

FILE PHOTO / Staff

Artists will once again fill the streets of downtown Greenville for Artisphere.

Artisphere returns Friday

By Ann Hicks
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More artists than ever before will participate in Artisphere May 7-9 in downtown Greenville.

There will be 120 artists from across the nation featured in the juried show, up from 100 last year. Fourteen are local artists.

The popular festival will kick off with an elegant opening-night gala May 6 at the new Courtyard Marriott Hotel's Nantucket Grill, from 6-10 p.m.

Artisphere will feature a wide variety of art, including ceramics, drawings, furniture, glass, jewelry, 2-D and 3-D mixed media, oils, acrylic and watercolor paintings, photography, printmaking, sculpture and woodwork.

Artists Row will start at the intersection of Augusta and Main streets. Popular painter and high-energy performer Brian Olsen will return to Falls Park to create pop-culture icons. Local arts venues, including the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, will feature performances.

Kidsphere will return to the Wyche Pavilion. Back for the second year is Artisphere's Chairman's Exhibit, a gallery showcase located inside the lobby of *The Greenville News*. Works featured will be from Greenville's Hampton III Gallery, Asheville's Blue Spiral 1 Gallery and Charlotte's Elder Gallery.

■ Arts writer Ann Hicks can be reached at 864-298-4004.

YOU CAN GO

- **What:** Artisphere, Greenville's Arts Weekend
- **When:** Opening Night Gala, May 6; outdoor festival, May 7-9.
- **Where:** Downtown Greenville.
- **Tickets:** Some ticketed shows, but primarily free to the public.
- **Information:** 271-9398.