

Exhibit reflects art's 'Common Ground'

By Debbie Hall
Sentinel-Voice

Left of Center Art Gallery presented, "Common Ground," a members' juried exhibit preceded by a meet-the-artists reception last Saturday afternoon. The exhibit will continue through January 26, along with the gallery's permanent art display.

Featuring 16 local artists, the exhibit poses a question: "What makes a Community?" Artistic media include photography, paintings, sculpture and mixed media. The paintings are in oils, watercolors, acrylic or mixed media.

The exhibit includes the perspective of all races and includes scenes from Las Vegas, New Orleans, Hawaii, Los Angeles and Mexico. Artists included Dayo Adelaja, Harold Bradford, Pukumiahi, Sylvester Collier, Earl T. Dunbar, Janet Greek, Adolfo Gonzalez, Don Jones, Jorge Arcos, Kathy Ludwig, Helen Murphy, Trisha Powers, Roberto Rico, Ameenah Shafeeq, Jack Wilson and Sandra Zinkevich.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

The art's the thing: Fellow artists Kathy Ludwig and Harold Bradford chat in the Left of Center Art Gallery. One of Bradford's paintings was honored with a Best of Show award.

Bradford, who won the Best of Show award for his oil painting "Abandon Spirit," depicted the ghost of a saxophone player standing in flooded water in front of a church with hands reaching to him through the water.

Bradford feels most comfortable working in oils and said, "...It would best explain what I wanted to say. It is the most forgiving of all paints."

He spoke about his work and what he wanted to depict: "A statement — since I am from New Orleans, and this has to do with Hurricane Katrina: So many of my family and friends lost so much and now they are disappointed and feel let down by the government and insurance companies. I wanted to show people reaching out of the flood for help and hope,

and bring attention to them." He has painted since the age of four and continues to show his work in Las Vegas.

Pukumiahi from Hawaii wanted to show the rainiest city in the United States, Hilo, which averages 120 inches per year. He has been painting since the 1960s and said, "I use a pallet knife, not a brush, to express myself."

Kathy Ludwig won third

place for her acrylic painting, "Green Water Rising," about the bar, the Cat's Meow, in New Orleans. "I wanted to portray these people, standing outside on the second floor and that they will be there always — no matter how many hurricanes or other disasters." She has been painting for the past seven years.

Robert Rick painted "Art Walk" in acrylic, and it is a view of his grandfather's ranch. "It shows my memories of his ranch and reminds me of back home in San Miguel De Allenda, Mexico." He draws and teaches and decided to try painting for the past two years.

Vicki Richardson, director of the gallery, presented the awards and was thrilled that the number of entries doubled from the last juried exhibit.

Ceramist, sculptor and curator, Denise R. Duarte, explained that the judging focused on how well the artwork interpreted the theme of community, the skill in using the medium the artist chose, and originality and creativity.

As Duarte stated in her bio, "creating art for me is an act of devotion to life art is what elevates the human condition and sets us free."

Don Jones won second place for his watercolor reflecting a moment of life on a street corner in South Central Los Angeles in 1947.

Adolfo Gonzalez won first place for his oil painting showing Puerto Rican teenagers hanging out in what he calls "Chickago Humbolt Park."

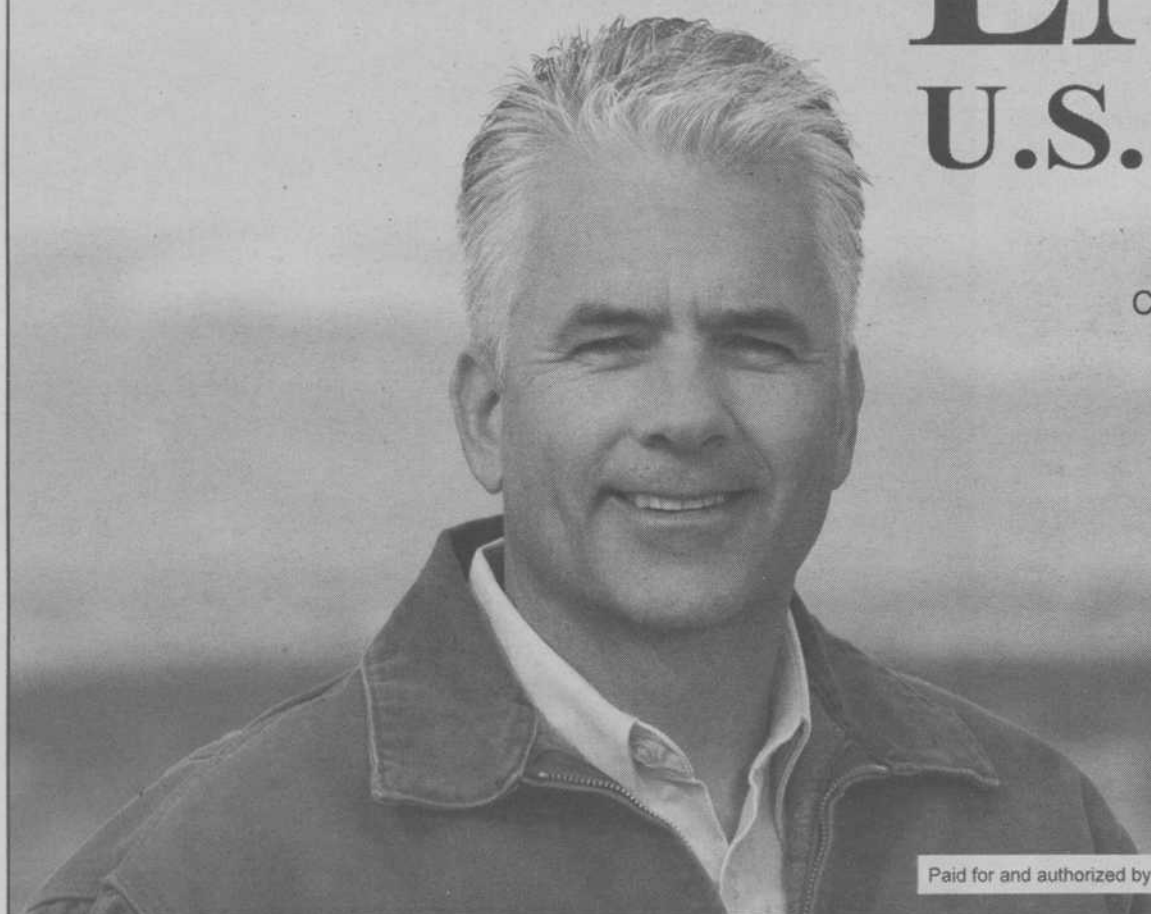
Richardson chose the theme, as she explained, "because I wanted to have a theme that would bring the community together, that would showcase the community and showcase that artist... community means different things to different people, and we want the artist to express that."

The gallery has been open for 17 years at its current North Las Vegas location, 2207 West Gowan Road. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information, call 647-7378.

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