside various machinery, especially computers.

Nolan said he and Byers began talking about collaborating on a project over dinner some time ago.

"The next week Mike showed up with 10 pieces for me," Nolan said.

Over the next year and a half, Byers added more containers, while Nolan created images for each piece.

"I would sometimes just stare at a piece until the right image came to mind," Nolan said. "I wanted to match the feeling I'd get for the piece with the right image."

With an image in mind, Nolan would then create the photograph, sometimes using



Artist Mike Byers talks Thursday about the glass art he has on display at the Fourth Street Gallery in Covington, Ind.
Matt Huber / Commercial-News

THE GALLERY

Fourth Street Gallery is at 322 Fourth St., Covington, on the east side of the courthouse square. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Saturday. Call (765) 793-2322 or e-mail 4thstreetgallery@att.net for more information.

a model.

One of his favorites is a brass cylinder that has a glass door.

"It reminded me of a well," he said.

Inside that piece is a photograph of a person reaching up toward the opening.

"I wanted to do his stuff justice," Nolan said. "He's a very talented and creative man."

Byers said Nolan has a way of looking at things, pondering them.

"There's meaning there that even I don't comprehend, but that's OK," he said.

Byers is quick to dismiss the artist label, saying "I just make stuff." He also plays the banjo and guitar in a Celtic band, and does some writing.

Nolan considers himself a photographer, but also has branched out, and has done some sculpting.

"It's a lot of fun to work with another person," Byers said. "He has his own ideas, and I have mine, and what results is something in between."

Nolan also enjoyed collaborating on the project.

Duncan and James Deschene opened the gallery in March and conducted a grand opening in May. Since then the gallery has conducted one other reception for another local artist.

"It's my goal to eventually offer something special, like this exhibit, at least once a month," Duncan said.

She also has plans to make improvements to a portion of the building's lower level for seminars and workshops.

Currently, the public can view and purchase the work of various professional artists from the Midwest. Private as well as corporate collectors and art lovers are encouraged to stop by.

Reach Mike Byers at Raven Glass Studio, (765) 893-4793. Reach Dave Nolan at (217) 497-2286