

Rountree Gallery art exhibit to honor the work of rural women

Rountree Gallery in Platteville will host "Rural Women-Voice and Spirit" June 20 through July 16. This multimedia exhibition is the product of a year-long artistic venture by Wisconsin artist Kelly Parks-Snider and video producer Jane Bartell. They offer a unique and rarely-heard perspective of rural women. Paintings by Parks-Snider, video portraits by Bartell combine with metal sculptures by Erica Koivunen and literary selections by inspiring farm-women to focus attention on the integral roles rural women have played in Wisconsin's agricultural production. This collection of original work was funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Wisconsin Arts Board and was sponsored by the Midwest Environmental Advocates. This free exhibition will be on display at 385 East Main Street from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays.

The public is welcome to meet the artists at the opening reception on Sunday, June 25, from 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Platteville Farmers' Market.

While on display at Rountree Gallery, this exhibition will incorporate artwork created by

area residents. The three collage paintings featured are the creations of Theresa Caccia's fourth grade students at St. Mary School in Platteville.

Parks-Snider and Bartell facilitated an afternoon workshop that focused on where our food comes from and encouraging the students' inventive expressions on canvas.

The quilt in progress is part of the Platteville Military Project. This project distributes completed quilts to soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Visitors to the gallery are encouraged to tie the simple knots necessary to complete this quilt. Additional quilts in this exhibition were created by members of the Tri-States Needle Arts Guild.

To celebrate the contributions of rural women, area artists will participate in a special Heritage Day event on the grounds of the Mining Museum, 398 East Main Street and the Rollo Jamison Mining Museum, 405 East Main Street. This daylong event on the 4th of July is free to the public and includes demonstrations and hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. Last year, Heritage Day made history come to life for over 700 visitors. This year, world-renowned rosemary artist Lois Mueller will demonstrate her technique from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

From 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., children can learn to card wool and make felt with fiber artist Alicia Rheal and her assistant, Jessica Steckling. Native American basket weaver Garnet Wind will demonstrate and assist visitors in making baskets from kits she will offer for sale. At various times throughout the



This painting of a woman in a yellow dress tending to her flowers, produced by Kelly Parks-Snider, will be part of the upcoming exhibit at the Rountree Gallery in Platteville.

day, representatives of Tri-State Needle Arts and other artists will demonstrate tatting, knitting, crocheting, rug weaving, embroidery, beadwork and bobbin lace.

The following directions to the gallery and museums will avoid road construction: Take STH 151 to the HWY XX exit and turn towards Platteville. Turn right on Mineral Street (second stoplight). Turn left on Broadway/HWY B (first stop sign). The museum complex is on the corner of Broadway and Main Street. Rountree Gallery is located upstairs in the Mining Museum. The gallery is

open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. For more information call 348-6719 or email rtgallery@yousq.net.

The Rural Women portion of the Heritage Day event is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. Additional support is provided by the Platteville Visitor and Tourism Promotion Commission. This traveling exhibition opened in August of 2005 at Folklore Village in Dodgeville and will be heading to the Norfolk Art Center in Norfolk, Neb. for a two-month showing in August.