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The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO A UNIQUE FRIENDSHIP WAS BORN

between The First State Bank and The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission. The fledgling Arts Center at 1204 North Patterson Street, at that time, had very limited wall space. And worse, some of that space was dark, wood walls, not very attractive for showcasing fine art. ~~Burton Bright, L/VAC's Executive Director~~ ^{Eddie Norris} at that time, came up with the idea of having an art exhibit where anyone could be a part of it - a *celebration* of art. There ^{would} be no advance submission of slides or pictures of the work, ~~and that posed the issue of how much space would be needed.~~ How many artists would respond? ~~Could the L/VAC building accommodate such a show?~~ "The reaction from the artists was overwhelming," said Ouida Lampert, an artist who participated in ^{one of} the show.

Then entered Eddie Norris, a long time, well-known artist who just happened to be the President of the First State Bank! Caught up in the enthusiasm, he offered to have the exhibit at the First State Bank at 527 North Patterson Street, never realizing the significance of that gesture. This year marks the fifteenth year the "Spring Into Art" Exhibit has been held, starting out at the Bank for ^{three} ~~two~~ weeks where the show is juried, and ^{one month} ~~about half~~ of the pieces are selected to be moved to the L/VAC galleries to hang for a month. The top winners are announced at the reception at L/VAC where the top prizes awarded. ^{In}

~~In 1992, Burton Bright left L/VAC, and Eddie Norris soon~~ retired as First State Bank's President. But Roberta George took the reigns at L/VAC and David Durland became the Bank's next President. The friendship between the two entities has continued, however, and grown even stronger. Over the years L/VAC's gallery space has been substantially increased, but so has the lists of artists and patrons.

L/VAC manages to hold art exhibits and continuous art classes, plan its national touring Presenter Series of shows, prepare for the children's professional theatrical touring school performances for its five-county area, offer meeting rooms for other civic organizations, host daily tours through its galleries, and somehow does it all beautifully in its ⁴ ~~7~~,000 square foot area. It's open seven days-a-week and has grown substantially in its outreach. In the meantime, L/VAC's 29-member board has realized that Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the surrounding areas deserve ^{and, they believe, can support,} a much larger home for L/VAC's cultural and artistic activities.

So again, there enters the First State Bank which is also outgrowing its (17,000 square - foot) space! And negotiations begin!

Before this ~~writer goes any further,~~ ^{credit of course,} however, credit must be given to L/VAC's monumental list of supporters who've laid the groundwork for such a major expansion. They include very supportive city and county officials in government; women with a vision for the Arts such as Lena Bosch and Dorothy Pearlman who signed the contract for L/VAC's ~~current~~ ^{POK} building and who, along with Dottie Eager, ~~Mary Jo Whiddy, Kannie,~~ and their many other recruits, organized the Cultural Arts Guild, (L/VAC's supportive organization which has remained more than 300 members strong); The Price Campbell Foundation, First State Bank, Wilby Coleman, and the list of hundreds of other individual and corporate sponsors. The late

Mrs. Hyta Mederer and daughters Gloria Coleman and Hyta L. Mederer must be placed close to the top of the list. Hyta's challenge (with the approval of her daughters) to the Cultural Arts Guild to double match her gift resulted in a ~~\$150,000.00~~ Endowment Fund for L/VAC, offering a secure footing for the future.

THEN THE WORD CAME DOWN IN THE YEAR 2000 THAT THE FIRST STATE BANK WAS BUILDING A NEW HEADQUARTERS at the corner of Bemiss Road and Inner Perimeter Road. For years L/VAC's board members had searched for another building and had even talked about renovating the old Waterworks Building on Hill Avenue, which the city was willing to give to L/VAC. But when the Bank building became available, board members decided that renovations of the Waterworks Building would raise the cost to approximately the same as purchasing and renovating the First State Bank building. Interestingly, many have said that the Bank Building looked more like an art museum than a Bank.

BUT HOW WOULD L/VAC COME UP WITH THE MONEY? Former Senator Loyce Turner and his three adult children offered to give L/VAC \$500,000.00 toward the purchase of the building. In turn, L/VAC would name the building in honor of the senator's late wife: *THE ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS*.

Inspired and energized by the Turners' generous offer, L/VAC's very dedicated and determined board members went to work. And since Turner was a founding member of the First State Bank, his clout helped to convince the Bank to go along with the purchase at approximately \$2 million. In December 2001, L/VAC had enough money to finalize the contract.

WHEN WILL THE MOVE TAKE PLACE? First State promises to be out of the building around the end of June 2002. Architect, Ken Ricket (of Ellis, Ricket & Associates), said "Renovations will be underway immediately after the building is vacated. L/VAC expects to occupy the building sometime in 2003." Ricket was the featured speaker for a Cultural Arts Guild luncheon at L/VAC on May 8th where he unveiled the plans for the expected improvements. Since the front entrance is located so close to the street, the rear will be redesigned so that there will be room for a large water fountain, a large seating area to accommodate outdoor classes and outdoor events; and different landscaping to invite visitors into the building. The parking lot will be such that it will accommodate busses for tours. On the side entrance there will be a covered walk so that when it's raining visitors can be dropped off and not get wet. The inside of the building will be redesigned with two large galleries downstairs, as well as one children's gallery. Upstairs there will be two additional ones. There will be three spaces for classes and studios and comfortable areas to accommodate volunteer workers. A large multi-purpose room will be situated next to a commercial style kitchen to be used for catering and culinary classes. The elevator will be refurbished, and bathrooms will be redone to be fully handicapped accessible. All offices will be located downstairs. First State Bank will continue to use some of the upstairs space for a while, paying L/VAC rent to help offset costs until the additional space is needed.

OUR OPINION

Generosity honors
a wonderful lady.

Celebrating The Art In Life

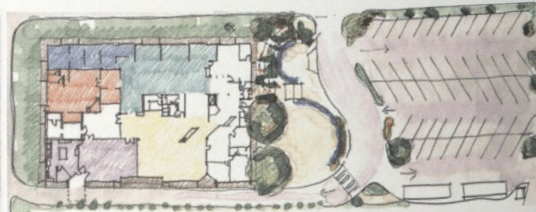
THE ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
NEW HOME OF THE LOWNDES VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION.

The Arts in Valdosta are on the move! The Lowndes Valdosta Arts Commission is moving to the former First State Bank & Trust building downtown at 527 N. Patterson Street. This site offers a tremendous Arts presence downtown plus the space and opportunity to expand our programs for you!

We invite you to become a partner in this great endeavor. Come join and support this great on-going Celebration of the Arts and make them a part of your life.

Welcome to the Annette Howell Turner Center For The Arts! Here is a preview of the many wonderful things to come. Your kind support for our new Center For The Arts will help improve facilities and give opportunities for many to Celebrate The Arts

Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!
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Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!



Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!
Art
ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER
Center For The Arts
CELEBRATING THE ART IN LIFE
Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!



IN YOUR LIFE ...



- Wander through 4 times the gallery space of our previous Center featuring touring and permanent art exhibits
- Stroll through our outdoor Sculpture Garden
- Explore your own capabilities in Adult Art Classrooms
- Purchase the perfect items in our museum-quality Gift Shop
- Rent meeting or entertainment spaces

IN THE LIVES OF KIDS ...



- Activities for children in dedicated classrooms
- Adjacent Children's Gallery
- Expanded after-school programs
- Performing Stage for Children's Entertainment Programs

IN OUR COMMUNITY ...



- Premiere locale for Art & Cultural Events
- An impressive community asset to attract new residents & businesses
- Convenient location
- A cultural hub from which funding and support is distributed to other community art programs
- Plans for meeting & entertainment facilities including a full catering kitchen

Yes!

I WANT TO BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION!



Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please Check One Of The Following:

Donation Enclosed

Please bill my credit card:

Card Type: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please contact me. I am interested in making a more significant contribution.

Checks should be made payable to:

The Lowndes Valdosta Arts Commission
P.O. Box 1966
Valdosta, Georgia 31603-1966



Remember your gift is tax deductible.
Please print your name above as it should appear
in the donor recognition publications.

No donation is too small. No involvement is too minor. We need your community spirit for the arts to shine! The arts enrich you, your family and the community.

The acquisition of our new facility was made possible by the kind generosity of the Loyce Turner family. Please join us in sincerely thanking them.



ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER
Center For The Arts
CELEBRATING THE ART IN LIFE

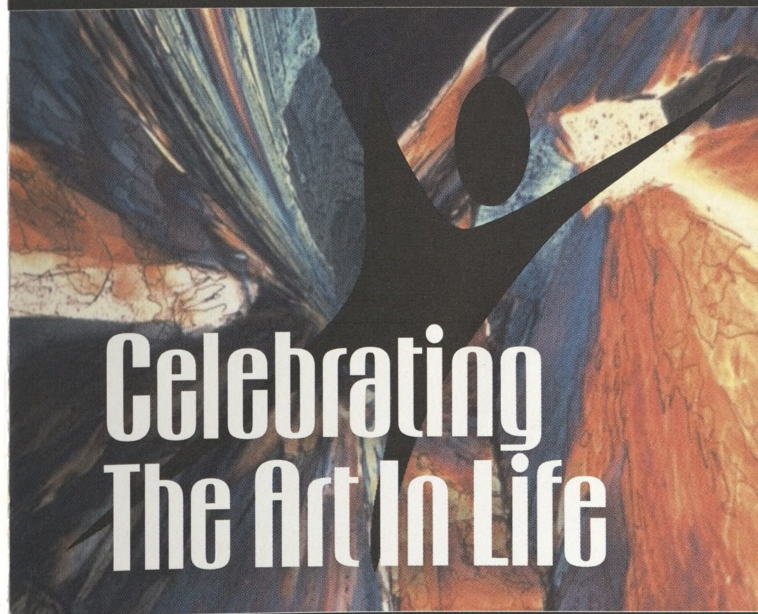


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Valdosta, Ga.
31603

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Celebrating The Art In Life

Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate!
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ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER
Center For The Arts
CELEBRATING THE ART IN LIFE

A Subtle Change



THE ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS: A perspective rendering from local architect Ken Ricketts of what Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission's new home will look like when it plans to move there in January 2003. The 527 N. Patterson St. building is the current Downtown Valdosta location of First State Bank, which is soon moving to its new Perimeter-Bemiss roads location.

Arts Commission prepares plans for new center and raise funds

By Dean Poling
 dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA
 Next week, a subtle change takes place in Valdosta and Lowndes County's art scene. First State Bank & Trust is expected to move from its downtown headquarters to its new offices on the corner of Bemiss and Perimeter roads.

Though the bank plans to keep a small branch downtown, it will empty its longtime home of 527 N. Patterson St. and the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center will quietly take charge of the building.

The shift is subtle, as Bob Harrison, an LVAC executive board member, explains, because the arts center remains at its current 1204 N. Patterson St. location until at least the end of this year.

Several months ago, LVAC purchased the building from First State and the bank has remained at the location, paying rent, until its new Perimeter Road building was finished.

Yet, by Jan. 1, 2003, LVAC hopes to be in its new home — the soon-to-be-empty First State Bank building, but there is a lot of work to do in the next six

months before LVAC's relocation is possible.

Though the 527 N. Patterson St. offices of First State Bank have long looked more like an art gallery than a financial institution, Harrison says local architect Ken Ricketts' planned design will enhance the building's artistic aesthetic to house several galleries as well as classrooms for LVAC's numerous art classes and other events. The planned design will also transform the bank's rear entry into the center's front entrance, with a sculpture garden and several other changes to the building's exterior.

While these changes are underway, LVAC must also raise money to open the new center. Already, the planned center has received generous help from several local people, especially former State Sen. Loyce Turner and his family who made the new arts center a reality by donating more than a half-million dollars to the project nearly two years ago. Turner made the donation in honor of his late wife, who was a great supporter of local arts and LVAC's new home will be named for her — the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. In addition to the Turners and other local individuals and organizations' contributions, Gov. Roy Barnes allocated state money for the project.

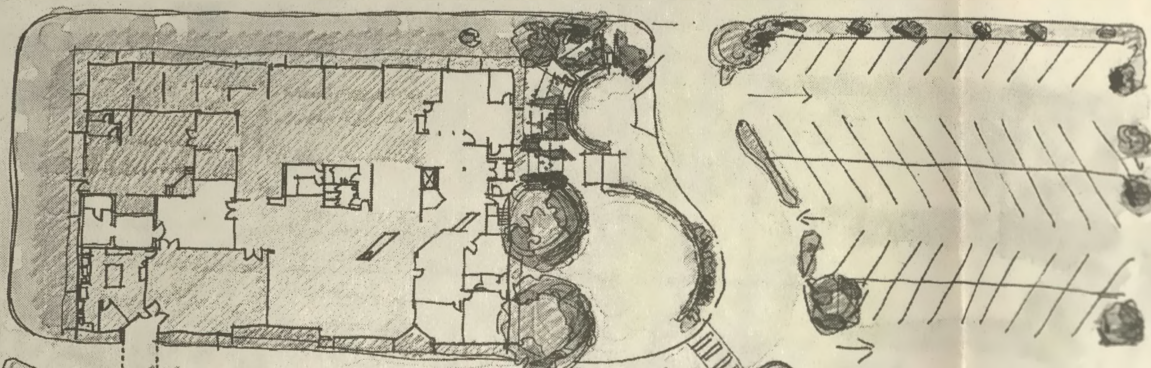
But there is still a ball-park figure of several hundreds of thousands of dollars to raise. "This project is not a part of SPLOST (special purpose local option sales tax)," Harrison says. "The money will have to come from the generosity of individuals' contributions and events like our Presenter's Series of shows."

