

LIFESTYLES

THE TIMES-TRIBUNE, SCR



YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT CLUB

- THE BANSHEE**, 320 Penn Ave. West of Clare; Saturday, Penguins; Sunday, Old Frie
- THE BOG**, 341 Adams Ave., open mike.
- THE CLASSIC ROCK**, Peckw karaoke with Mongo; Satur Strange Brew.
- COOPER'S SEAFOOD HOUSE PUB**, 701 N. Washington A tonight, Brent the Magician; Mary Polizzi; Wednesday, J
- COSGROVE'S CLUBHOUSE** ERN, 315 Green Ridge St. Mary Polizzi; Sunday, EJ th day, Quizzol
- DAV HALL**, Storrs Street, Dick tonight, George Tanssek and Partners.
- FOUR WINDS LODGE**, Waver 197 off I-81; tonight, Jeff Saturday, Tim McGurl; Sun berfest Party with Dave Li Cat and the Fiddle.
- GALLERIA NIGHT CLUB**, Lari ny; tonight, Gerard Mayer urday, Malibu and Dale Gr day, Jennifer Newton; Tues Gerard Mayer Duo; Wedne Spencer Reed.
- MANHATTAN DRIVE JAZZ C** day Inn, 200 Tigue St., Dur tonight, Solo Tic; Saturday, J Duo; Wednesday, The Tony
- MCGRATH'S PUB**, Dalton; t Covers; Saturday, Traverser; open mike; Wednesday, Je and Eddie K.
- SCATS**, 302 Penn Ave.; Sat John Quinn.
- SHADOWBROOK INN & RE** Tunkhannock; tonight, Joe Saturday, DJ.
- SKYTOP LODGE**, Skytop; t Doug Smith Orchestra.
- STATE STREET GRILL**, Clark Wednesday, Marko Marcin Quartet.
- STAX**, Memorial Highway, Dall Bill Spae; Saturday, Lou M day, Big Daddy Dec; Tuesd Hold 'Em Poker; Wednesday

SEASON

- HOW-A-MAZING CORN MAZ** light Nights, Fridays, 7 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 and Family Farm, Route 6, V Visit: www.howamazing.us.
- GRAVESTONE MANOR**; the haunted house, 39 Public Wilkes-Barre, Fridays and 7 to 11 p.m., through Oct Proceeds benefit United W ming Valley. 821-6500.
- THE HAUNTED WOODS**; Fri Saturdays, dusk to 11 p.m. days, dusk to 10 p.m.; Oc and 31, dusk to 10 p.m. Woodlands Inn and Reso Cross Creek Pointe offic Wilkes-Barre, \$10. Visit: www.woodlands.com. 824-9
- HAUNTED**; Psychic Theater, Wednesday through Oct. 1 24, 26-31, 8 p.m.; Houdin Theater, 1433 N. Main Av 383-9297.
- FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN RIDE** ton to Moscow, Sunday, O and 30, depart 1 p.m., ret p.m., \$10/\$13/\$15; Scr Tobyhanna, Sunday, Mond 15, 23 and 29, depart 11 return 3:15 p.m., \$15/\$2 Trains depart from Steam National Historic Site, Lac and Cliff avenues. Visit: w.gov/stea. 340-5200.
- HOUDINI MUSEUM EVENTS** magic show, Saturday thro day, 1 to 4 p.m.; Family Me tacular, Oct. 15-17, 19, 21, 28-31, 1 and 4:40 p.m., \$ Tours, daily, 12:30 to 6 p.m. \$11.95/age 11 and under Located at 1433 N. Main <http://houdini.org> or call 3
- CHILDREN'S COSTUME SA** day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., All es Rehabilitation, Morgan Proceeds benefit the pedi gram and its annual holid patients. 348-1224, ext. 1
- LION BREWERY OKTOBER** 14, 5 to 11 p.m. and Oct. to 11 p.m., Lion Brewery, Barre, 823-8801, ext. 34
- DUNMORE CEMETERY WALK** Oct. 16 and 23, 2 p.m. 34
- OKTOBERFEST**; Oct. 22 and 5 p.m., Shawnee Mountain Shawnee-On-Deleware, 421

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Wallace, left, is an inventor. Gromit is his dog. In this relationship, however, Gromit usually has to clean up Wallace's messes.

'Wallace & Gromit' take hare-raising adventure

Wallace and Gromit are arguably the two most delightful characters in the history of animation. Between the previous sentence and this one I paused thoughtfully and stared into space and thought of all of the other animated characters I have ever met, and I gave full points to Bugs Bunny and high marks to little Nemo and a fond nod to Goofy, and returned to the page convinced that, yes, Wallace and Gromit are in a category of their own.

To know them is to enter a universe of boundless optimism, in which two creatures who are perfectly suited to each other venture out every morning to make the world a safer place for the gentle, the good and the funny.

Wallace is an inventor. Gromit is a dog, although the traditional human-dog relationship is reversed in that Gromit usually has to clean up Wallace's messes. No, not those kinds of messes. They're not that kind of movie. In three short subjects and now in their first feature, Wallace sails out bravely to do great but reckless deeds, and Gromit takes the role of adult guardian.

In "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit," they face their greatest challenge. Lady Tottington is holding her family's 517th annual Giant Vegetable Fete, and all the gardeners for miles around are lovingly caressing their gigantic melons and zucchinis and carrots and such, and Wallace and Gromit are responsible for security, which means keeping rabbits out of the garden patches.

Sucking sound

Their company is named Anti-Pesto. Their methods are humane. They do not shoot or poison the bunnies. Instead, Wallace has devised another of his ingenious inventions, the Bun-Vac, which sucks the rabbits out of their holes and into a giant holding tube, so that they can be housed in comfort at Anti-Pesto headquarters and feast on medium and small vegetables. Their tactics perfectly suit Lady Tottington's humane convictions.

