

STREET ART IS A DRAW

Artists bring talent, onlookers to Riverhead's downtown

BY DAVID M. SCHWARTZ | david.schwartz@newsday.com

East End Arts' 20th street-painting festival yesterday featured about 100 artists creating squares of chalk art on downtown Riverhead's Main Street.

Pat Snyder, East End Arts executive director, said the event has grown "exponentially" since it first started along the Peconic River. "It's all about supporting the arts and raising awareness about the power of the arts to raise up the community," she said.

Businesses sponsor each square painted by the artists for between \$150 and \$350. Anyone can buy a square to make their own chalk masterpiece for \$20.

Etienne George

16-year-old artist from Manhattan
George typically works with pens and pencils. But she sketched a lifelike Louis XVI portrait in chalk.

"I like it, but it's a little bit messy," she said, holding out her stained hands. It was her fourth year participating in the festival.

Jim Karanik and Cameron Cover

On vacation from Denver
They were making an Art Nouveau-style mermaid. They typically work with more permanent mediums — he is a tattoo artist and she's a painter — but they like the change of working with chalk.

"It's what makes it fun," Karanik said. "You can enjoy the act of doing."

Cover said the challenges are minor. "Being on your knees. The hot asphalt," she said. Errant footsteps from pedestrians can smudge the work, but Karanik and Cover laugh it off. "This is a great event," she said.

Eli Fishman

Exhibit designer at the Riverhead Aquarium

Fishman drew out a giant octopus on the pavement. He's said he's been participating in the festival for 10 years — long enough to know to bring knee pads.

"It's a different medium" from crafting the exhibits, he said. "Chalk is very fluid. You can blend it to make different colors. It's very soft, almost water color-y."

He was making the design with his friend Nicole Ey, 35, of upstate Sullivan County.



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piece of chalk and get to go to town in the middle of the street," he said. "It almost becomes performance art where everyone comes out to watch."

Zoe Leung
12, of Massapequa Park
Aniqa Khan
12, of Farmingdale

Zoe and Aniq drew a fiery phoenix with pastels and chalk.

They had come with Zoe's father, Steve Leung, an artist. "It's such a family-friendly event. It's a wonderful way to improve downtown Riverhead," Steve Leung said.

Sabrina Corio
Franklin Square

Corio said this was her first time participating in the event. She came to spend time with her grandparents, she said.

John Pabon
41, of Ridge

Pabon sketched out a scene with his daughters Adriana, 6, and Carmela, 5.

"My wife, the mom, said it would be a nice outing. So instead of going to the beach and getting burned, we came here," said Pabon, who drew a house.

Adriana was coloring sunflowers while Carmela took care sketching a caterpillar.

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Today is Memorial Day. Banks, government offices, courts and public schools are closed. Post offices also are closed. The Long Island Rail Road will operate on a holiday schedule, as outlined in the agency's timetables. NICE buses will run on a Sunday schedule. Most Suffolk County Transit buses will not operate but S92 & 10C will operate on a normal schedule.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- 1431** Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen, France.
- 1536** England's King Henry VIII married his third wife, Jane Seymour, 11 days after the king's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded for treason and adultery.
- 1883** 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.
- 1922** The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.
- 1943** During World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.
- 1958** Unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.