Meanwhile, LVAC continues marching toward its goal of opening the Annette Howell Turner Center for Arts by January 2003. The board is weighing options of opening the center with a big show: a nationally recognized artist or nationally touring exhibit, Harrison says. As in the past, the new arts center will continue its dedication to local artists but LVAC hopes to show what the new location can mean for Valdosta and Lowndes County by attracting a major exhibit to Valdosta.

During the intervening months, LVAC's 1204 N. Patterson St. location will remain open and offer new exhibits each month, Harrison says.

Individuals interested in contributing to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, should write or make checks payable to: Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, P.O. Box 1966, Valdosta, Ga. 31601. More information: Call LVAC, 247-2787.

OVERVIEW: A look at the new arts center's planned layout. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will give the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission four times the gallery space, rooms for classes and other events, more parking, as well as the opportunity to present major exhibits and house permanent collections.



IN FOCUS TODAY

LVAC begins major expansion



Mike Tanner/The Valdosta Daily Times

HONORING HER EFFORTS: A portrait of the late Annette Turner graces the lobby of First State Bank downtown, which has been purchased by the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission with the financial assistance of the Loyce & Annette Turner Foundation. The new arts center will be named 'The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.' Pictured, from left, are LVAC Chairman Patti Girardin, Sen. Loyce Turner, and the Turners' children Sally Querin, Susan Turner and Warren Turner.

New arts center named in memory of Annette Turner

Staff Reports

VALDOSTA — Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission announced plans Friday to purchase the downtown First State Bank office to serve as its new main headquarters.

"Although it's a very collaborative effort," said Sen. Loyce Turner, "we're happy to announce that the Loyce & Annette Turner Foundation and I are making a substantial contribution to the purchase price of the building, which will be named 'The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.'"

Annette Turner, who died in February, was a tremendous influence on South Georgia's cultural life. LVAC and her family — Sen. Turner, Sally Querin, Warren Turner and Susan Turner — feel the new arts center will be a fitting tribute to her memory, said Patti Girardin, LVAC chairman.

"Mother's line to the arts was never in the role of organizer," said Susan Turner, a practicing physician who now lives in New York City. "The arts were important to her because they are a means through which each individual can come to know

him or herself.

"I think that as far as she was concerned, everybody is their own little masterpiece, if they can just learn to see it," Susan Turner said. "Hopefully, the arts center will give more people a chance."

The arts center, which has long been one of the mainstays of enrichment in this area, plans to increase its already considerable outreach into all venues of artistic life, Girardin said.

"Most people remember Annette for her great sense of humor and down-to-earth approach to life," said Wilby

Coleman, LVAC vice chairman. "She also had a real appreciation of the arts and what they contribute to the community's well-being."

David Durland, president of First State Bank, expressed pleasure in announcing the sale of the 527 Patterson St. building.

"Because First State Bank has hosted the 'Spring Into Art' exhibit for 13 years, we are very excited to be able to participate in this project," Durland said. "And, of course, First State Bank will continue to have a presence in downtown Valdosta."



Council OKs arts center funding

By Bill Roberts
bill.roberts@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — City Council on Thursday approved funds to help the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission with cost overruns associated with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The center, scheduled for completion in March 2003, requires a new roof and 11 new air conditioning units, which increased renovation costs \$400,000 to \$1,465,000. Council unanimously approved \$250,000 to help with the added costs.

The money was available because the city saved \$500,000 of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax revenues to pay for engineering and design costs associated with a performing arts center the city hoped to place on the most recent SPLOST.

City Manager Larry Hanson told Council that the general wording of the SPLOST IV statute allowed the city to transfer the money to LVAC, providing an acceptable service contract could be signed.

The city will hold the remaining \$250,000 to use in the event that a performing arts center becomes financially feasible in the future.

"It is my opinion that if LVAC did not exist, then the city and/or county would be forced to provide similar services at full taxpayer expense. ... If we can find a legal way to make such a contribution, I support the project. It will have a very positive effect on our revitalization efforts downtown and will provide a much needed service to the community," Hanson wrote in a memorandum to Council.

City Attorney George Talley agreed the fund transfer would pass legal muster once a service contract was hammered out. He told Council that he would have a contract for their approval at the first meeting in January.

Hanson said LVAC's project, located at 1204 N. Patterson St. in the old First State Bank building, would not be inconsistent with the long-term goals of a performing arts center, because LVAC focuses primarily on the visual arts and small classroom type spaces for art instruction.

LVAC representatives told Council that they would also seek financial assistance from the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners. That aid will likely not come in a lump-sum disbursement, but in the form of increased annual assistance for building operations.

Bill Sineath, LVAC's capital campaign chairman, said the new building will cost the group \$75,000 more per year to operate than its

Please see COUNCIL, page 4A

City Attorney George

please call 244-3400, ext. 245.

Continued from Page 1A

Council

current facility. Sineath said he would approach county commissioners about the project in January.

Both the city and county contribute \$35,000 annually to LVAC to assist with funding

and operations.

Sineath said LVAC's capital campaign goal was \$5.6 million, which includes a \$3 million endowment to give the organization some financial insulation against the increased costs as-

sociated with expanding offerings in a new facility.

To contact reporter Bill Roberts, please call 244-3400, ext. 245.

During a weekend in which Americans focus on giving thanks for bountiful blessings, our community learned of a generous donation that will have lasting impact on greater Valdosta and its people.

The Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission will move its headquarters downtown and expand its community mission thanks in great part to the kindness of former state Sen. Loyce Turner and his children.

Turner, through the Loyce & Annette Turner Foundation, made an extraordinary donation toward the purchase of the downtown First State Bank building, which will become LVAC's new arts center.

The center will be named "The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts" in memory of Turner's wife, Annette, who died of cancer in February.

LVAC already serves as a focal point for the arts in Valdosta and Lowndes County. From children's art classes to traveling theater groups who visit the schools, LVAC exposes all community children to the wonder of artistic expression. Adults can enjoy a photography class, learn how to paint with watercolors or acrylics, even improve their writing skills. Young adults can take part in "open mike nights" for poets and musicians. The entire family can attend the "Presenter Series" or the numerous art exhibits.

At some point in the year, LVAC offers something for just about everyone in our community. But the size of their current location, LVAC members agree, has limited their reach. That won't be the case when LVAC moves into its new home and further amplifies its scope.

