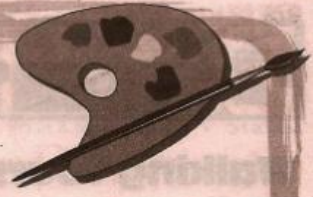




Quaker Arts Festival



Award-winning artist returns for Quaker Arts Festival

by NAOMI SPENCER
Editor

Artist Sandy Starbird will return this year with her metal sculptures for her third year at the Quaker Arts Festival.

The Wales resident, who works with her husband, Rob, on the artwork, says she loves attending art festivals, especially the Quaker Arts event held every year the second weekend in September. Last year, she was awarded the Special Judges Award, and a \$300 check, for her art.

This year's festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15 and 16, at the Orchard Park Middle School on South Lincoln Avenue.

Starbird creates mostly metal wall hangings that are large, but also smaller pieces, too, that are a couple of feet from the ground, she said. Just recently, she began creating functional art, such as end tables, jewelry trees and wine racks. She also takes custom orders frequently and ships to locations across the country.

"We recently made someone's German shepherd in metal," said Starbird, "and she

was in tears."

Starbird was inspired to begin creating art in part because of her own taste for it. She and her husband didn't want their decor to be like anything they could buy in a store.

"We felt that maybe there were other people who would also want to know that they have a one-of-a-kind piece," she said.

In 2009, the couple started to create metal art, and they've been working with it ever since. They now attend multiple art festivals every year, where they sell their pieces.

"Rob and I hear all the time, 'We've never seen anything like this before.'"

Though Starbird loves seeing reactions to her art, she enjoys the process maybe more.

"I absolutely love fire and sparks and metal," she said. "I always wanted to do something artsy, but it took a while until we zeroed in on what we do well."

For more information on her metal creations, visit the website www.starbirdconcepts.com.

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Artist Sandy Starbird stands with some of her art. She will be among the artists this year at the Quaker Arts Festival.



This is a picture of a "dancing heron," one of the metal creations made by artist Sandy Starbird of Wales.