Published Mar 24, 2011 Published Thursday March 24, 2011

Exhibit showcases diversity of 36 artists

By Niz Proskocil WORLD-HERALD Correspondent

The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts celebrates its "2011 Bemis Center Regional Juried Exhibition" with an opening reception Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event takes place at the Bemis Underground galleries.

The exhibit features work from 36 established and emerging artists who were selected by juror Kate Hackman of Kansas City, Mo., from a field of 217 artists. Three of the exhibiting artists will be awarded \$500 and a 2012 solo show in the Bemis Underground.

"The Bemis needs to keep pushing to find new artists who are doing exceptional things," said Bemis Underground curator Joel Damon.

Damon said the artists' work spans diverse media, subjects and approaches.

Hackman, a former instructor at the Kansas City Art Institute, will speak at noon Saturday as part of the Bemis' free "gallery talk" series.

The exhibit runs through April 16 at the Bemis, 724 S. 12th St. Information: 402-341-7130 and www.bemiscenter.org.

You know it's spring when Bockfest rolls around.

German food, a polka band and plenty of beer will be on tap this weekend as part of the Crescent Moon's 6th Annual Bockfest.

Crescent Moon, near 36th and Farnam Streets, and its German-themed basement beer hall, Huber Haus, will host indoor and outdoor activities Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

The all-ages event includes polka music from the Barry Boyce Band, bockwurst, schnitzel, soft-pretzel sandwiches, a fire pit and bock beers from Schell's, Hacker-Pschorr, Boulevard and Sprecher breweries.

You can even get your bock beer "poked" with a hot iron to enhance the taste, said Amy Kroeger, a manager at Crescent Moon.

Admission is free; food and drink are extra. Information: 402-345-1708 and www.beercornerusa.com.

It's time once again to get your draw and your drink on. This month's "Drink 'N Draw" is tonight from 8 to 10 at the New BLK Gallery, 1213 Jones St. Artists 19-and-older of all media — painters, sculptors, cartoonists, tattoo artists, art students and those interested in learning — are invited to the event.

Two models — a woman and a man — will give a series of short and long poses. Bring your supplies. Tables will be provided. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10, and refreshments will be provided. Artists are welcome to bring their own drinks, as well. Information: www.thenewblk.com.

Dig stand-up comedy? Like dudes with beards? Then there's a good chance you'll enjoy the national "Beards of Comedy Tour," which makes a stop Wednesday at the Side Door Lounge, 3530 Leavenworth St.

The bearded comedians are Andy Sandford, Joe Zimmerman, TJ Young and Dave Stone. Hailing from the South, they're known for delivering a brand humor that's rooted in traditional stand-up but combines elements of music, sketch and improv.

The all-ages show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets, \$5, are available at the door or in advance at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/158059. Information: 402-504-3444.

Contact the writer:

nizproskocil@gmail.com

Copyright ©2011 Omaha World-Herald®. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, displayed or redistributed for any purpose without permission from the Omaha World-Herald.