They have a rival, the sniveling barbarian Lord Victor Quartermaine, a gun nut with a toupee heaped on his head like a mess of the sort Gromit never has to clean up. Lord Victor dreams of marrying Lady Tottington and treating himself to the luxuries of her ancestral wealth, and that involves discrediting and sabotaging Anti-Pesto and all that it stands for. Thus is launched the affair of the Were-Rabbit, a gigantic beast (with a red polka dot tie) that terrorizes the neighborhood and inspires the Reverend Hedges to cry out, "For our sins a hideous creature has been sent to punish us."

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Karl Neuroth stands next to a painting that will be part of a special exhibit devoted to the retired professor at Linder Gallery in the Miller Library at Keystone College. Mr. Neuroth retired in the spring after 40 years at the college.

Art inspires colorful career

Keystone College showcases work of painter Karl Neuroth, retired professor and founding father of Fine Arts program

BY JOSH McAULIFFE
STAFF WRITER

Karl Neuroth uses words like "exuberant" and "intense" to describe the explosive colors and distinctive patterns that define his work.

Sort of like life itself, he said. At least, the life he knows.

On Sunday, from 4 to 6 p.m., Keystone College's Linder Gallery will kick off a new exhibition featuring the paintings of Mr. Neuroth, who recently retired as a fine arts professor at the college. The exhibit, which will run through Dec. 4, focuses for the most part on Mr. Neuroth's recent work, but will also include a few paintings from early in his career.

The show features 125 of Mr. Neuroth's paintings, which have been grouped into 25 complex multiple-canvas arrangements ranging in size from one foot to three feet square, and feature subject matter like floral displays, landscapes, still lifes and the human figure.

Mr. Neuroth, 70, of Clarks Green, retired from Keystone in the spring after 40 years at the college, where he was the driving force behind the founding of its fine arts program, which he chaired until 1998.

'SPECIAL MOMENT'

Linder Gallery director Drake Gomez said Mr. Neuroth's exhibit grew out of another gallery show from earlier this year that spotlighted the work of Keystone's faculty, of which Mr. Neuroth's work was originally slated to be the focal point.

"The plan was to highlight Karl Neuroth's work. Single it out," said Mr. Gomez, who co-curated the exhibit with Mr. Neuroth's art dealer, Laura Craig. "Then (Keystone President) Ned Boehm came in at kind of a crucial moment. He said, 'Let's not feature it. Let's do a one person show of all his work next fall.'"

"Between the two of them (Mr. Gomez and Ms. Craig), I think they did a great job arranging the work," said Mr. Neuroth, who now splits his time between studios in Clarks Green and New York City. "I saw it in a completely different context. I was looking at it almost as if somebody else had done it."



If you go

What: Karl Neuroth exhibit

Where: Linder Gallery in the Miller Library, Keystone College, LaPlume

When: Opening public reception, Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Exhibit runs through Dec. 4.

Details: A full-color catalog of Mr. Neuroth's paintings, which includes an essay by WVIA-FM commentator Erika Funke, is being published in conjunction with the exhibit and will be available to patrons free of charge. Also, a portion of the exhibit's sales will go to the Scotty Neuroth Memorial Fund, an award given to a Keystone Fine Arts student every year named in honor of Mr. Neuroth's late wife. For more information on the exhibit, call 945-8158.

Seven years ago, Mr. Neuroth, the one-time director of the Linder Gallery, scaled back his classroom time to concentrate more on his artwork, which has significantly evolved in just the last decade.

During the mid-1990s, Mr. Neuroth, who for years worked entirely in black and white, had a sort of epiphany while vacationing in Spain, where at a restaurant one day he became enthralled with the shapes of his plate of tapas (Spanish appetizers that come in small servings) and accompanying knife and fork. Before long, he was back home doing countless sketches of utensils, giddy with their interplay and the different ways they could be sketched.

Progressively, his work took on a greater degree of spontaneity. Today,

he takes much of his inspiration from the improvisatory nature of jazz, and the hustle and bustle of urban life through his walks in Manhattan.

It's that kind of vibrancy that translates to his use of bright, vivid colors, like orange, yellow and purple.

"The colors, by their very nature, are extraordinarily intense," said Mr. Neuroth, who now works entirely in acrylics (he previously used watercolors), which he takes straight from the tube and never dilutes. "I take chances a lot with the colors. More often than not, it works."

POWER OF COLOR

In many ways, Mr. Neuroth said, he's trying to convey the excitement of life, or, in any case, the excitement of his own life. Also figuring into this way of thinking is his combining of canvases into a single arrangement, which he compares to a quilt.

"Our life is more like a quilt, with all the things that happen over one day," said Mr. Neuroth, who always carries a small pen and tiny strips of French paper, called arches, in his wallet in case he's moved to sketch something while out and about.

Judging by his ever-increasing load of commission work, people seem to be taking to Mr. Neuroth's approach. And he thinks he knows why.

"The power of the color and the pattern is so overwhelming that they can buy into it," said Mr. Neuroth, who was inspired early in life by his grandfather, Johann Otto Neuroth, a German immigrant and painter who did much of his work in the churches and mansions of Mr. Neuroth's native Reading. "Somehow these allow people to participate."

There's also the paintings' overall life-affirming quality to consider.

"I like people to smile," he said. "(The paintings) essentially are dealing with positive things."

"When I first started looking, one of the first things that struck me was the optimism. Everything about it is uplifting," said Mr. Gomez, who compares Mr. Neuroth's work to the French painter Henri Matisse.

"I think it's a tremendous show," Mr. Gomez added. "I think (people are) going to be blown away by it."

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