More funds must be raised for the long-term project to be completed, but the Turner gift truly is a tremendous blessing that provides a secure foundation on which to build.

Thank you, Sen. Turner. We know Annette would be pleased.

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INFOCUS TODAY

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Mike Tanner/The Valdosta Daily Times

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THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Valdosta, Ga.

Tuesday, February 20, 2001

50 Cents

Governor promises art center funds

Appropriations committee must review plan

By Dean Poling
dean.poling@gaftnews.com

VALDOSTA — Gov. Roy Barnes earmarked \$500,000 in state funds Sunday night for a planned Lowndes/Valdosta arts center.

State Sen. Tim Golden, D-Valdosta, said Monday that the governor's plan must still go before the Senate Appropriations Committee for review, with final approval for the money expected within a week or two.

With Golden saying the funds will likely be approved by the Appropriations Committee, the state's \$500,000 will bring funds to \$1 million raised for the planned Annette Howell Turner Center, which would house the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission in the current North Patterson Street

headquarters of First State Bank & Trust.

Former State Sen. Loyce Turner and his family donated \$500,000 to the project late last year in memory of his wife, Annette Turner, who died in early 2000.

"This is a great tribute to Annette as well as to the arts and culture of South Georgia," Golden said. "It's a crying shame that we don't have more projects like this one in our area."

The arts center is expected to need approximately \$5.2 million, which in-

cludes the cost of purchasing and renovating the First State property and an endowment that would fund future upkeep and operations of the center. The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission would move from its current 1204 N. Patterson St. residence to the new center several months from now, when First State moves to its new headquarters on the corner of Perimeter and Bemiss roads, which is currently in development and construction.

As for the governor's announcement, it came Sunday night during the

annual regional Bird Supper in Atlanta. Originally, there was speculation that Barnes might allot \$2 million in state funds for the arts center, but LVAC's staff is not complaining. They knew last week that there was good news when they were invited to attend the supper.

"It was very good news, because we need the money now," said Roberta George, LVAC executive director.

To contact Features Editor Dean Poling, call 244-3400, ext. 250.



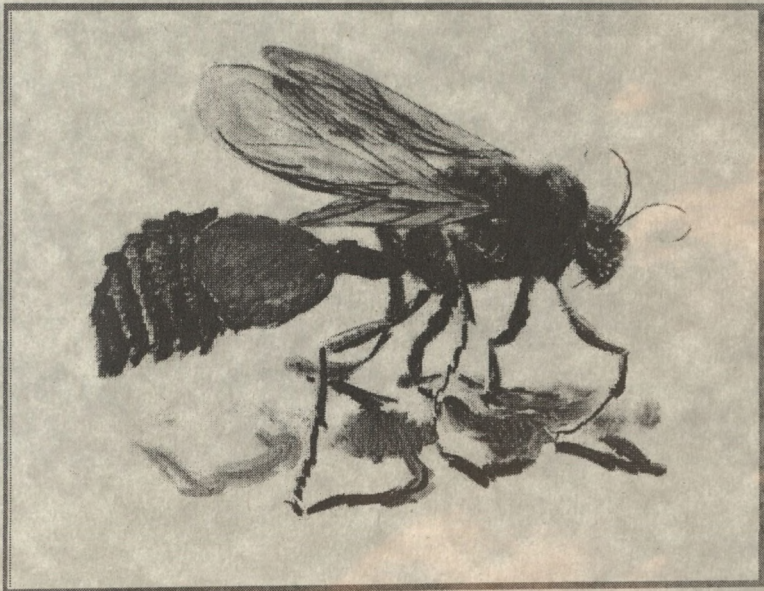
MARSHALL NORRIS

January 22 - February 28





**YOUTH ART MONTH
STUDENT ART EXHIBITION**



"Multillidae" by Katharine A. Owens

**March 10- April 30, 2002
Opening Reception: March 10, 2002
1- 3 p.m., Sunday, in Main Gallery**

Lowndes/Valdosta Cultural Arts Center
1204 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31602

"Southern Style"

a National Juried Exhibition



Southern Artists' League

Main Gallery Art Exhibit

October 21-November 30, 2002

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission

1204 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
(229) 247-2787



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FOR THE ARTS

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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1-800-255-0135 (Voice)



Cultural Arts Center Calendar of Events

Main Gallery: "Youth Art Month" Exhibition

Reception: 1-3 p.m., Sunday, March 10, 2002

Curated by Instructors **Debbie Davis** and **Shelby Recesso**

Featuring Elementary and Middle Schools:

Clyattville Elementary Hahira Elementary, J. L. Newbern Middle School
Lake Park Elementary Lowndes Middle School, Moulton Branch Elementary
Southeast Elementary Valdosta Junoir High School W. G. Nunn Elementary

Hall Gallery: Katharine A. Owens

A collection of monotypes and etchings made from 1999-2001. Since 1995, Owens has used insects as her primary subject matter in drawing, painting, and printmaking because she finds them physically and behaviorally fascinating — and overlooked.

March 19 *Presenter Series* presents *The Platters* —Monday at 8 p.m.
Call now for tickets: 247-2787.

April 8 The 15th Annual Spring Into Art Champagne & Candlelight Exhibit

For more information, please call 229-247-2787.

Monday, January 28, 2002



'Four', mixed media paper, artist Lisa Lindsey Kent.

Mightier than the pen?

LYAC hosts exhibit where paper is the art

By Dean Poling

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA

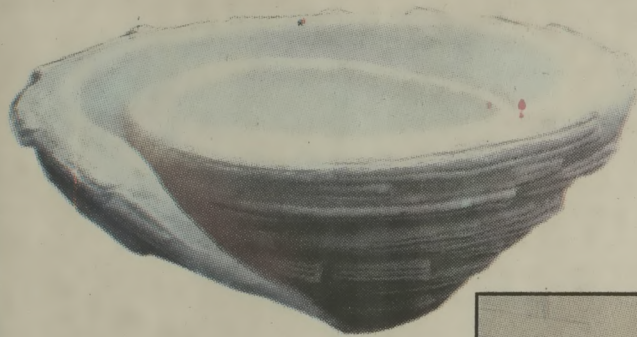
Paper. You're holding it in your hands. A minimal measure of art went into designing this page, placing the stories and photos in a hopefully pleasing style to make the stories easy to read, the art and photos attractive to the eye. Many artists use paper as canvas for their art, use reams of it for sketches and doodling compositions and ideas.

But the paper itself — the fabric, the texture, the weave of transformed wood — can be art as well. Consider, what will you do with this newspaper when you are finished with it? Toss it in a stack, shove it in the trash can, place it in a recycling bin, wrap fish with it, line a bird cage? Not to worry, newspaper employees have no illusions about what happens to the paper after it's been read, but paper as art ... now, that's enough to bring an ink tear to an old newspaper hand's eye.

