

# Rain doesn't dampen artists' spirits

## Showers to continue into tomorrow

By Eric Connor

STAFF WRITER

econnor@greenvilleonline.com

The rain just wouldn't seem to break, so artist Geoffrey Harris did just about all there was left to do as Artisphere patrons had a little more elbow room on the final day of the downtown arts festival.

"My butt didn't see this chair all Saturday," the Lexington artist, who specializes in comput-

er-generated graphic paintings, said as people walked by carrying umbrellas late Sunday afternoon. "It's been here all day today."

The wet weather that dampened Artisphere's final day is expected to continue today and taper off into tomorrow.

However, unlike Sunday's steady but calmly falling rain, today's weather will be more stormy, with the potential for lightning and some high winds,

said James Oh, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Greer.

While the precipitation held down turnout from the two previous days of the festival, Harris said, wind is an artist's worst weather fear at an outdoor show.

"It's not good when you see your paintings shaking," he said. "This isn't too bad."

Turnout appeared heavy on Saturday, in part because people might have foreseen a

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rainy Sunday, said Harris, who will venture back out onto the road Wednesday for an art show this weekend in Kansas City.

In its eighth year, Ar-

tisphere has grown from a small artists exhibition spanning but a block or so to a Main Street celebration today featuring food vendors and live music along with 120 booths of art.

Scott Olson, a Chicago painter, said that Sunday's rain had thinned out the crowd but that art

enthusiasts will brave the weather no matter.

In fact, he said, Sunday was his best sales day because he deals in high-dollar work and the enthusiasts who had visited his booth the previous two days had returned with a decision.

"People who are motivated will come regard-

less of the weather," Olson said.

Olson said that Greenville's art showcase has earned a reputation in the national arts community as a solid, mid-sized show worth the trip.

"It's never been a disappointment," he said. "It's a really well-done show."



The rain kept the crowds away on the final day of Artisphere in downtown Greenville. MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/STAFF