

Life



Iowa City artist Jim Kaufmann submitted this collage on cardboard to Twist Art Gallery's mail art exhibit.

Visual arts

Mail me some art

A new show at Twist Gallery highlights all sorts of art that people have sent through the mail. | 17

ARTS GUIDE

Visual arts

Gallery show at Twist comes courtesy of U.S. Postal Service

When most people sift through their mail, they expect the usual stack of bills, along with circulars for duct-cleaning services and replacement windows. For the past month or so, Twist Art Gallery owner Beth Gilmore has greeted her daily mail with much bigger expectations: Every day, submissions have been arriving for her latest exhibit, devoted to mail art.

The concept behind mail art is pretty simple: An artist creates a work, slaps a stamp on it and sends it to a friend or colleague through the post. But since its emergence as a distinct medium in the latter half of the 20th century, mail art has given rise to an international network of artists who seek to operate outside the conventional gallery setting.

In some cases, mail art plays off the very materials of written correspondence, such as stamps, while in other cases, the idea is to send objects that push the limits of what can be shipped through the U.S. Postal Service.

IF YOU GO

What: Mail-Art Show

Where: Twist Art Gallery, 73 Arcade, between Fourth and Fifth Ave. N.

When: Opening reception 6-9 p.m. Saturday; running through Aug. 26

Contact: www.twistartgallery.com or 1-888-535-5286

One New York-based artist mailed a life-size paper cast of a human head, which remarkably arrived at its destination intact.

Opening Saturday, Twist's Mail-Art Show consists of submissions that Gilmore has received from all over the U.S. and overseas. Much of the work on view consists of postcards and envelopes, but Gilmore says she's also received unusual items such as a record album decorated with stamps.

The show also represents Twist's one-year anniversary on the second floor of the

Arcade, which has become an anchor destination in the downtown gallery scene over the past year. Here's a quick look at several other openings that will be happening in the area on Saturday night; all events start at 6 p.m.

■ TAG Art Gallery, at 237 Fifth Ave. N., hosts an exhibit of work by members of the Image Distillery, a Nashville-based collective including some of the city's best illustrators. With work by Gina Binkley, Bryce McCloud, Dan Brawner, Jim Sheradden and Bob and Val Tillery, it should be a vibrant show with the perfect mix of freewheeling good humor and consummate skill. For more details, visit www.tagartgallery.com or call 255-7816.

■ The Arts Company, at 215 Fifth Ave. N., spotlights the paintings of Jonathon Kimbrell, whose subjects typically consist of pop stars, blues legends and other celebrity-status figures. In addition, the gallery hosts its annual Avant-Garage Sale of art, posters,

furniture and more in its expansive back garage. For more information, visit www.theartscompany.com or call 254-2040.

■ Downtown Presbyterian Church, which has been a staunch supporter of the local artist and musician community, hosts an "Art-Luck" potluck dinner and exhibit featuring work by Shane Doling, Richard Feaster, Twist owner Gilmore, Tom Wills and others. At 154 Fifth Ave. N., the church also will host a banana split bar and a screening of episodes from the 1970s Saturday-morning program *Banana Splits*. For more information, call 254-7584.

■ Estel Gallery, at 115 Eighth Ave. N., features the work of Canadian painter Deb Garlick, whose latest series of acrylics explores the white dress in a variety of settings, all intended to encourage the viewer to pause and consider the layers of meaning that lie just beneath their quiet surfaces. Visit www.estelgallery.com or call 251-8997.