Which brings us to tonight's public reception of artists Lisa Kent and Georgia Roswell's paper-based exhibit opening at Lown-des/Valdosta Arts Center (*see*



Untitled, papier mache, artist Georgia Roswell.



'Turbo', papier mache, artist Georgia Roswell.



'Artifact/Journal', handmade paper, artist Lisa Lindsey Kent.

GALLERY

The paper works of artists Lisa Kent & Georgia Roswell, are exhibited in the Main Gallery, Jerry Tillman's East African art is in the Hall Gallery, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St.

Both exhibits open today, with a 5-7 p.m. public reception, and run through March 1.

Admission: Free.

LVAC hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday;

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday;
2-4 p.m. Sunday.

More info: 247-2787.



Contributed photo

EAST AFRICAN ART: A glimpse of Jerry Tillman's collection of East African art. Tillman has donated portions of his collection to Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission. Pieces will be on display in LVAC's Hall Gallery.

"Gallery" box on this page for details). Kent and Roswell don't necessarily use newspapers to create their works, but they do explore the possibilities of paper as form, composition and art.

A glance at Kent's "Four," with its bold use of color, texture and design, breathes muscled life from paper. Her "Artifact/Journal" is handmade paper, weaving intricacies of texture and form.

Roswell builds fantastic, three-dimensional works from the once one-dimensional flatness of paper. The round, fat curves of a jug bloat from the wide open plains of paper. "Turbo" turns paper into a jagged, swirling hurricane of turgid, rippling pages.

While paper is their common medium, their styles and techniques are vastly different.

Kent, a Tifton artist holding a degree in fabric design from the University of Georgia, often adds other elements to her paper designs; while in other works, she presents her handmade paper without the use of additional mediums. From preview slides of her work, Kent's art is an array of bold and subtle colors, intricate and simple designs and rhythms, and expression of paper as illusory dimension.

Roswell, a Sparks artist, however, literally turns paper into form with the papier-mache creations presented in her series of slides. Roswell's work pushes paper into the realms of true dimension, with mountainous ridges, deeply carved valleys, cresting waves, snaking tresses, meaty substance.

In this exhibit, paper promises to be as mighty as the pen.

In honor of February's designation as Black History Month, LVAC presents an exhibition of East African art, from the private collection of Jerry Tillman, Lake Park.

Tillman recently donated a portion of his collection to LVAC. The Hall Gallery exhibition of East African art will be on permanent display when LVAC moves to its new home, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, which will be located in First State Bank's current Downtown location.

Tillman collected his East African works during a lifetime of travel.



Metal menagerie

Artist overcomes
odds to sculpt in
sheet metal

'REX': Marshall Norris, recycled sheet metal. 'Rex' is 20-foot long, 10-foot high and 10-foot wide.

By Dean Poling

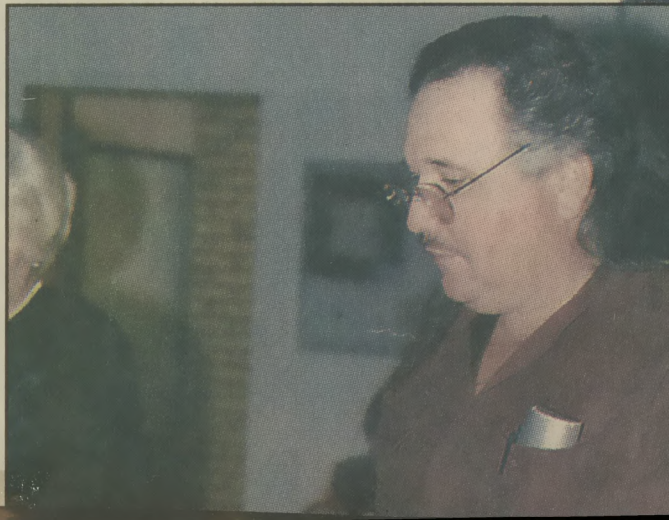
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA

A sense of history runs through Marshall Norris' sculpted metal dinosaur bones.

Upon hearing how he works and some of his life's experiences, the long metal spine seems to stretch back to the ambulance wreck that left him disabled, the hours toiling to teach himself painting and drawing, the boyhood days of fixing broken-down farm equipment. And somewhere along that spine — the chronology of Norris' life — there is the moment when Norris realized he could combine his love for art with his ability to work with metals.

"I started working with metals as art back in the '80s," says Norris, who lives in Greenville, Fla., and will display his art this week, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (see "Gallery" box on this page for more details). "Most art shows have categories for painting and sculpture, and I realized if I did both, I had a chance to win more awards and sell more pieces. I started making sculptures from metal and enjoyed doing it. It was really just a natural progression for me."



As long as he can remember, Norris says, he has been working with metal.

"I was always building stuff out of it," he says. "I built go-carts when I was a kid. Later on, I built race cars. I grew up on a farm. We were just poor dirt farmers, and if something broke, my daddy didn't really know what to do with it, but I did. When something would break, I'd fix it. I just seemed to have a God-given talent for it. Same with my drawing and painting. I didn't have no training. I could just do it. It was just a God-given talent."

GETTING THEIR ATTENTION

Norris and his wife, Barbara, live on the Greenville, Fla., farm where he grew up. They often visit Valdosta, where they buy their gas, food, clothes and do their other shopping.

His artwork is well known in South Georgia. A few years ago, one of his metal-crafted dinosaurs — 30 feet of hammered metal dinosaur bones — was displayed at LVAC, then exhibited for several months at the Lowndes County Historical Society's museum, Central Avenue.

"Children love his work," says Elaine Kent, an LVAC representative. "They love looking at his metal sculptures, and they love listening to Marshall talk about how he works."

Norris shapes the dinosaurs, trains, butterflies, flowers by working with heated, flat pieces of sheet metal. He often incorporates other pieces of equipment, such as car or tractor parts, into his finished work.

"I try to get people's attention who aren't normally interested in art," Norris says. "A lot of times an old farmer will walk by, and he has no real interest in art, but an old farmer will walk by and see one of my pieces and realize that's a drive cylinder sticking out of that. It gets people involved that normally would walk on by.

