

Jackson Hole News & Guide

STEPPING *Out*

October 19 – 25, 2011 • arts, entertainment and fun

CREATIVES CROW

Artists reinvent stuffed shirts for festive fundraiser Friday.

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Excursion: Road to hot springs remains open till Oct. 31, page 4.

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PRICE CHAMBERS / NEWS&GUIDE
Students from The Artemis Institute recycled scrap metal to fabricate a half-jaunty, half-skeletal scarecrow.

CREATIVES CROW

Who: 40-some artists and creative professionals
What: Scarecrow Festival, with live and silent auctions
When: 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday
Where: Center for the Arts lawn and theater lobby
How much: Free to attend; sky's the limit for bidding
Web: JHPublicArt.org, JHCenterfortheArts.org

By Katy Niner

With their dated fashion and taciturn demeanors, scarecrows, symbols of fall, were in a straw-stuffed rut. Ragged no more, they have been reinvented by a charitable group of creative Jacksonites for the inaugural Scarecrow Festival.

The scarecrows will be sold by live and silent auction amid fall festivities staged from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday on the Center for the Arts lawn and lobby. The afternoon includes free popcorn, Snake River beer, ceramic pumpkins for painting and sale (thanks to the Teton MudPots), a rotating roster of preview performances by center residents, and live music by Hootenanny regulars John Carney, Andy Schwartz and Hank Phibbs.

The event, hosted by and benefiting the Center for the Arts and the Jackson Hole Public Art Initiative, asked artists and creative professionals to create figures of fall. Architects, sculptors, a framer, a chocolatier and a bakesmith all rose to the creative challenge.

Oscar Ortega's chocolate scarecrow prefigures the sculpture he will create for the winner of his auction lot.

The Artemis Group — students from Texas A&M and Montana State University participating in Lori Ryker's design-build intensive — created a cross-section scarecrow using recycled scrap metal, much of which they procured for another project: the redesign of the Owen Bircher Park pavilion. To hone their welding skills, they schemed a scarecrow half-clothed,



PRICE CHAMBERS / NEWS&GUIDE PHOTOS

Nona Yehia of E/Ye Designs created a scarecrow for the season — which she called “The Halloween Stick” — with tulle and woven wire.

half-skeletal. They curled a metal grate into ribs and hammered a metal sheet into a hat. Last week, the crew — Sam Florence, Daniel Kelly, Ben Larsen, Josh Cristy, Ben Wilde and David Roe — delivered their scarecrow, only to have its head topple off during installation. Back to welding.

Carney Logan Burke Architects and Square One Architects styled an angular torso topped by a turquoise metal skull. Sculptor John Simms framed a Vitruvian Man clad in Jackson garb. Rocky Vertone and Tim Hoff fused their two aesthetics — for art framing and bike building, respectively — into a scarecrow with bike chains for hair and hands, a sprocket for an eye, and a framed piece of art by Kelly Halpin for a body.

Nona Yehia of E/Ye Designs imagined a jack-o'-lantern Medusa with tendrils of tulle and woven wire, which Yehia uncoiled and braided herself, to her fingertips' dismay. As she delivered her scarecrow last week, a passerby called out, “Look, a Halloween stick!”

Ben Roth approached his scarecrow as an opportunity to learn a new technique: hammering compound curves into thin-gauge metal. Scouting his shop for material inspiration, he took metal strips left over from a shower screen and made legs for an abstract minimalist scarecrow. In the center of its mighty orb, Roth used a weed burner to create an oxidized halo. The sculpture, designed to be zero-maintenance and year-round, will change with rust.

Alissa Davies, initially stymied by the theme, inverting the scare-away-birds concept and created a Scared Crow. Davies got involved in the Scarecrow Festival to show her support for Jackson's burgeoning public art movement.

“I wanted to contribute a piece because I believe in

Caw of the Wild

The Scarecrow Festival aims to showcase the creative array housed within the Center for the Arts. As such, a variety of performances by center residents will pepper Friday's festival.

- 4:45 p.m. Dancers' Workshop previews its 'Thriller' dance party.
- 5 p.m. Live auction starts.
- 5:30 p.m. Off Square Theatre's "Annie" cast performs.
- 5:30 p.m. Silent auction closes.

the Public Art Initiative and think that it brings, and will continue to bring, amazing opportunities, resources and education to our community,” Davies wrote in an email. “I also love the collaborative effort between the Center for the Arts and the Public Art Initiative, an effort that hopefully becomes more and more common in the valley.”

Annie Fenn channeled her passion for sharing food and recipes — which she does on her blog JacksonHoleFoodie.com — into a seated scarecrow brimming with edible wonders. Fenn echoed Davies' applause of the local public art initiative.

“I lived in Chicago for years, and during that time I saw the city's public spaces transformed by a public art program that revitalized the downtown and many city parks,” Fenn emailed. “I have also been inspired by the public art I have seen in the cities of Buenos Aires and Quito, so I guess you can say I ‘get it’ when it comes to [Carrie Geraci's] vision of what Jackson could be with a vibrant public art program.”



Japanese and Native American elements combine in Carney Logan Burke/Square One's contribution.



What does **PRIDE** sound like?

StringFest 2011

Come hear a special performance by orchestra students from Star Valley Middle School and Jackson Hole Middle School, the culmination of a three-day collaborative string clinic. Join us in supporting the future of music in Jackson Hole!

Guest Conductor: Barbara Scowcroft, Music Director - Utah Youth Symphony
Special Guest: Ralph Matson, Concertmaster - Utah Symphony

WED • OCT 26
7:00PM • FREE!
 TICKETS NOT REQUIRED

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