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Spheres of influence: Artists decorate eggs for silent auction to benefit Alzheimer's Association

By Sandy Barnes
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Intricately decorated emu and ostrich eggs showcasing the talents of local and regional artists will be the centerpiece of An Eggstraordinary Evening at the Mirasol Senior Living Community on Friday evening.

Visitors who view the unique and varied creations, which range from delicately painted eggs to sculpted designs, will have the opportunity to purchase their favorites during a silent auction.

The event is a benefit for the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Many of the 52 creations reflect the artists' passions and interests.

Among those on display is a large ostrich egg inscribed with a poem of a 13th century Christian mystic, which artist Matt Fredricey said was his source of inspiration.

"That poem was fundamentally on my mind," he said while talking about the process of forming the design that features a large tree with bare branches reaching skyward.

The ostrich egg that Loveland artist Diana Wade painted with a variety of birds including a pelican, heron, egret and roseate spoonbill reflects her love of marine avians.

"I lived on the Gulf Coast of Texas for 30 years and have an affinity for shorebirds," she said.

Artist Billie Colson's emu egg titled "Garden Party" features brightly colored flowers rendered in oils.

Berthoud sculptor Joey Bainer created a plaster of Paris figure holding an emu egg Atlas-style, which he titled "Eggiverse."

One of the more whimsical eggs is Kerri Ertman's "Purple People Eater" featuring a one-eyed creature — painted in purple, of course. "It was my first try at painting an egg," she said. "It definitely is different."

The egg designs of artists Denny Haskew and Richard Schilling also will be displayed during the event, which features refreshments and entertainment for the guests.

Many of the artists who participated in the show are planning to attend the second annual Eggstraordinary Evening, which has 20 more entries than last year.

"We're building on the success of last year," said Sara Luttges of Media Masters, who is helping coordinate the event.

Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased in advance by calling Mark Betz, Mirasol Event Center director, at 663-5099.



Reporter-Herald/Jenny Sparks

Artists pose Tuesday for a photo showing off their creations made from emu and ostrich eggs at the Mirasol Senior Living Community. From left they are Billie J. Colson, Diana Wade, Joey Bainer, Kerri Ertman and Matthew Fredricey.

If You Go

What: An Eggstraordinary Evening art show and auction.

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday.

Where: Mirasol Event Center, 1153 Finch St., Loveland.

Cost: \$20 per person.

Contact: Call 663-5099.