

Made in Marion

By: Kelly Reed

Displays of artwork sitting in the windows of many downtown businesses have provided the city of Marion a reason to go outside and discover the collaboration of artists and local companies.

Main Street Marion, a Grant County nonprofit organization, has partnered with the Indiana Wesleyan University student-run public relations agency, “PR Vitae” to host Made in Marion.

“We want [Made in Marion] to benefit the community and enhance both the economic aspect of downtown, as well as the culture and foster a strong sense of community,” said Jake Doll (sr), the agency’s executive director

Ten different downtown Marion businesses are displaying the artwork of eleven artists until March 28. The artwork includes photography, paintings, pottery and poetry.

The Made in Marion art walk begins at the cultured and unique architecture of Community School of the Arts.

With the smell of leather creating a homemade atmosphere, Barry Lobdell’s store, Jerry’s Leather and Shoe Repair, has pottery and paintings in the front window.

Lobdell was a part of Made in Marion last year as well, when it was held in December.

The reason for changing the season, according to Doll, was because of convenience. Starting it in the spring allowed the agency to connect this project with current school work.

“So far, I have seen more people coming into the store to look at the artwork than last year,” Lobdell said.

Autumn Joy Davis (jr) is an IWU artist who entered a bowl and mug set. She thought that the timing of Made in Marion was a good idea.

“Some of my friends went walking around downtown Marion the other day just because the weather was nice. They got to see a lot of the art and got really excited that our school is doing this,” Davis said.

Doll expressed his gratitude toward Main Street Marion. Loretta Walker, his client with Main Street Marion, found that some businesses were so interested in the program that they found their own artists and showcased their work.

“Main Street Marion been a wonderful client,” Doll said. “They have a great reputation with the businesses my team partnered with and having a professional backing for Made in Marion in 2014 has boosted the support and excitement.”