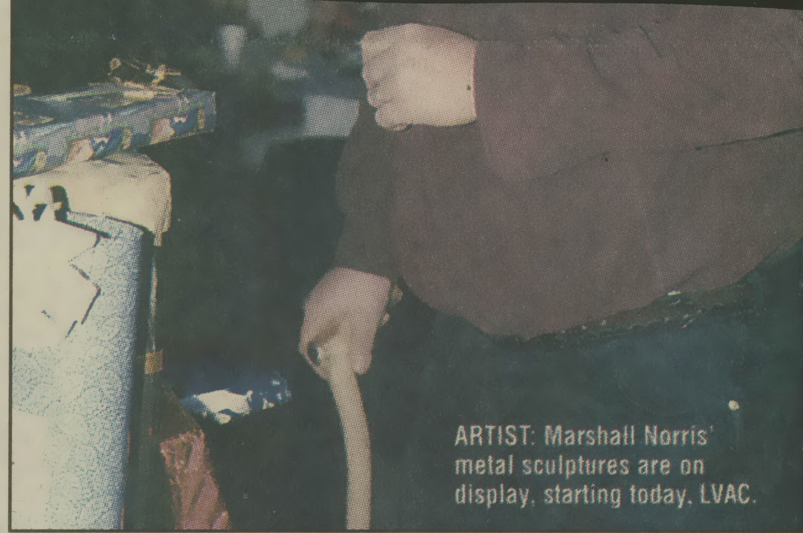
"And they will stop and look at it, and usually they look at the drawings and paintings too, or start talking about how they used to draw when they were little. We've seen several people start drawing and painting again because of it. They had just stopped paying attention to art at some point, and now they're back doing it and appreciating it."

Few, however, take on Norris' specialty, creating art from forged steel, because it is not easy, especially for a man who was injured in a horrible wreck four years ago.

FINDING ART IN THE WRECKAGE

Norris worked on an ambulance for 26 years. One night, he and his partner picked up a person who had suffered a heart attack. They were taking the patient to the hospital.

"Another car pulled out in front of us," Norris says. The ambulance and the car collided. "When they found us, we were all laid out," Norris



ARTIST: Marshall Norris' metal sculptures are on display, starting today, LVAC.

says. "They thought we were all dead, and the patient did die. I was unable to drive for a year and a half."

Norris is still unable to work. He would have reached his 30 years for retirement this year. When he was hospitalized with his injuries, his doctors and physical therapists told him he would never be able to withstand the physical rigors of his sheet-metal art again. He would have to give it up.

"There is a lot of heavy lifting and banging and hammering with what I do," Norris says. "They said it would be impossible for me to do any of that."

But Norris found a way. He built machines, one that he could use to bend and shape the metal, where once he did it by physical brawn. He built a more powerful forge to heat the metal at higher degrees so the metal became softer and required less hammering to mold it into the shapes he wanted.

"Even with the machines I built, there's still a lot of physical activity involved," he says. "I'm still in no shape to go back to work, but it has helped in my physical therapy. Sometimes, I'll wake up at two in the morning. I often can't sleep at night from years of working nights on the ambulance. I'll wake up in a lot of pain and go outside and tinker and I'll feel better after a while.

"That's mostly what I do now is tinker. Tinker around with stuff."

ery walls

LVAC, VSU host high school art exhibit

By Dean Poling

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VALDOSTA

One of the greatest things about the annual Invitational Regional High School Art Exhibition is it gets better every year. Quite an accomplishment, since it's been a smart series of shows — featuring some of the top works from some of the best teen artists from South Georgia and North Florida — since it started a few years ago.

Viewing dozens of the works displayed on the walls of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (see “Gallery” box on this page for more details), the current exhibit features some stunning works created in diverse medium. Several pieces portray intriguing ideas presented with solid composition and well-defined skills shaping abundant young talents.

Part of the reason for the high school exhibit's continuing artistic growth is that it is literally growing. Last year, students from approximately 10 regional high schools participated; this year, 15 schools are involved in the exhibit, says Karin Murray, Valdosta State University gallery director. Sponsored by VSU art department and LVAC, the Invitational Regional High School Art Exhibition draws its strength from the participation of high school art classes and artistic-minded students attending schools without formal art instruction.

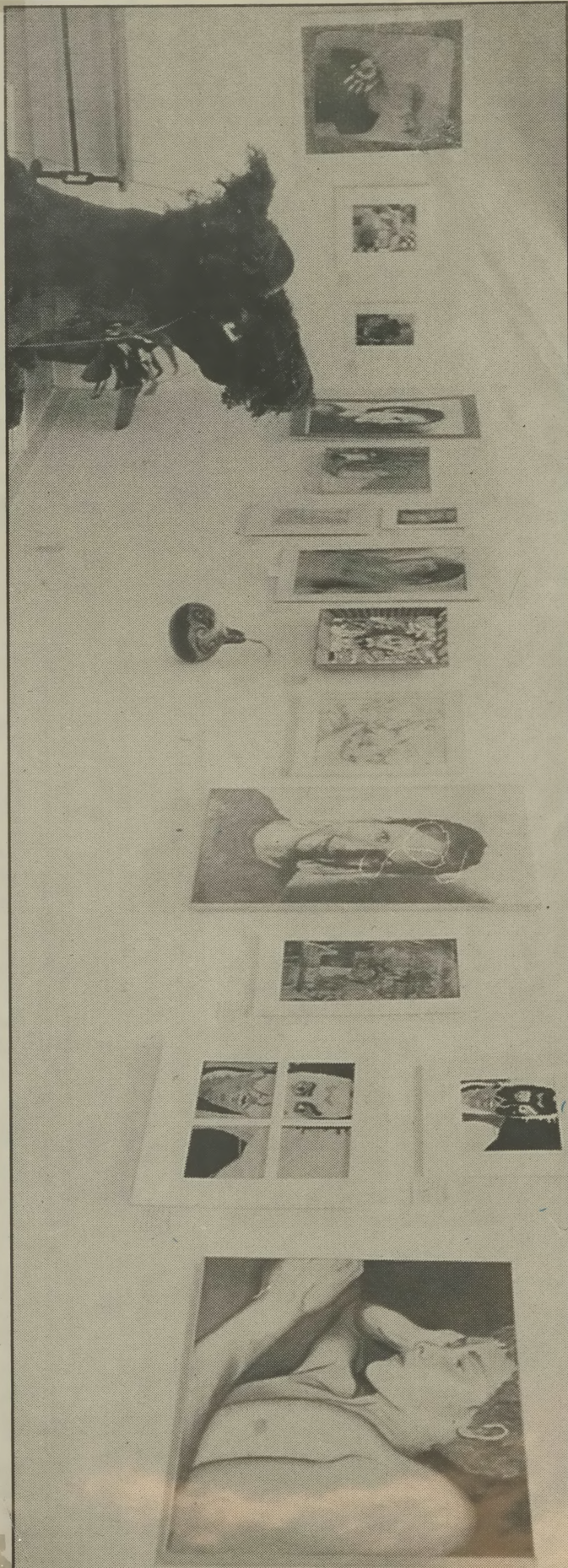
“We start by sending letters to high school art teachers and administrators inviting their participation,” she says. “We ask each school to select three or four works from five of their art students.”

