

Inaugural art fair offers wares and good weather

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At the inaugural 17th Street Art Fair at Atlantic Station, Deborah Martin attracts small crowds with her spunky didjeridoo instrument demonstrations.

"People respond emotionally and positively," the Carrollton musician says after a few huffs into her native Australian doo-hicky that sounds a lot like an ocean liner preparing to dock. "We love this because of the magical combination of the didjeridoo and the flute."



David Graves/AJC
(ENLARGE)

Rod Garrett displays acrylic sculptures during the 17th Street Art in Atlanta Station on Saturday.



David Graves/AJC
(ENLARGE)

Teresa Brown (right) gets a lesson from Deborah Martin on playing the didjeridoo.



David Graves/AJC
(ENLARGE)

Darrin Butler of New Orleans shows his artwork to Yolanda Butler.

While some sipped wine on the patio at The Grape or nibbled on salads at Doc Green's early Saturday afternoon, many others walked the closed-off streets around Atlantic Station taking in 175 artists and craftsmen showcasing their wares.

Everything from photography, sculpture, fine art, jewelry and ceramics are up for sale in the juried arts market. In the rear, Mediterranean Grill doles out falafel, gyro plates with tzatziki (\$6). Saba has \$3 pumpkin ravioli and chicken ravioli. And over at Willy Burgers, the four energetic ladies running the show try to push a \$6 cheeseburger to Atlantic Station resident Morris Sutton, who brought their attention to another burger stand near Publix.

"But these burgers are better — and the cooks are cute!" demanded one smiling (almost flirty) server.

Sutton was pleasantly surprised at all the commotion around the fair, which he didn't know was coming.

"This is the best arts fair they've had out here so far, certainly the largest," he says. "It's good timing with the fall weather and escape from the dead heat of summer."

If you go, Atlantic Station security recommends traveling past the main entrance on Market Street from 17th and coming in through the rear near Twelve Hotel. Expect traffic to be heavy with all the street closings.

THE 411: 17th Street Art Fair. Free; parking ranges from free first two hours to \$11. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Atlantic Station. 404-634-8876, www.17thstreetartfair.com.

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