

Neapolitan

ARTS & CLASSIFIED

SECTION D

Unconventional Forstmann art featured at winter wine fest

HARRIET HOWARD HEITHAUS

HARRIET.HEITHAUS@NAPLESNEWS.COM; 239-213-6091

Eric Forstmann, an artist known for his unconventional still lifes, has created and contributed the featured work for the Naples Winter Wine Festival for 2017.

Forstmann's realist works often include groupings — stacked equipment, hanging shirts or loaded shelves — tweaked with either unusual items or an unconventional detail, such as “Dollar Menu,” an oil painting of eight shadowboxes. Seven of them are filled with fast-food items; the eighth has seven dollars shoved into it. In many of his paintings, a depiction of Forstmann himself is visible, as a reflection in some object. Art News assessed his

works as having a “ruffled informality” and a style akin to Edward Hopper and William Michael Hartnett.

One of his paintings, “Random Shelf Life,” was part of the Naples Collects exhibition last spring, courtesy of owners Scott and Simone Lutgert. Other owners of Forstmann works include actors Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon and Warren Beatty.

Simone Lutgert, one of the chairs for this year's wine festival, said she and her husband, Scott, have been collecting Forstmann's work for more than 10 years and thought of him when the festival board was considering a featured artist for this year.

“He has these whimsical features in

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erational appeal helped seal the decision. The painting is a gift from the artist and Jane Eckert, who operated Eckert Fine Art in Naples for more than 14 years. She still owns a gallery in Kent, Connecticut.

In addition to bidding on Forstmann's commissioned painting, Naples Winter Wine Festival attendees will also have the opportunity to bid on luxury travel experiences, limited-edition cars and unique wine lots during its live auction. The proceeds are dedicated to supporting children in need and at risk.

Since its inception in 2001, the festival has raised more than \$146 million for its founding organization, the Naples Children & Education Foundation. NCEF annual grants have provided resources and services to more than 200,000 children in and around Collier County.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is limited to 580 guests, and tickets start at \$10,000 per couple. For more information, contact Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or 239-514-2239.



If you go

What: Naples Winter Wine Festival

When: Jan. 27-29

Cost: Tickets start at \$10,000 per couple.

More information: Contact Barrett Farmer at barrett@napleswinefestival.com or 239-514-2239

« “Intentions” (24 by 32 inches, oil on board, 2016), by Eric Forstmann

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his work. I say that whenever I look at it, it makes me smile,” she said.

Forstmann's 24- by 32-inch work “Intentions” is oil on board. It was painted with minimal direction from the committee — Lutgert said the only requirement was some allusion to grapes and wine. The piece contains references to Forstmann's other works, and there is a mystery person, or perhaps more, in the work. The viewer can find more clues with repeated observations, which is what Lutgert likes about Forstmann's art: “As you look at the piece, you see more and more, like a story unfolding.”

Additionally, she learned from her 10-year-old grandson, who had been on a tour of the collection with his class, that their painting of his storage shelves was one of the kids' favorites. The festival's goal is to fund resources for children, and she said that intergen-