



An art party downtown

Music, theater and dance will augment this month's First Friday Art Walk

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A giant art party is going to happen Friday evening in downtown Eugene, and you're invited. The regular First Friday Art Walk will be joined by ballet from Ballet Fantastique, live outdoor music from the Jim Bronson Band, a festival of Latin American music and dance at Cozmic Pizza, a "Summer Soiree Block Party" by downtown merchants, a free concert at the library and an evening of the best 5-minute performances put on this season by No Shame Eugene.

Best of all, just about everything is free.

At Opus VII, 22 W. Seventh Ave., seven dancers from Ballet Fantastique will present a series of original ballet excerpts choreographed by Donna and Hannah Bontrager from their upcoming

“Pirates & Gypsies” program. They’ll present the full show later this summer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival’s Green Show in Ashland.

The performance here is being given in connection with “Just Dancin’,” an exhibit at Opus of new paintings by Anne Teigen.

Merchants throughout downtown are throwing the block party from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., offering strolling musicians, specialty food and drink, an antique appraisals booth and a raffle – tickets are \$5 – for a series of gift baskets.

At Kesey Square, guitarist Jim Bronson joins Tom Martin on bass and Lenny Perkins on drums and Steve Ditmar on congas. They’ll play two sets starting at 6 p.m.

While you’re there, watch for photographer Erin Dougherty, with her camera in tow. Co-owner of Studio West, she’ll be photographing Eugene residents downtown Friday evening for an exhibit she’s planning at the gallery later this year.

Over at Cozmic Pizza, 199 W. Eighth Ave., check out the Festival Cultural de la Canción, Poesía y Bailes Tradicionales de Latinoamérica with folk and traditional Latin music and dances by Tito Amaya, Sol de los Andes, Duo Piel Canela, South in the North, Bossa Luna, Aquarela Do Brasil, Marvin Tijerino, Los Alegres de la Cumbia and Samba dances with Kelly Tavares. It’s \$10 at the door.

The official art walk starts at 5:30 p.m. at Modern, 207 E. Fifth Ave., Suite 105, and will be hosted by Patrick Hosfield, director of corporate and donor relations for the Oregon Bach Festival and president of the Eugene Active 20-30 Club. He’ll lead a free walking tour of downtown art venues; many other galleries are open during the walk.

Modern is showing student furniture and lighting projects from the third annual University of Oregon Department of Product Design and School of Architecture Luminaire Design Competition and Exhibit. Some of the pieces in the show also were exhibited recently at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York.

The second stop on the walk, at 6 p.m., is Vistra Framing and Gallery, 160 E. Broadway, which is showing work by members of the Emerald Photographic Society. The local photo club has been in existence since 1961. Exhibitors include Bill Haynes, Ron Seguin, Stephanie Ames, Mike Van De Walker, Linda Magyary, Susan Starr, Keith Munson, Buzz Summers, Donna Gilhousen, Bob Roelke, Graham Smith, Bob Petit, Don Lown, Walt Biddle and Bruce Bittle.

At 6:30 p.m. the walk will visit Passionflower Design, 128 E. Broadway, which is showing the work of Eugene clothing designers Sabrina Ridge and Kelsie McGee, the duo behind Poppy & Moe (go to their website at PoppyandMoe.com). They will be there to talk about running a natural clothing line and how they create their distinctive look.

Goldworks Jewelry Art Studio at 169 E. Broadway is the next stop, at about 7 p.m. with work by mosaic artist Bill Allord. Last year he was awarded an honorable mention at the Mayor’s Art Show for his “Mosaic Spanish Guitar.”

In this show, he will include “Celtic Violin” and the “Sunburst Strat,” both mosaic musical instruments.

He first began experimenting with mosaics in 1997 and, in 2002, studied mosaics at a school in Ravenna, Italy, with Luciana Nortti.

Finally, the art walk will visit the New Zone Gallery, 164 W. Broadway, which is featuring clay art by Diane Story Cunningham in a benefit for Ophelia's Place. Cunningham will be showing works from her "Erratica" series and new work called "Contemporary Artifacts of Modern Life."

Finally, No Shame Eugene wraps up its 2010-11 season with an encore performance of 15 of the season's best 5-minute performances, which range from deeply serious theater to pure comic whimsy.

Doors open at the Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th Ave., at 7:30 p.m. with music by Betty and the Boy. Performances start at 8 p.m. It's free.

First friday art walk

And other downtown arts events Friday evening

Art: The First Friday Art Walk, run by Lane Arts Council, starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Modern, 207 E. Fifth Ave., Suite 105. The walking tour spends about half an hour at each of several downtown visual art venues. It's free.

Ballet: See dancers from Ballet Fantastique perform excerpts from "Pirates & Gypsies" at Opus VII, 22 W. Seventh Ave., at 7 p.m. Free.

Music: The Jim Bronson Band performs two sets at Kesey Square, Broadway and Willamette Street, starting at 6 p.m. Free.

More music and dance: Swing by Cozmic Pizza, 199 W. Eighth Ave., from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. for the Festival Cultural de la Canción, Poesía y Bailes Tradicionales de Latinoamérica, with Latin music and dance. \$10.

More music: The Eclectic Saxophone Quartet performs world music at the Eugene Public Library, 100 W. 10th Ave., at 6 p.m. Free.

The Best of No Shame: Eugene's No Shame Theatre gives an encore presentation of the best five-minute performances from its 2010-11 season. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. at the Atrium, 99 W. 10th Ave. Free.

Block party: Downtown merchants are throwing a summer soiree (even though it's still spring) from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with strolling musicians, food and drink and a raffle for gift baskets. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.