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FEATURED

Artrageous entertaining for music, art lovers

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Artrageous lived up to its name.

Performed last Saturday at the Divots DeVent Center, the Artrageous troupe played a mixture of rock genre music while behind them artists — using only their hands — created gigantic vibrant portraits. The show was brought to Norfolk by the Norfolk Arts Center.

“The show was really engaging. More so than I’ve ever seen. Literally everyone there was able to get on stage,” said Denise Hansen, arts center program coordinator. “The message of the show was really inspiring, too, and I enjoyed the way the group played to the young audience. The crowd was overflowing with young families and even Elgin Public Schools brought their sixth-12th grade art classes.” Hansen said 710 people attended the show.

“I was really impressed with the attendance Saturday night — there were a lot of other big things happening in town and in the state, and it’s great to see the community support the arts,” Hansen said.

Getting a unique perspective of Artrageous was local musician David Chamberlain. About two weeks before the show came to Norfolk, Chamberlain was asked to play the drums for Artrageous in Orange City, Iowa.

Since then, Chamberlain has played in Fairmont, Minn., Edgerton, Wis., and Norfolk. He will take part in a 10-show tour in January as well. Chamberlain said performing with Artrageous is different from any group he’s played with.

“There’s so much going on — the dancing, the lighting, artwork. They’re painting on stage right next to me. It’s really intense,” Chamberlain said, adding that when he takes a second to look at what’s going on, he’s amazed. “There’s a lot happening. It’s very different from just playing in a band.”

He said his favorite part of the show was watching his children on stage stomping on bubble wrap and playing the air guitar.

“I’m happy to be doing it and lucky and happy that I’ve got the chance to have this experience,” Chamberlain said.

Those attending the show had the chance to take home a piece of the Artrageous experience after the show when the pieces created that night were auctioned off. All proceeds raised from the auction will go toward the Norfolk Arts Center’s children’s education programs.