



Found at: Altona Red River Valley Echo

Gallery opens for new season

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Art lovers have waited all winter long for those gates to swing open, and on May 14, they finally did.

Altona's Gallery in the Park launched its spring season last week. About 125 guests attended the Friends of the Gallery night, taking in the impressive variety of new artistic treasures on display.

As guests gathered in the sculpture garden, Altona CAO Russ Phillips opened what he called the gallery's "sophomore year," thanking all who were involved in tirelessly working to prepare the facility for another great season.

Phillips also introduced Genevieve Krahn and Jaydn Klassen who will be working at the Gallery throughout the summer, serving as ambassadors and welcoming visitors at the door.

He says their original aim of a few hundred thousand dollars of art has been eclipsed, with more than \$500,000 in art on loan or in their possession

The Gallery Committee is quite pleased and excited by this year's slate of artists. While numerous pieces remain from last year's opening season, there are also a number of exciting new pieces and new artists to appreciate and enjoy.

The work of this season's showcase artist will simply take your breath away.

Award-winning ceramic artist Grace Nickel's collection of commemorative porcelain trees entitled Devastatus Rememorari fill most of the room in the lower west gallery.

Their stark quality and the messages etched into each section of trunk tell a solemn story about the harshness and blind determination of nature.

The Gallery is also delighted to have on display the works of a series of other Manitoba artists including Lisa Bissett whose paintings are inspired by the beauty of ordinary objects, and Debra Cardaci whose art reflects the ever-changing light of the vast prairie sky.

Visitors can also appreciate the vibrant and sometimes whimsical pieces on display by local artists Margruite Krahn, Gail Sawatzky, Barb Wiebe, Ken Loewen and Jake Goertzen

You are encouraged to take a leisurely stroll down the curving pathways of the sculpture garden, which features a number of gifted and acclaimed American artists including Lee Badger, Jeffrey Birch, Mark Chew, John Aducci, Alexandra Martin, Serge Mozhnevsky and Christopher Powell.