

Museum program allows visitors to create works of art

ARLINGTON — Although works of art may be intriguing, they often are not understood or fully appreciated. What better way to bridge that gap than to work hands-on with paints and other materials related to the artwork?



Pamela
Lindsay

The Arlington Museum of Art has just such a program with its free family art activity day, held in conjunction with each new exhibit at the museum.

Saturday's family art and cultural exchanges are designed around the current exhibit,

New Works Fellowships: Northern Telecom, which showcases artist David Szafranski's paintings created from found objects woven together in a pattern.

Artist Phyllis King will guide families through making a woven painting using nontraditional materials such as cotton swabs, rubberbands, wire, straw and feathers.

"We will ask kids and their parents to weave objects into a pattern. There are no rules on what can be used," said Sally Kneuen, museum education coordina-

tor. "The idea is to make art accessible to the public by exposing the fact that art can be found from a physical angle or verbal; it's not just a visual experience."

Along with other activities, participants will be given a list of ideas and questions about the current exhibit and asked to respond after viewing the works. And they will hear professional storyteller Shelly Kneupper, also a spinner and weaver, who began telling stories as she demonstrated techniques on her spinning wheel and loom.

"The term 'spinning yarns' came from two centuries ago when the whole family sat together and worked," Kneupper said. "They would talk and tell stories, and because [spinning] is pretty mindless once you know how to do it, the spinner would be the one to tell the stories."

Kneupper, who works primarily with schools in Tarrant County, said storytelling gets people away from watching television and is a "nonthreatening way for parents and kids to communicate."

Admission is free, and attendance will be limited to the first 100 at the door.

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: 201 W. Main St.

\$\$\$\$: Free

INFO: 275-4600