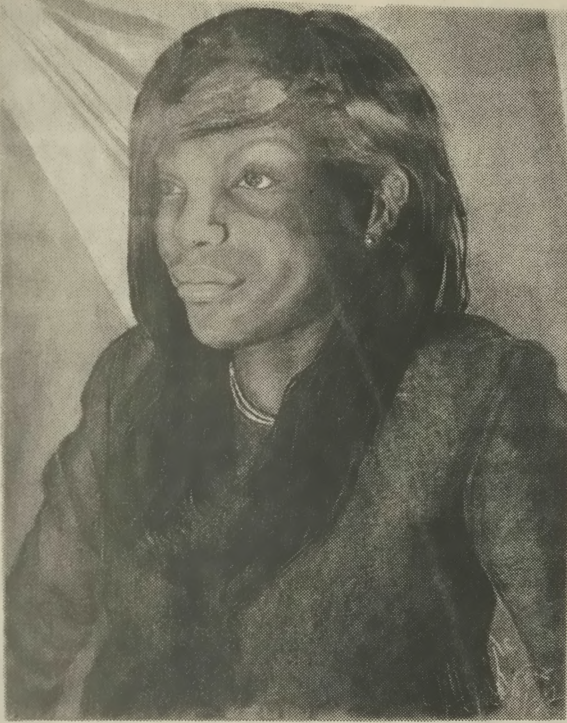
Once the art is submitted, the works serve a dual educational role: the high school students experience the thrill of participating in a juried, gallery exhibit, while VSU art-education students take part in judging the works, preparing the exhibit and handling the mechanics of the show. Also, the exhibit concludes with an art conference for high school art instructors and students at VSU; the conference features numerous seminars on various art techniques and ideas.

As for the exhibit, it is open to the public for the next several weeks.

“It is not only a chance for the students to exhibit their work, many for the first time,” Murray says, “but it is an opportunity for the community to see the quality of art work in our area high schools.”

GLIMPSE: A brief look at some of the entries in the Invitational Regional High School Art Exhibition, which features students from 15 regional high schools. The exhibit is on display at Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center.

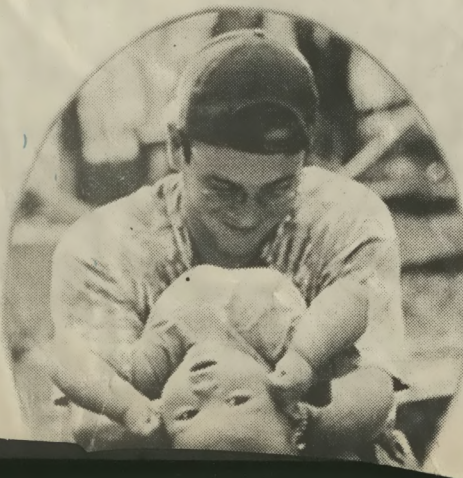




TWO DIMENSIONAL FIRST PLACE: 'ME',
artist Mashayla Malone, senior, Ware County High
School. Instructor: Ann Douglas.



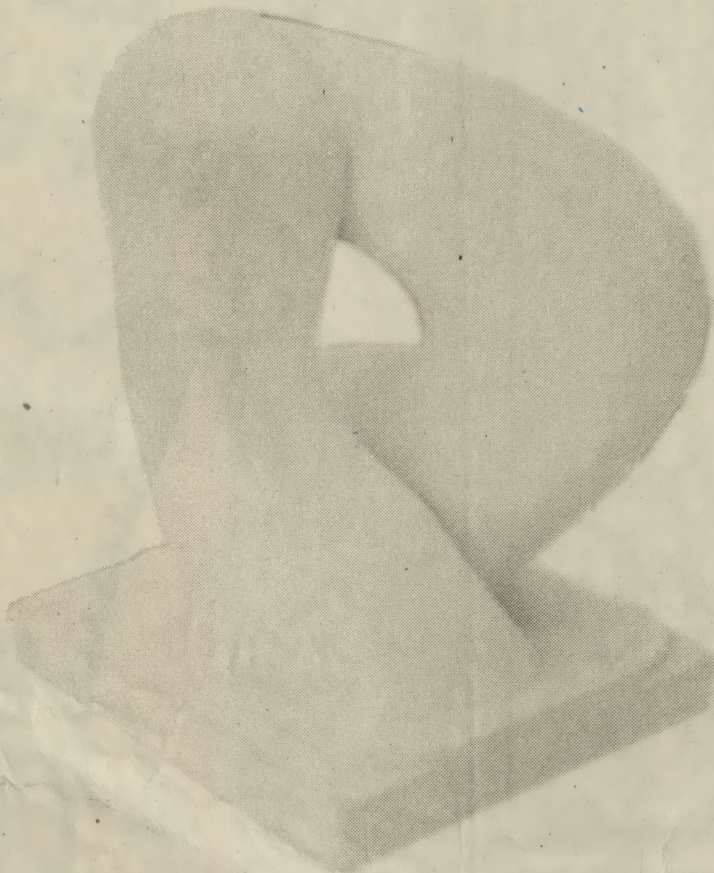
TWO DIMENSIONAL SECOND PLACE: 'Compact',
artist Kristi Fletcher, senior, Lanier County High
School. Instructor: Deborah Raines.



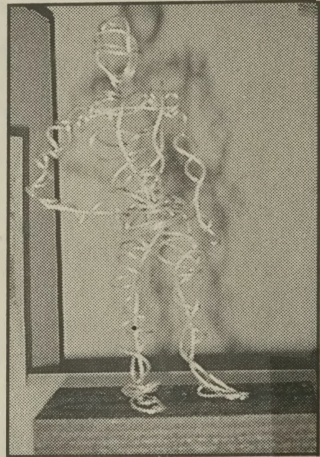
2-D THIRD



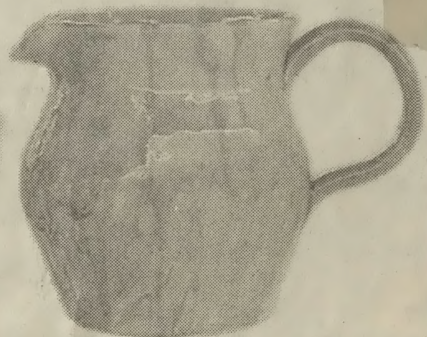
BEST IN SHOW: 'Siblings', artist Pamela Harrell, senior, Brooks County High School. Instructor: S. Powell.



THREE DIMENSIONAL FIRST PLACE: 'Chowder', artist Jay Flanagan, senior, Suwannee High School. Instructor: Janis Brothers.



THREE DIMENSIONAL SECOND PLACE: Untitled, artist MaShayla Malone, senior, Ware County High School. Instructor: Ann Douglas.



THREE DIMENSIONAL THIRD PLACE: Untitled, artist Berry Ivey, Lanier High School. Instructor: Deborah Raines.

