

Honored artists

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Andy Thomas

Thomas, Hall take top MGA dollars

Two area artists snatched the top auction price at the 30th annual Midwest Gathering of the Artists event Friday night at Memorial Hall.

Paintings by Carthage's Andy Thomas and Pineville's Doug Hall each brought \$7,250 in the auction, which was the top dollar amount.

Thomas utilized his appreciation of Jasper County history as he created the oil 'A Day at the Races,' which captured harness racing at the former Knell Fairgrounds in north Carthage from the period of the early 20th century.

Hall followed his forte to paint an Indian mother in the appropriately named painting 'Blue Dress.'

"I was happy with the price," Thomas said of his historical piece. "It seems people enjoy it. I've had a few comments through the weeks since it was in the paper (Carthage Press)."

Thomas said that with the MGA each year he likes to draw on local history or landmarks. The Carthage artist used various photos off the Internet to create the pacer harness racing scene as it could have appeared early in the past century.

He also used photos to find the darker suits the men wear and the mixture of dresses worn by the women at the race. Jack Sportsman of Joplin, who bought the painting, was happy with the result.

"I've always wanted one of Andy's paintings," Sportsman said. "My girlfriend liked it. It was less than I thought it would go for."

Hall, on the other hand, used the elements of darkness and various components of Indian history to pull off his piece. He said the mother in the painting was hollering for the men in her life as she stood over bowls — a familiar scene in many American homes.



Doug Hall

Martiena Richter's scratchboard engraving 'Cougar Alert' garnered the third largest amount at \$4,500.

Auction prices:

Bob Duffie, sculpture, \$400. Bill Snow, sculpture, \$3,000. Cheryl Church, pencil, \$450. Todd A. Williams, oil, \$2,300. Doug Hall, oil, \$7,250. Billy Kirk, oil, \$1,250. Steven Napper, pastel, \$300. M Sue Hollis, oil, \$2,100. April Davis, sculpture, \$1,000. Bobby Hunt, bronze, \$1,000. Debbie Reed, oil, \$1,000. Bob Tommey, oil, \$1,800. Martha Spurlock Jones, watercolor, \$1,250. Richard Thompson, oil, \$2,000. Don Goin, bronze, \$2,100. Cal Sechrest, oil, \$1,000. Larry Case, oil, \$2,300. Martiena Richter, scratchboard engraving, \$4,500. Doug Prine, oil, \$1,700. Gail MacArgel, oil, \$1,050. Andy Thomas, oil, \$7,250. Lowell Davis, oil, \$2,300. Raymond Popp, acrylic and molding paste, \$2,000. Roy Lee Ward, oil, \$3,000. Garnet Buster, oil, \$3,000. Karen Honaker, watercolor, \$2,700. Kim Graham, oil on board, \$900. Theresa Rankin, oil on canvas, \$900. Jack Sours, ceramic, \$1,000. Robin Putnam, Utah alabaster, \$1,250.

The MGA also handed out \$12,000 in cash awards presented from various foundations, companies and organizations.

Bill Snow took the \$500 prize for sculpting, \$500 from Hometown Bank went to Doug Hall, the \$500 Founders' Award went to Roy Lee Ward, \$500 from H.E. Williams Company went to artist Todd Williams, a \$500 gift certificate from JR Western Wear went to Bob Tommey, the \$500 Artist Choice Award went to Todd Williams, \$500 from Dr. and Mrs. Carter went to Bob Tommey, \$500 from Leggett and Platt went to Martiena Richter, \$500 from Ray Grace went to Richard Thompson, a \$1,000 Leggett and Platt award went to Andy Thomas, the Ruth I. Kolpin Foundation Award for \$1,000 went to Kim Graham, a \$1,000 Artist Choice award from the Helen S. Boylan Foundation went each to Garnet Buster, April Davis and Richard Thompson, and the \$1,000 Sandy Higgins' Director's Award went to Don Goin.