

SunFest not just for music lovers

Artists' Oasis draws art enthusiasts to West Palm



JIM RASSOL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marc Daniel exhibits his art at SunFest 2011. His work is made entirely of paper and touches on political as well as environmental themes. Daniel describes his work as humorous and colorful.

By **Maria Herrera** | STAFF WRITER

WEST PALM BEACH — The masses are out and the music is loud, but this year's SunFest art show draws a crowd of its own with more than 160 artists exhibiting their work during the five-day festival.

The appropriately named Artists' Oasis stretched more than a half-mile along West Palm Beach's waterfront. Visual artists, jewelers, painters, photographers and sculptors were not deterred by the light rain and wind on Friday evening as they priced their work and answered questions from potential buyers.

"There are some musical acts I want to see, but I'm totally here for the art," said Maureen Spencer, of Kansas, who was in town visiting friends. "I'm hoping to take home something special."

There were intricate clay pieces, sculptures and paintings featuring everything from wildlife to portraits of the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Hunter S. Thompson.

There was also bamboo furniture, tie-dyed clothing and lighted-glass sculptures.

SunFest art show Chairman Will White said he can only exhibit about half the number of artists who apply for the event. The show is carefully curated by a board

that selects the best applicants to display their work during what is South Florida's biggest art and music festival.

"It's a big challenge," he said of putting on the show. "We're a music festival with an art component. You try to find unique artists that you haven't seen before."

Ancizar Marin is a SunFest artist returning for his fourth year. He said festival patrons have gotten to know his work and often come back to buy more.

"I get a lot of collectors," said the Pembroke Pines sculptor, who draws his inspiration for his whimsical chrome- and bronze-plated sculptures of acrobats, jesters and ballerinas from the popular Cirque du Soleil.

"I started making the climbers three years ago and now I have

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people who come back to buy different positions," he said of colorful fiberglass sculptures reminiscent of the Blue Man Group characters that hang from steel ropes from the walls of his makeshift gallery.

First-time artist Marc Daniel, known as MarcPaperScissor, hung his intricate work — made out of cut paper — from the walls earlier in the evening hoping to expose it to a whole new audience.

"It's very meticulous and time consuming," Daniel

said of his work, which he makes layering many pieces of cut paper. "And people don't really realize that until they get up close, which is why a show like this is great."

Daniel, who often exhibits at music festivals, said the humorous and colorful nature of his work lends itself to the SunFest revelry.

Terry Knight, of West Palm Beach, was mesmerized by the sculptures of Vince Pompei — flowers and clocks made with antique silver cutlery welded together.

"We did come to see Gregg Allman, but I'm to-

tally fascinated by [Pompei]," Knight said. "That's why we came early, to catch the art show."

Even the intricate paintings of Patrick Pierson, which draws from the fantastical and Steampunk — a sub-genre of science fiction — were a hit with spectators.

"This is my backyard," said the West Palm Beach-based artist. "It's very tough to sell in my niche, but people respond very well to it."

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