

Valley artists take talents to the streets

■ Art Association coordinates its third annual outdoor showcase of local artists and craftspeople.

By Mary Howley

The hot spot in town to eat, browse, shop, and appreciate and support local artists will be right on the Town Square on Sunday, Sept. 8.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Art Association will present its third annual local artists-only arts and crafts festival, "Takin' It to the Streets," on the Center Street side of the Jackson Town Square. Admission is free, and the event takes place alongside Chefs on the Square, a benefit for the Jackson Hole Chefs Association.

"Takin' It to the Streets"
arts and crafts fair

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 8

Center Street in downtown Jackson
The Art Association — 733-6379

"Takin' It to the Streets" will feature 40 local artists from many disciplines. In addition to paintings and ceramics, there will be fiber art, gourmet foods, handmade soaps and many other fine crafts.

Elisa San Souci of the nonprofit Art Association, the organizer of the event, said "Takin' It to the Streets" is an excellent opportunity for local artists to experience a different venue for their work. While some of the participating artists show and sell their works on the art fair circuit, many have only displayed in local coffee shops, or not at all.

San Souci says "Takin' It to the Streets" can be a great starting point for local artists. Last year, the Teton Pottery Guild joined the festivities. Many of these artists had only worked with clay as a hobby prior to the fair, but had not yet dared to show and sell their wares. They literally "Took It to the Streets," sharing their work with the public and interacting with other artists in the energized creative environment on the Square.



Study for Cowboy Bar is by Travis Walker, one of 40 local artists who will display work on Center Street on Sunday.

Such interaction gives artists a sense of what people are interested in; it's also a boost of encouragement just to participate in the juried art fair, where "saleability" is considered important for acceptance.

The jury process for "Takin' It to the Streets" is generally more relaxed than the Art Association's other fairs, such as the Mountain Artists Rendezvous. The larger art fairs are open to all artists rather than locals only, which means more competition and a need for stricter acceptance criteria. The jury for "Takin' It to the Streets" is comprised of Art Association members who determine who participates based on originality

and craftsmanship. Artists must be present at the festival to represent their own work.

San Souci would love to see interest in the event grow to the point where it could overflow onto Deloney Street; besides, she doesn't like to turn artists away. In the past couple of years, more than 50 artists have vied for the 40 spots on Center Street. Whether "Takin' It to the Streets" remains cozily nestled on Center Street or spreads out onto Deloney, Fall Arts Festival patrons will have plenty of fine crafts to peruse.

Contact the Art Association for more details at 733-6379.