



# Art About Town

A visit to one of Wisconsin's gallery walks will wash away "the dust of everyday life"

By Amanda N. Wegner

**"Art," famed artist Pablo Picasso once said, "washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."**

**Take some advice from Picasso, and spruce up your next visit to Wisconsin (and perhaps your living room walls) by strolling around one of the state's fine gallery walks.**

## **GALLERY NIGHT & DAY** Historic Third Ward, Milwaukee

For 23 years, the Historic Third Ward Association has made it easy to get an up-close look at the artists making their mark on Brew City with Gallery Night & Day.

"Gallery Night is unique because it is held four times a year and is still going strong after 23 years!" says executive director Nancy O'Keefe. "It's an event that everyone looks forward to."

This Friday-Saturday event is held quarterly; hours vary by venue. Each Gallery Night & Day brings a special event, such as an ice-sculpting competition in January and

Artscape, a sculpture walk, in October.

To make the most of it, O'Keefe suggests plotting out which galleries you're most interested in and when they're open. Friday is the prime day for browsing; just be sure to stop for dinner by 6 p.m. to beat the rush.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

2011: July 29-30 and October 21-22

## **BELOIT ARTWALK**

In the border city of Beloit, art is an integral part of the community.



# THE BAKER HOUSE

On the Lake • 327 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva • 262-248-4700 • BakerHouse1885.com

*EXPERIENCE* Lake Geneva's #1 new Luxury Hotel & Restaurant, where history comes to life daily & lavish parties are thrown nightly.

*In the spirit of the great "Summer Cottages" of yesteryear, the historic BAKER HOUSE has recreated a world of Gilded Age living.*

*DINE* throughout the mansion in decadently furnished parlors, *SING* along at the piano in the music room, *PLAY* croquet in the lakefront garden, *SAVOR* fine wine in the library and come this summer... *SLEEP* in the most luxurious hotel suites ever to grace the lakefront.

### Overnight Accommodations Include:

- Mansion Suite with Lakefront Views
- En-suite Spa Bath with Heated Floors & Steam Shower
- Sumptuous Beds wrapped in Exquisite Linens
- Original Fireplaces in Every Room
- Personal Butler & Historic Tour Guide
- Exclusive Access to Private Parlors

*Historic Mansion & Lakeside Garden Available for Private Events.*

**BakerHouse1885.com**



**Historic Tours & Victorian Brunch**  
with a Fully Costumed Staff  
**SUNDAY'S**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

"In Beloit, we have built art into our infrastructure with more than 20 public pieces in and around Beloit's City Center," says Kathleen Braatz, executive director, Downtown Beloit Association. From industrial murals along the Rock River to the Beloit International Film Festival and more, "all animate and spark the artistic imagination in Beloit's downtown."

That includes ArtWalk, held annually in May, when businesses throughout downtown Beloit transform into fine art galleries, with many venues featuring live music and hors d'oeuvres.

In its eighth year, ArtWalk often features special events and demonstrations; in the past, that included custom motorcycles, neon-blowing demonstrations, and chalk-friendly outdoor sculptures.

"Simply put, we host art for all the senses! It is all about the experience and appreciation of art in all its forms. And it's all free," says Braatz, "unless you would like to take it home."

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

2011: Friday, May 20, 5-9 p.m. & Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



BELOIT ART WALK

### 14 SOUTH ARTISTS FALL STUDIO ART TOUR

Dane County

Sometimes, you just have to explore.

"The 14 South Artists Fall Studio Art Tour allows the public the opportunity to explore a new area of the state not typically associated with art or natural beauty, yet those who live here know that [it] has much to offer in both areas," says Susan Horn, tour chair of 14 South Artists, which is named for Highway 14 south of Madison, which traverses the communities where



Artists represented: Sarah Hood, Alan Preston

R|A|M

## Your Passport to a New World

Visit [ramart.org](http://ramart.org) for summer 2011 art exhibitions and events

Racine Art Museum  
441 Main Street, Downtown Racine

262.638.8300

artist-members live. "The artists primarily live in small communities and rural areas, and their art is greatly influenced by their surroundings and love of nature.

Held in September, it's the perfect time (and weather) for an outing; download a tour map and plan your day.

"If I wasn't opening my own studio, I'd call some friends, book a bed & breakfast, and make a weekend of it," says Horn.

Away from the city, the tour is a unique opportunity to learn more about the artists and see where and how they create their art ... or, perhaps, try your hand at creating something.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

2011: Friday, Sept. 17-18

**OSHKOSH GALLERY WALK**

In Oshkosh, art is a labor of love.

"It is truly ... a grassroots event," says participant James Evans. "It is not run by the city or any other organized group. Each place that participates books its own artist, and participation is free and voluntary."

Held the first Saturday of each month, the Oshkosh Gallery Walk takes place rain or shine ... or snow. "We are one of the few places in a cold climate location that hold Gallery Walk year-around." Each month, 35 places, on average, participate, though that number is creeping toward 50 in the summer.

Held in downtown Oshkosh, it's easy to make a day of it, says Evans. "Have dinner at one of our many downtown restaurants. Pick up a map at any participating location and stroll around the block. Afterward, top it off with a drink at one of our downtown bars."

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

First Saturday of every month **ew**



Amanda N. Wegner is a freelance writer based in Madison.



*Summer Comes to Life at...  
The Abbey Resort!*

Enjoy a romantic dinner, browse quaint shops, enjoy a relaxing walk around the lake or treat yourself to a soothing spa service. This summer, the longer you stay, the more you save! Kids of all ages will enjoy a host of complimentary activities like bonfires with S'mores, board and video games, indoor & outdoor pools and more!

**Family Values Package**

Starting at  
**\$139/night\* | May**  
**\$179/night\* | June-August**

- 2 FREE Children's Breakfasts
  - \$10 in Abbey Arcade Tokens
  - Family Fun Resort Activities
- \*Based on best available rate of the day. Subject to availability.



**Avani Spa Overnight**

Starting at  
**\$210/person\* | May**  
**\$250/person\* | June-August**

- \$120 /person Avani Spa Credit
  - \$50 /person Food & Beverage Credit
  - Daily Admission to Avani Spa
- \*Based on double occupancy and best available rate of the day. Offer subject to availability.



For more information or reservations, call 1.800.709.1323  
or visit: [www.theabbeyresort.com](http://www.theabbeyresort.com) 269 Fontana Blvd. Fontana, WI 53125