



Unique works by local artists, a helping of friends and family, live music, food and drink all abound near Avenue B and Main Street, creating entertaining Third Thursdays in Hutchinson.

The event began a few years ago after artist Jennifer Randall witnessed the popularity of Hutchinson's Annual Art and Music Crawl. She suspected the community would be supportive of a regular art-based social happening. And she was right.

With Randall's direction, the annual downtown crawl has morphed into a successful monthly event. It's even expanded to include more locations in the downtown area.

"It's been great for downtown as a whole," says Randall. "Every type of store is welcome to be involved, and we try to put art in every venue. It's great exposure for local artists."

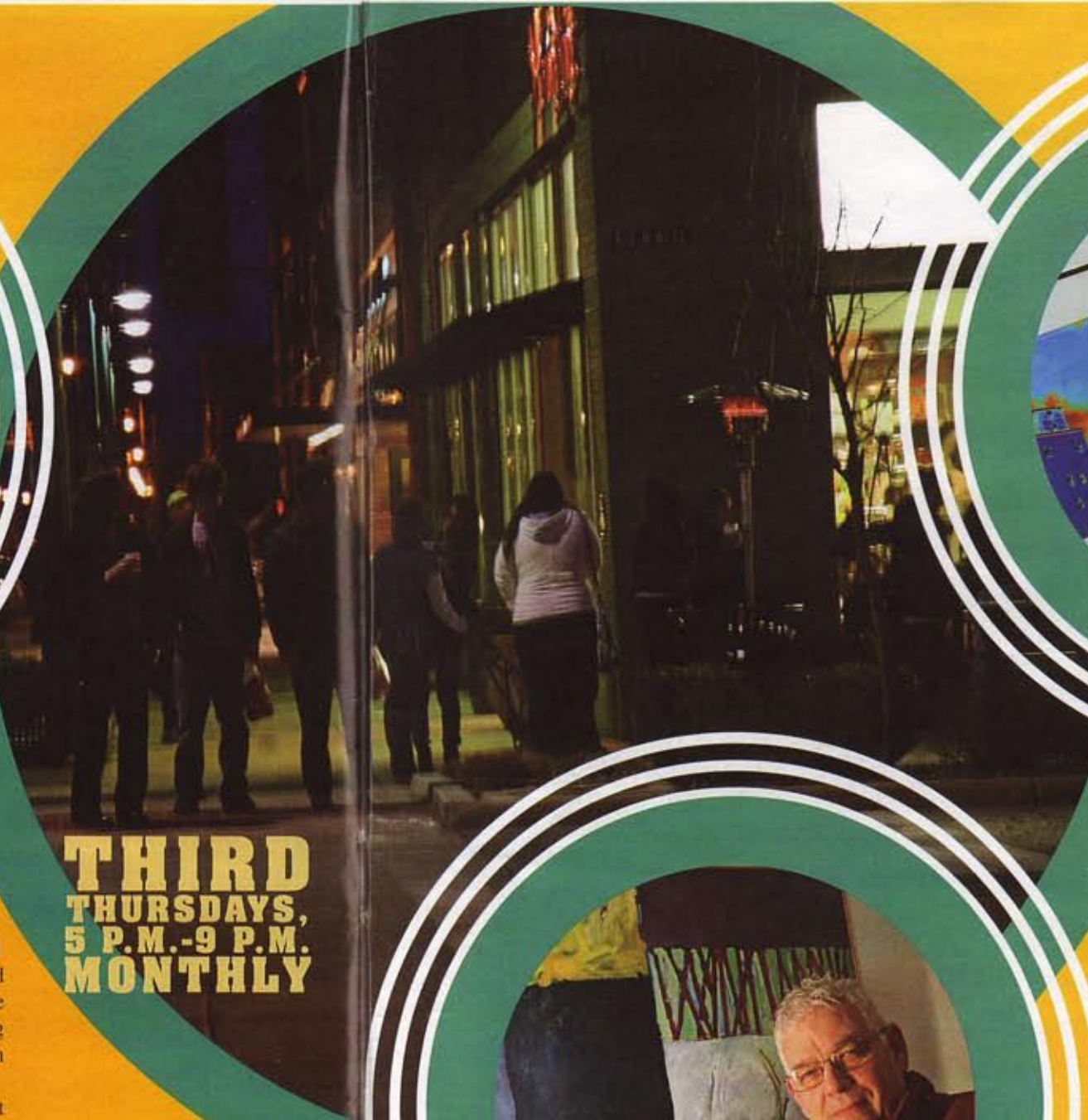
Randall divvies up the art and decides which artist's work best fits with participating businesses. The artist and proprietor work together, and on the night of the event artists are encouraged to remain close to their work so they're available to answer questions.

Gallery 7, Randall's gallery and studio, is part of the lineup. She has displayed several collections of her color-infused, vivid paintings, including a series based on environmental observations titled "Modern Human Blunders." Most recently, Randall exhibited "Kansas Women," a subset of her biographical "Remarkable Women" series.

[WWW.HRAH.ORG/EVENTS.PHP](http://WWW.HRAH.ORG/EVENTS.PHP)

**THIRD THURSDAYS, 5 P.M.-9 P.M. MONTHLY**

Artists, clockwise from top left, Jennifer Randall, Shawn Freeman and Roy Swanson show their work at Third Thursdays in Hutchinson. Photos by Deborah Walker.



With a new set planned for the summer season, she describes the upcoming works as "whimsical" with an animal and nature emphasis.

Participating artist Roy Swanson, one of the fine arts instructors at Hutchinson Community College, calls Third Thursdays a "good, positive thing." His symbolic, expressionistic paintings in oil and acrylic have been on display at the events several times.

"It's great for the community," says Swanson. "Third Thursdays have brought so much focus to the visual arts. So many more people are coming out to look and see and interact with the art and the artists."

Hutchinson native Shawn Freeman, an artist and owner of Freeman Photographic, was one of the first to display his work during Third Thursdays. Freeman is a big fan of the event, which he believes gets people in the community out and involved with art.

"It's been a wonderful experience to get the chance to meet and discuss art with a variety of local artists," says Freeman. This summer, he will be showing artwork from his "Under the Rainbow" series. The photographer uses solarization to create "very bright colors and a very pop art feel," he says.



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- JENNIFER RANDALL