

Artists gearing up for Dorian Gray show

BY BILL ROBBINS
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Karen Wollert hardly specializes in horrific art, but she's going full-aesthetic-throttle at creating a creepy painting for the annual Dorian Gray Art Show.

"I usually do more realistic things," said Wollert. "But I can paint anything."

The show's theme is based on Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and the horror film of the same name as well as the stories of Edgar Allan Poe and H.P. Lovecraft.

A member of the Kenosha Art Association's board of directors, Wollert specializes in painting and drawing animals, people and landscapes. She works chiefly in oil, acrylic, ink and graphite.

She met Dale "Dr. Destruction" Wamboldt through the art association. He's also on the group's board of directors and established the Dorian Gray

If you go

■ **What:** The 21st annual Dorian Gray Art Show featuring works by 13 artists

■ **When:** 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday, March 19

■ **Where:** The ballroom of the Woman's Club of Kenosha, 6026 Eighth Ave.

■ **Admission:** \$5. Proceeds from the event benefit Kindred Kitties and the Kenosha Art Association's scholarship fund.

■ **More information:** Call (262) 654-0065

show 21 years ago.

"We're always looking for something new for artists to do, and Dale mentioned that he had been doing this show and I thought, what the heck, I'll paint something for it," said Wollert, a free-lance Web page designer and computer programmer.



KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

Local artist Karen Wollert works on an acrylic painting she plans to display in the upcoming Dorian Gray Art Show. The painting, which she calls "The Catacombs of Ulthar," is based on a short story by H.P. Lovecraft.

She'll have at least one other piece in the show, a high-contrast charcoal drawing titled "Soul Mates," which features two ghost-like facial images.

Wollert is creating a large acrylic painting especially for

the show. It depicts a growling tiger and a swimsuit-clad woman near what appears to be a temple.

"This show is partly a benefit for Kindred Kitties," Wollert said. "One of H.P. Lovecraft's

stories is titled, 'The Cats of Ulthar,' where the cats retaliate against being killed and mistreated by actually eating the people of the village. I thought that was perfect for the show."

She's taking that concept a step farther with the tiger. The snake-haired woman in the painting is Wollert's take on Medusa, a figure in Greek mythology. Medusa was a monster that was once a beautiful woman.

Medusa doesn't have anything to do with Lovecraft, but fits in well with the overall scary theme of the show, Wollert said.

"I think I'll call the piece, 'The Catacombs of Ulthar,'" she said.

It's primarily black and white with multiple shades of gray, though there are dashes of color.

This is Wollert's first time in the Dorian Gray show.

"I like Dale's stuff," she said. "He's actually had me on his cable show ("Crimson Theatre") as the Web mistress. I wear this white wig with a hood over it. I've been on two or three times. I don't say too much."

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FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006