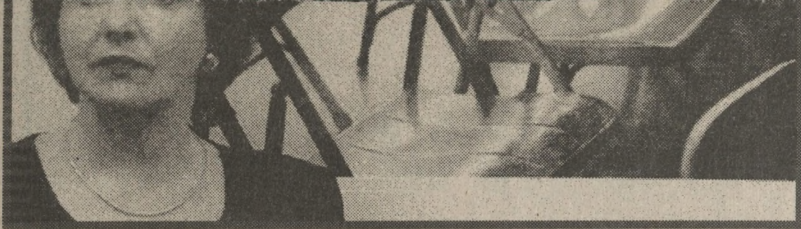
Wednesday, February 6, 2002



'Silver Linings', colored pencils, artists Jeffrey Smart Baisden.

Sharpened Vision





Contributed photo

JEFFREY SMART BAISDEN in front of her colored pencil work, 'Adjourned'.

The colored pencil art of Jeffrey Smart Baisden

By Dean Poling

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VALDOSTA

Colored pencils give an artist great control over a work. Unlike water color, the pencil colors do not threaten to bleed across a page. Unlike acrylics, they will not dry too fast on the canvas. Unlike oils, colored pencils cannot accidentally turn to mud with a mistaken twist of the brush.

But colored pencils, in the hand of an artist like Jeffrey Smart Baisden, require a wealth of patience and a willingness to dedicate long hours to execute a finished work.

Certainly, the time her work requires could be reduced, if Baisden set her eye on simplistic compositions of stark forms viewed in simple lighting. Baisden, however, does not settle for any of these choices. Her designs are complex, the subject's forms varied and intricate, the lighting subtle and dancing.

In "Silver Linings," she presents a tangle of silver serving spoons complete with each handle's design and the reflections visible in the metal. In "Public Housing," she returns to the silverware drawer to present the dozens of forks and spoons jumbled and stacked in their partitioned slots. In "Adjourned," Baisden, a Live Oak, Fla. artist, displays the play of light on metal and the random notes of folding chairs left behind. In "Passages," she studies the rainbow folds of a pile of patterned scarves and bows.

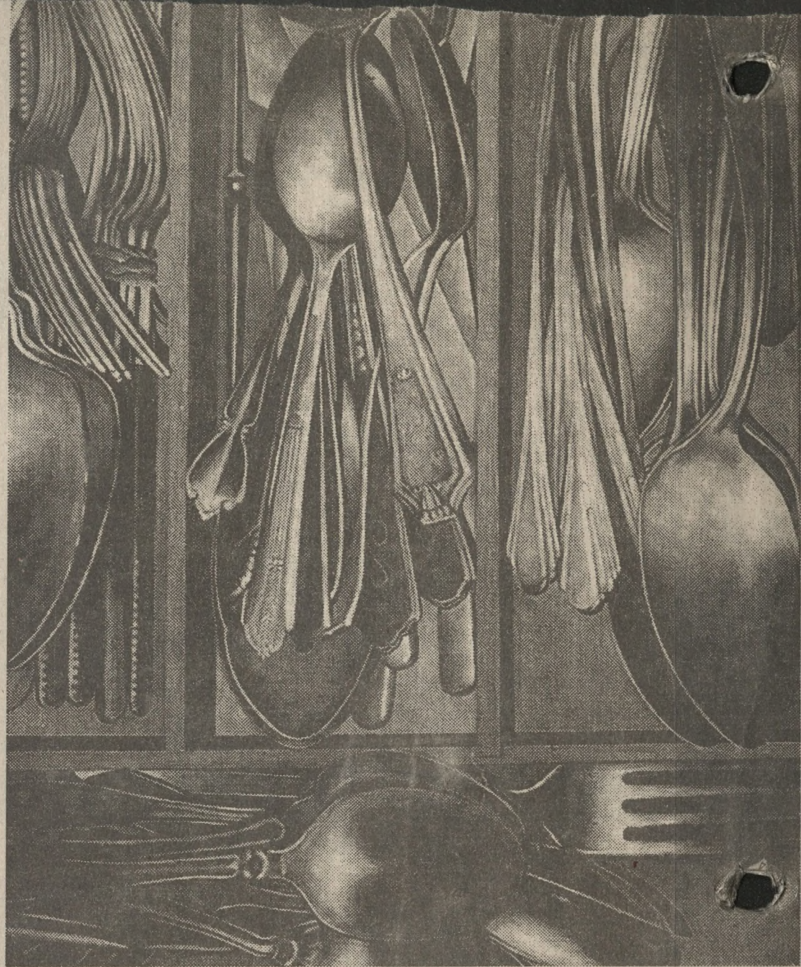
"The Girl Friend Dance" is an incredible array of women's shoes, as if suddenly caught in a seminar on the floor of a closet.

"The arrangement of shoes represents, for me, the relationships women have with each other in social situations; the dominance of personalities, the importance of style and confidence in society's power plays," Baisden says in an artistic statement. "The composition sets a stage for this narrative to unfold."

All of these works are presented in pain-staking detail, each one produced from the sharpened nubs of colored pencils.

Baisden is February's Southern Artists League's Artist Of The Month. Her work is on display in the lobby of The Valdosta Daily Times' 201 N. Troup St. offices. To many local art lovers, Baisden's work is already familiar. She has regularly been featured in the local Colson's art calendars. A regular contributor since 1996 to Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission's annual Spring Into Art show at First State Bank, she has won numerous awards, and she has taught colored-pencil workshops at LVAC's 1204 N. Patterson St. location.

Yet her work has also captured recognition in other regions. A signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America and the founding president of the CPSA's Florida chapter, Baisden received awards of excellence in 1996 and 2001 in the CPSA's International Exhibitions. She has also exhibited work in Gallery 84 National Exhibition, New York, Mobile Museum Of Art and in the New Orleans Art Association National Exhibit. Her colored-pencil drawing, "The Uninvited," was featured on the cover of Art Calendar magazine in February 1999 and her work is included in the books "The Best Of Colored Pencils 2, 3 and 4," by Rockport Publishers.



'Public Housing', colored pencils, artist Jeffrey Smart Baisden.



'Passages' (detail), colored pencils, artist Jeffrey Smart Baisden.

Albany Artists

Carol Hall Gum

Janice Ritz Rentz

Doug Wolfe

Diane Johnson

Barbara DeLung

Bill DeLung

Main Gallery Art Exhibit

July 2001

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission

1204 North Patterson Street

Valdosta, Georgia 31601

(229) 247-2787



"Florida's Lighthouses"

By
Jean Marani

Hall Gallery Art Exhibit
July/August 2001

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission

1204 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, Georgia 31601
(229) 247-27

