

COUNTRY GREAT

Porter Wagoner and his Wagonmasters will perform at the Orpheum Theatre on Saturday. Dugg Collins and the Crawdaddys start the show at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$30 for reserved seats, at the Orpheum, Yesterday Discs, and at Acoustic Stringed Instruments in Hutchinson.

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The Wichita Eagle

GO!

LOCAL ART

Rebecca Hoyer's painting "Lincoln and McLean, right, will be included in a new exhibition at CityArts titled "LandShapes - A Look at Wichita." An artist's reception will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. today at the gallery, 225 W. Lewis. Admission is free.

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NEW MOV

Disney's "The Princess Diaries," left, opens theaters, along with comedy "Rush Hour" with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker and "Original Sin," with Angelina Jolie and Antonio Banderas.

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Travis Heying/The Wichita Eagle

Painter Rebecca Hoyer takes a look at Wichita cityscapes in a one-person show at CityArts.

Artist's work showcases city

Rebecca Hoyer unveils "LandShapes," her first one-woman exhibition.

BY CHRIS SHULL
The Wichita Eagle

When painter Rebecca Hoyer moved to Wichita eight years ago, she did what many newcomers do when they arrive in a new city — she drove around, trying to get her bearings.

But Hoyer was attempting to do more than just discover the layout of the town — she was trying to awaken her artist's eye to a brand new place.

"Since I have been here I've been trying to figure out what makes the Kansas landscape a little bit different from, say, New York," Hoyer said. "At first I tried to go out into the fields and draw the fields, but it is usually just space, line, space — you get blue on the top and green on the bottom and it is kind of boring.

IF YOU GO

Who: Rebecca Hoyer, painter
What: "LandShapes - A Look at Wichita" exhibit

When: Through Tuesday

Where: CityArts, 225 W.

Lewis.

Gallery hours: 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

How much: Admission is free. For more information, call 337-9040.

Artist's reception: 7 to 10 p.m. today at CityArts. Admission is free.

"I'm a kind of city girl, so it is more comfortable to me to stay in town and draw the houses."

The result is "LandShapes - A Look at Wichita," which runs today through Tuesday at CityArts. (There is a free artist's reception tonight.)

The collection of 40 oil paintings, watercolors and digital prints (priced incrementally from \$8 to \$3,000) showcases Wichita's famil-

iar houses and neighborhoods in Hoyer's warm but energetic style.

Folks who browse along the paintings — some hung on an 80-foot long blue and green drawing of a row of houses captured from the bank of the Arkansas River at Lincoln and McLean — will likely notice some familiar sites. There's the turquoise house at First and Grove, a neighborhood seen from a shopping center at Lincoln and Oliver, some homes viewed from the parking lot of a bingo parlor.

But Hoyer's images are not snapshots or architectural drawings. Her paintings flatten the distance and distill the scenes into shape and color, blending the specific with abstraction.

"You can paint a new thing in an old way or you can paint an old thing in a new way," Hoyer said. "Which means if you take something that is very basic, like a house, a tree, then you can kind of go crazy with it because people will know it is a house.

"As I am driving by, what catches me is all of a sudden there is that triangle and that square. The really

ornate new houses are not simple enough for me. I like the older neighborhoods and the simpler houses that are easier to look past the details and concentrate more on the shapes and the things around them."

Hoyer's discovery of Wichita did not come without setbacks.

"I have been stopped by the cops a few times," she said. "Like in Edgemoor. I was just, 'Well, I'm just drawing.'

"And they said, 'Well, you just looked suspicious, ma'am. Please, just move it along.'

"That's OK. There are more houses."

"LandShapes - A Look at Wichita" is important to Hoyer because it is the first one-woman show of her career. It also showcases the points that caught her eye as she was learning her way around town.

"For me, it has to start with a specific place," Hoyer said. "Otherwise, it is not that interesting."

Chris Shull writes about music and fine arts. He can be reached at 268-6264 or by e-mail at cshull@wichitaagle.com