



Journal photo by Amie Steffen

Kirk Williams' sculptures, assemblages and pastels are all on display at A Center for the Arts beginning today. The official kick-off to the Lincoln Avenue Fine Arts Festival begins with his exhibit opening from 6-8 p.m. tonight.

## Owning his art

**Featured artist  
Williams got his start  
on the west coast**  
By Amie Steffen  
Daily Journal

The Lincoln Avenue Fine Arts Festival kicks off at 6 p.m. tonight with featured artist Kirk Williams displaying his pastels, sculptures and assemblages at A Center for the Arts.

Williams will display two themes in his exhibit: Inner Space and the Road to Dalton. He said his art is influenced by the "old masters," like Van Gogh, Picasso and Salvador Dali, but also gets inspired by his surroundings.

"The landscape around here is awesome — the colors, the sunsets, the reflection of the water," he said.

A resident of Fergus Falls, Williams got his start while working as a commercial

designer on the west coast. He quickly found out that he wanted to make art on his own, however, and attended the Minneapolis College of Design.

After school, he went to work perfecting his art in his basement before getting his own studio in his home. Now 57, Williams said people react strongly to his art, especially his antique assemblages.

"They'll say, 'My mom used to have that,' or 'My grandma used to have that.' They get a light, happy tone to them," Williams said. "It brings out the nostalgia in people."

Two of his cast sculptures this weekend are a male and female fish with unique stories behind them. The female was sculpted and forgotten about for 23 years before Williams found her and cast her for the exhibit. But the male was a little different.

"I sunk it in Eagle Lake

### Tonight

Artist reception for Kirk Williams from 6 to 8 p.m. in the lobby of A Center for the Arts, downtown Fergus Falls.

because it's a diver's lake and very clear there, and I thought it would be interesting," he said. "I sunk it in 20 feet of water and damned near drowned."

He came back later to see if anyone had been looking for the fish. Divers who were there from the Cities said they had heard of the fish but couldn't find it. Sure enough, he said, somebody had lugged the 150-pound sculpture out of the water.

"It was gone, so I had the master mold and cast another one," Williams said.



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Kirk Williams' sculptures, assemblages and pastels are all on display at A Center for the Arts.

Williams will be displaying his exhibit at AC4TA through October, and his showcase tonight will officially open the Fine Arts Festival which begins today.