

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## ART FESTIVAL (CROWD) RETURNS TO LEWISTON



Laura Gardner

As evidenced by the throngs of people entering and slightly before it began this past weekend, the Lewiston Art Festival was sorely missed.

One of Western New York's showcase competitions, the event returned to Center Street after being canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. More than 125 artists participated, and had work viewed by thousands of spectators. The happening also included live music, food vendors and information on Lewiston's history, its service clubs, and 2022 bicentennial birthday.

The Lewiston Art Festival was presented by the Lewiston Council on the Arts. Creators participated in seven categories: painting, photography, graphic arts,

sculpture, mixed media, artistic crafts (ceramics, wood, fiber, glass) and jewelry. College Alley presented a platform for the next generation of artists, while Henepin Park was transformed into an Iroquois Market, which LCA stated "brings to life the rich culture of our Haudenosaunee friends and neighbors."

This year's competition winners (one per category) included:

- **Best of Show:** Laura Gardner, "Lavender Fields & Carcassonne," oil

The Chicago artist was making her debut at the Lewiston Art Festival. Having recently relocated to Angelica, she was looking for the right event to make her New York introduction. Gardner is online at [www.lauragardnerfineart.com](http://www.lauragardnerfineart.com).

- **Michael McMahon Memorial Award:** Fritz Raiser, "Chance the Rapper," watercolor
- **Painting:** Kelsey Merkle, "Poppies," oil resin
- **Photography:** Ann Peterson, "Hope Lisbon Portugal"
- **Graphic arts and drawing:** Jim Greenwald, "Great White Buffalo Ice Wine"
- **Sculpture:** Mary Clause, "Passenger Pigeon Passage," beadwork
- **Mixed media:** Pamela Harris, "Artist Book," handmade journals
- **Artistic craft (jewelry):** Patricia Cancilla, "China Rose Necklace"
- **Artistic craft (other/ceramic, wood, metal, fiber, etc.):** Jamie Gilbert, "Wedding Vase," beadwork

- **Best booth display:** Diana Hydock, booth No. 604
- **"Chalk YOUR Walk" Competition:**
  - ✓ Best of Show (selected by judges), Julia Williamson
  - ✓ People's choice (determined by Facebook "Likes"), April Radder
  - ✓ Honorable mention (age 10 and under), Amelia Casale

Village of Lewiston Trustee Claudia Marasco called the Art Festival "fantastic" and "amazing."

"They came, they saw, they bought, they ate – it was amazing," she said at Monday's municipal board meeting. "It never stopped all weekend. The most beautiful weather ever. Everybody was smiling. You could see people walking Center Street from the end all the way up

to Eighth Street carrying big pieces of canvas artwork; many people with bags in their hands – they had been to the clothing stores. Every store was doing (well). When I stopped in to talk with them, they were beaming. It wasn't just the vendors on the street that were making the money, it was our own businesses that need it so desperately. A few of them said this one is the best in all the times that they've been trying to have the festival.

"Really, a home run," Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt noted people came to Lewiston from as far away as the Carolinas, Florida and California.

"It was incredible," he said.

- **Find more photos at [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com).**

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