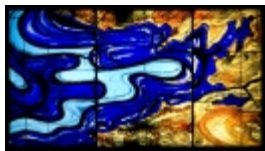


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## **Come trip the 'Light Fantastic'**

*Village Theatre Art Gallery features Irish stained glass*

by by Dolores Fox Ciardelli



Tradition meets creativity in "The Light Fantastic: Irish Stained Glass," the new exhibit opening this weekend at the Village Theatre Art Gallery in Danville.

"The 'Light Fantastic' is fantastic," said Recreation Services Manager Michelle Lacy. "It's a beautiful display of artistry."

Ireland's tradition of stained glass art stretches back centuries, and "The Light Fantastic" shows that the art form is no less vibrant today. This exhibition, the first of its kind to feature secular, free-standing, portable glass panels, was developed by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

"Traditionally that kind of art work is relegated to churches and large buildings. It's really neat to walk into that space and have all these unique pieces of art," said Lacy. "Some are smaller, free-standing. Some are larger, hanging on the wall."

The 12 featured artists used different technical approaches according to their individual conceptions of the medium. Surface treatments range from painted to barely marked, stippled, enameled, sand blasted and acid-etched.

"All of the glass pieces are in light boxes so you can see how light reflects through the stained glass," said Lacy. "It's a stunning display of original contemporary stained glass art."

"The Light Fantastic" will be on display from Jan. 30 to March 28, with an opening reception from 5-7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30. Appetizers and wine will be served, courtesy of Artesa Winery.

The Village Theatre Art Gallery, located at 233 Front St, is open 2-8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.