



Filmmaker Takes Best in Show Honors at 22nd Annual ArtWalk

When you think of art the first things that may come to mind are paintings, sculptures, or drawings. But, for the 2016 Main Street ArtWalk it was the non-traditional forms of art that stole the show.

This year there were more than 60 artists displaying their work around the Main Street Cultural District (MSCD).

The public was asked to vote for their favorite artist. Local filmmaker Bill Gebhart's short film "Remember" was chosen by voters as the Best in Show, while chainsaw artist Andy Klindt came in second place.

ArtWalk co-chair and MSCD Promotions Chair, Andrea Gronau, wasn't surprised to see people captivated by Gebhart's work.

"Bill is such a great storyteller," Gronau said. "His use of cameras and story-line to convey his message are what the audience embraced."

The Ames Public Library hosted Gebhart for ArtWalk. This is the 22nd year of the event in downtown Ames, but the first year a filmmaker displayed work for this event. Gronau thinks part of the reason Gebhart's work resonated with the public was due to the way it really grabbed people's emotions.

"I was very moved by the depth of the film's story line and how sometimes having someone to listen during our time of grief goes a long way in mending our hearts," Gronau said. "Bill's use of multiple cameras to share the story gave an even deeper perspective."



This is also the first year for a chainsaw artist at ArtWalk. Andy Klindt, sponsored by Global VetLINK, fired up this chainsaw at the intersection of Kellogg Avenue and Main Street. Many people stopped to watch, as he spent the evening turning a tree stump into a beautiful carving of a feather.

"It was amazing to see how quickly and efficiently Mr. Klindt created a work of art out of a chunk of wood," said Cindy Hicks, Executive Director, MSCD. "He is a very talented artist!"

Sixty-two businesses hosted artists this year, an increase of 20 over last year. And while that may be hard to top next year, Gronau says the committee is up to the challenge.

“ArtWalk 2016 was an amazing success on so many levels, from the number of participants to the number of attendees,” Gronau said. “It was great to see our Downtown streets and businesses full of activity.”

The Main Street Cultural District was established on January 1, 2004. Its mission is to advance and promote downtown as the destination district in the heart of our community. To keep updated on MSCD happenings, become a fan of the Main Street Cultural District on Facebook, bookmark www.AmesDowntown.org, or contact our office at 515-233-3472. MSCD is an affiliate organization of the Ames Chamber of Commerce.