

schedule

THURSDAY

5-7 p.m. — “Track aNd Trolley.” Installation/performance by Glenn Herbert Davis. Living ArtSpace. No charge.

8 p.m. — New Music Concert with Giants of Gender. Ethyl Lab. \$7 and \$10

FRIDAY

8:30-9 a.m. — Giants of Gender workshop/demonstration. Riverfield Country Day School Auditorium. No charge.

4-8 p.m. — “Secret Ceremony No. 5: Out Like a Lamb.” Performance by Rochelle Fabb. Chrysalis Spa. No charge

4-7 p.m. — “Image-scape:Soundscape:Land-scape.” Installation/vid-eo/performance by Ursula Scherrer & Michelle Nagai. Liggett Studio. No charge.

5-7 p.m. — “ART 2.0.” Installation by Geoffrey Hicks. TAC Gallery. No charge.

8 p.m. — “Warped Like Space & Time.” Performance by LelaVision. Doenges Theater, Tulsa Performing Arts Center. \$15 and \$20

8 p.m. — New Music Concert by Giants of Gender. Nightingale Theatre. \$7 and \$10

10 p.m. — Performance Cabaret. Nightingale Theatre. \$7 and \$10

SATURDAY

“The Kenosha Cluster”

1-7 p.m. — “Flim, Flim, Flim.” Installation by Jonathan deLucia. On Kenosha.

1-7 p.m. — “Digital Battered.” Installation/vid-eo/performance by Patrick Cunningham. On Kenosha.

1-4 p.m. — “Track aNd Trolley.” Installation and performance by Glenn Herbert Davis. Living ArtSpace. No charge.

2-3:30 p.m. — “Songs I Heard in a Dream.” Workshop by Jeff Falk. Circle Cinema. No charge.

4-7 p.m. — “Image-scape:Soundscape:Land-scape.” Installation/vid-eo/performance by Ursula Scherrer and Michelle Nagai. Liggett Studio. \$7 and \$10

8 p.m. — “Warped Like Space & Time.” Performance by LelaVision. Doenges Theater, Tulsa Performing Arts Center. \$15 and \$20

Dirt and diligence



MICHAEL WYKE/Tulsa World

TU art professor Glenn H. Davis's exhibit “Track aNd Trolley” will have him working while suspended. His installation at the New Genre Festival is a tribute to laborers.

Featured festival artist blurs the lines between artworks and labor

By **JAMES D. WATTS JR.**
World Scene Writer

Art typically hangs on walls, or stands on pedestals. Glenn Herbert Davis' newest work does neither.

The various elements of the work he has titled “Track aNd Trolley” — “TNT,” for short — will be suspended from the ceiling of the Living Art-Space's Myers Gallery.

Also to be suspended from the ceiling is the artist himself.

“There will be four to seven small buildings or armatures, along with some suspended decks,” Davis said. “And during the performance part of the work, I will be occupying these various structures.”

Well, more than occupying. Davis will be engaged in a number of tasks in and around these buildings — renovating, repairing, modifying.

Doing things, in other words, that sound more like “work” than “work of art.”

And that, Davis said, is the point.

“This piece,” he said, “arose out of my wanting to question a couple of assumptions: That a work of art is only a product

event NEW GENRE FESTIVAL XV

When: Thursday through Saturday

Where: Living Arts of Tulsa, 308 S. Kenosha Ave., and other locations (see schedule)

Tickets: \$55 Festival Pass, admission to all events, available at www.livingarts.org. Individual events \$10-20, available at the door.

of acute skill or ability without any effort or strife; and that the materials and process of creating art are always new and clean.”

Not surprisingly, this latest installation project by the University of Tulsa assistant professor of art is being presented as part of the 15th annual New Genre Festival.

New Genre is presented by Living Arts of Tulsa, and is devoted to presenting nontraditional forms of art. This year's event, which will be spread among eight venues and over four days, will offer Tulsans a sample of all sorts of experimental art forms — performance art, installation art, video art, avant-garde music shows, interactive pieces.

The festival also will have

workshops and demonstrations to give those interested a closer, more hands-on approach to the artistic experience.

Davis is one of several artists returning for this year's festival. These include the team of Leah Mann and Ela Lamblin, who as Lelavision create their own kinetic, musical sculptures that they incorporate into performances. These concerts are a combination of musical concert and mechanistic choreography.

“For artists, being a part of New Genre Festival can be exhausting,” Davis said. “Besides doing your own work, you want to attend everything you can. (Living Arts director) Steve Liggett always has great ambitions for New Genre, and he's done some amazing things. I mean, getting Meredith Monk here to perform a couple of years ago — I was truly amazed that I got to experience that.”

Patrons of this year's “New Genre Festival” will have two opportunities to experience Davis' installation in its complete form — from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, and from 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday.

During these times, Davis will be a part of the work, moving among the suspended buildings, performing various tasks.

“Last year, my performance had to be about 15 minutes,” he said. “This year, I have more time — to the point where I can approach it as being a kind of ‘work day.’ There will be periods of activity, periods of rest. The gallery will be exposed to the outdoors, so the idea of ‘day shift’ and ‘night shift’ come into play.”

The installation will remain on display through March 27. The performance aspect of the work won't continue beyond the run of the New Genre Festival, but Davis said the installation can stand on its own.

“There will be evidence of work having been done,” he said, meaning the usual detritus of manual labor — dirt, sawdust, cast-off materials.

That, along with the elements of the installation not touching the ground, is designed to evoke the often perilous environments that people subject themselves to in order to “get the job done” —

miners working in subterranean tunnels, steel workers moving along scaffolding hundreds of feet in the air.

“I also want this piece to emulate, and generate some respect, for workers,” Davis said.

“Track aNd Trolley” is dedicated to “the trades.” Specifically, Davis mentioned the workers laboring to rebuild the collapsed Squirt Bridge in Davis' native Minneapolis, as well as workers of Murray Mining, which owned the Utah mine where six miners died; and McWane Industries, an iron pipe foundry company notorious for thousands of injured workers at its plants.

“What laborers do is not thought of as being creative, but it involves a high degree of skill and craftsmanship — as does the creation of art,” Davis said. “I hope people come away from this piece with a greater appreciation of workers and labor — including their own.”

James D. Watts Jr. 581-8478
james.watts@tulsa-world.com