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Hearst Center challenges Iowans to think BIG with tiny art.

May 30, 2024: The Hearst Center hosts the first ever state-wide tiny art competition, BIG IDEAS: tiny art, with its opening reception tonight, May 30th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

From May 30 to June 30, the public will have a chance to vote for their favorite work of tiny art. 77 tiny artworks are now on display, submitted by individuals from all over the state who accepted the challenge to produce a work of art with one requirement, it had to fit inside a Hearst official tiny art container with a capacity less than 2 square inches. A prestigious “Best-In-Show” award will be given to the artist with the most votes, and a jury of area arts experts will be evaluating the artworks as well to award their own “Best-In-Show” prize, winners to be announced on Facebook July 2nd.

Every artistic medium is represented in these amazing submissions, from pencil drawings and tiny paintings to fine metalwork and fused glass – Hearst’s Cultural Program Supervisor Cory Hurless comments: “I was truly blown away by the creativity, variety, and quality of the artist’s work. This is a can’t miss exhibition full of joy and whimsy”.

Hurless came up with this exhibition concept in order to provide a unique way to reconceptualize fine art, and with consideration to how expensive art is to produce and transport, she thought this idea would give Iowans an economical way to get their art into an exhibition. The Hearst official tiny art containers are lightweight, sturdy, and cheap to mail. One pleasant surprise to Hurless was how many people decided to incorporate their artistic expressions into the boxes as well. “It was a fun challenge for me, and I loved this unplanned element to the show. I changed my exhibit layout to include the painted and adorned tiny containers for the public to enjoy.”

Support for BIG IDEAS: tiny art has been provided by Arts Midwest and Friends of the Hearst. The show will be on view from May 30 to July 14, 2024. Those interested in voting for their favorite piece can submit their vote in person at the Hearst Center, by email at the.hearst@cedarfalls.com, or via Facebook Messenger @hearstcenter. Voting closes June 30.

For more information about this exhibition, please contact Cory Hurless, Cedar Falls Cultural Programs Supervisor, at cory.hurless@cedarfalls.com or 319.273-8641.

Hearst Center for the Arts is a part of the City of Cedar Falls’ Community Development Department, located at 304 W Seerley Boulevard, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m – 9:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m, Saturday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.