Utah's Art Access turns 30, celebrates 'creative differences'

Gallery Stroll • Photo exhibit and interesting collaboration are highlighted in 30th-anniversary event.

By Sean P. Means The Salt Lake Tribune
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Art Access -- which provides arts programming for Utahns with disabilities or limited access to art -- is marking its 30th anniversary this month with exhibits that explore "creative differences."

The exhibits will open Friday, June 20, at Art Access Gallery, 230 S. 500 West, Salt Lake City, as part of the monthly Salt Lake Gallery Stroll, which runs from 6 to 9 p.m. at galleries across the city.

One exhibit features the photography of Kent Miles, who has shot 15 images -- with accompanying interviews -- with people affiliated with Art Access since its beginning in 1984. These include artists, program participants, board members, community partners and staff members.

The other exhibit is "The Brian and Joe Show," a collaboration between artist Brian Kershisnik and his neighbor in Kanosh, Utah, Joe Adams, an adult with Down syndrome. The two have collaborated for 19 years, with Adams choosing themes and creating drawings, and Kershisnik overlaying the drawings with painting and glazing techniques.

Both exhibits run through July 11. An opening reception coincides with the Gallery Stroll.

Here are other highlights from the June edition of the Salt Lake Gallery Stroll:

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'Seer Screens' / 'Passing' • Two Utah artists will have solo exhibitions opening at CUAC, 175 E. 200 South. In "Seer Screens," painter/sculptor Jared Lindsey Clark pours transparent silicon resin in the negative space of packing material for TV sets and computer monitors, creating (as the gallery describes it) "both a serious exploration of spirituality and belief and an ironic statement about the role television and computer monitors play in the creation of culture." Makia Sharp's exhibit "Passing" employs lowbrow materials and kitsch references for works "wrought with the existential angst that every passage in her work is a metaphor for death with only a glimmer of hope for something else." Both exhibits run through July 12.

Lenka Konopasek • Czech-born painter Lenka Konopasek is highlighted at Modern West Fine Art, 177 E. 200 South. Konopasek, an adjunct professor at the University of Utah and Westminster College, will exhibit her "Rodeo Picture Show" series, a contemporary outsider perspective of a Western tradition, and her new "Disaster Series," which examines the power of natural cataclysms.

'Collision' • Three Utah painters -- Andrew Ballstaedt, Lisa Crosby and Jonathan Frioux -- will share the space at the Rio Gallery in the historic Rio Grande Depot, 300 S. Rio Grande St., for a show called "Collision." "These three artists are a wonderful complement to one another," said Lynnette Hiskey, director of Utah Arts & Museums, in a statement. "Their distinct styles of working give us a glimpse into the many exciting directions that contemporary painters are taking." The exhibit runs through July 11.