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Seniors work on projects in Phyllis Finnen's art class at the Liberal Senior Center. The class is offered through Seward County Community College. Courtesy photo

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times    Seniors in the Liberal community who are interested in art have the chance to further their talents through a class offered through Seward County Community College at the Liberal Senior Center.

Some of the paintings from that class are now on display at the Baker Arts Center in the "Paintin' Place Senior Center Painters Exhibit." Baker's Diane Marsh said about 15 students are participating out of three classes instructor Phyllis Finnen teaches at the senior center.

Toni Smith of Baker Arts said one of the artists in the exhibit, Joy Elmore, just started painting two years ago, and she has five artworks at the center.

Smith said others, such as Georgetta Taylor, had previously taken art courses and have painted for many years.

"It's a collaboration of all of them," Smith said.

Marsh said the array of artwork is mostly oil paintings, but there are some watercolors as well as a variety of subjects.

"It's mostly oil paintings, but there are a few watercolors," she said. "There are still lifes, portraits, landscapes, quite a few animals and a lot of floral."

The exhibit does feature mostly women artists, but Smith said Liberal's Danny Medeiros does have some paintings up in the gallery at Baker.

“He is the only gentleman in this exhibit, and he was so excited to get in here,” she said. “He quit painting for several years. When he was young, he painted, and then, he quit and did his job. About 10 years ago, he decided he would start picking it back up. He was very happy to have his art in a gallery.”

Paintin' Place started on May 25, and it will continue through June 22, and Smith said thus far, everyone who has seen the exhibit seems to like it.

“We've had people come in who are very wowed over this,” she said. “It's, I think, a surprise and a variety of talent that's just right here down the street.”

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