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Artist's work takes a bug's-eye view

By Dean Poling

poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — There are often mentions of “bird’s eye views,” but a ground-level insect view is rare. However, that is what artist Katherine Owens does. With multiple degrees in art, biology and anthropology, Owens brings a scientific study to her monotypes and etchings of grasshoppers, Dermestid larvae, Crane flies, bees, wasps and other bugs. The works are detailed while retaining a loose artistic style — more like the grace of watercolor than the usual hard lines of etchings. Her Lowndes/Valdosta Art Center exhibit, opening this weekend, is entomology as art.

“I began collecting insects as an undergraduate in studio art at the College of Charleston (S.C.),” Owens says in an artistic statement. “Since 1995, they have been my primary subject matter in drawing, painting and printmaking. I find insects physically and behaviorally fascinating. I find it ironic that they are common among living things yet may be ignored or overlooked in everyday life.”

Owens work opens with a 1-3 p.m. Sunday public reception, Hall Gallery, LVAC, 1204 N. Patterson St. Her show opens with “Piecing It Together: Youth Art Month Student Art Exhibition,” in LVAC’s Main Gallery. More info: 247-2787. Look for future editions of *The Valdosta Daily Times’ Living section* for more on “Piecing It Together.”

Sunday, September 9, 2001

Local sculptor gets antsy with his art

VALDOSTA — Local artist Wilby Coleman recently created a commissioned metal sculpture of a giant ant for this past weekend’s Fire Ant Festival, Ashburn.

As a sculptor, Coleman often uses discarded metal items to create his powerful, and whimsical, designs. His fire ant is no different. Portions of the segmented body were made from old propane tanks welded together and connected to long metal stems bent into legs; the eyes are ladles; the mandibles are an old pair of ice tongs, etc.

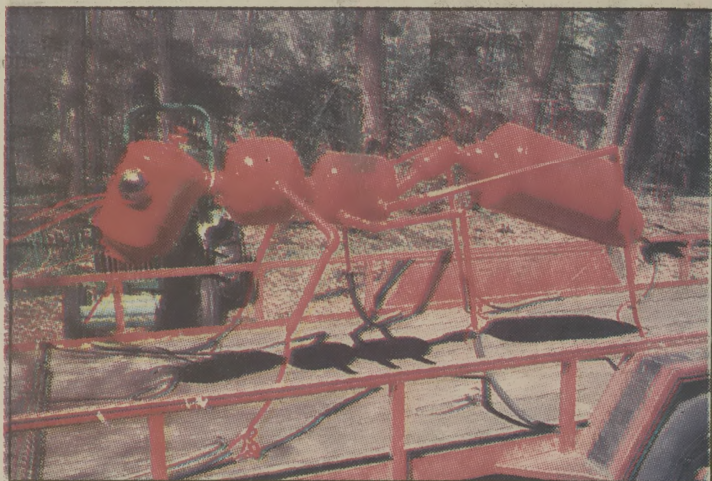
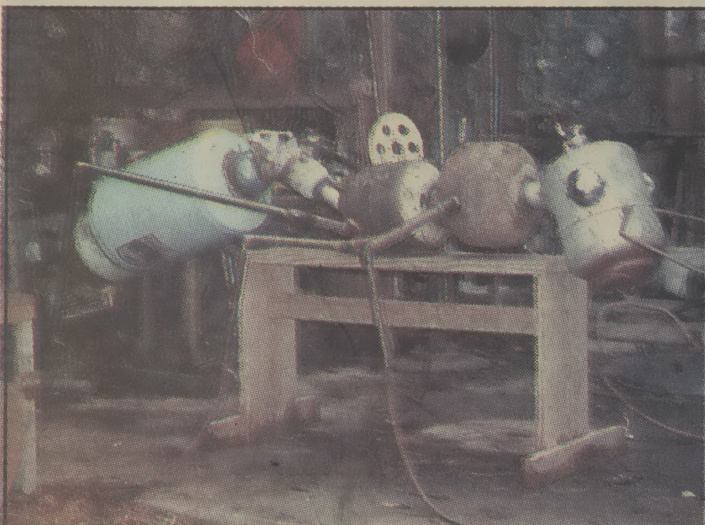
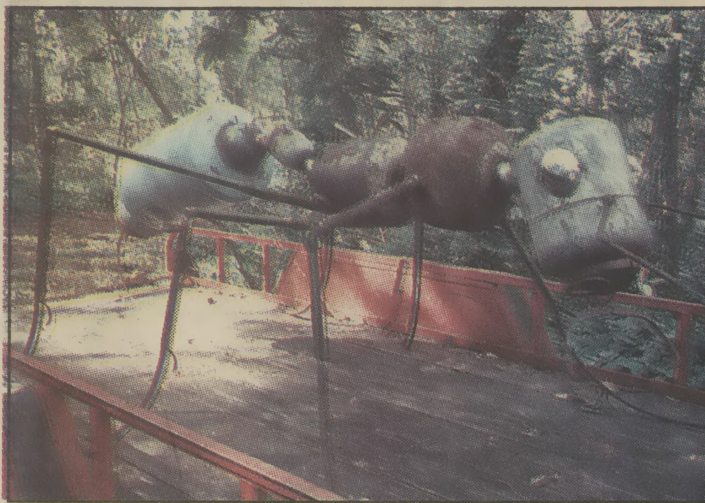
When the initial construction was finished, the ant looked like a rusty, giant robot; Coleman almost hated to paint it fire-engine red, because he liked its unvarnished character.

Yet, once it was painted red, trimmed with black antennae and stinger, Coleman was also pleased, though its character changed dramatically.

Wilby Coleman’s “Fire Ant” was unveiled this past weekend and will remain on display in Ashburn.

— Dean Poling/*The Valdosta Daily Times*

BUILDING A BETTER ANT



Contributed photos

From various junked pieces, Valdosta sculptor Wilby Coleman created this gigantic fire ant design for the Fire Ant Festival, Ashburn. Once the pieces were welded together, the ant was completed with several coats of fire-engine red paint.

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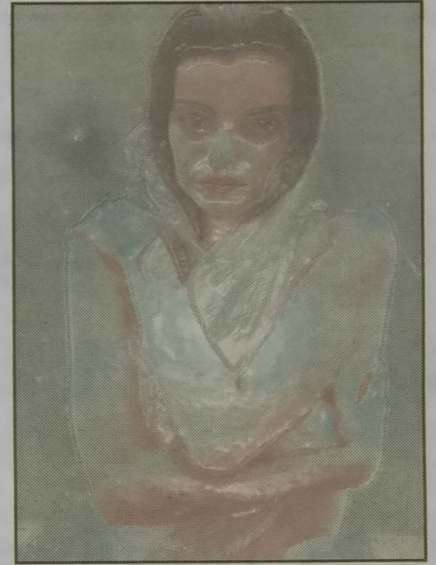
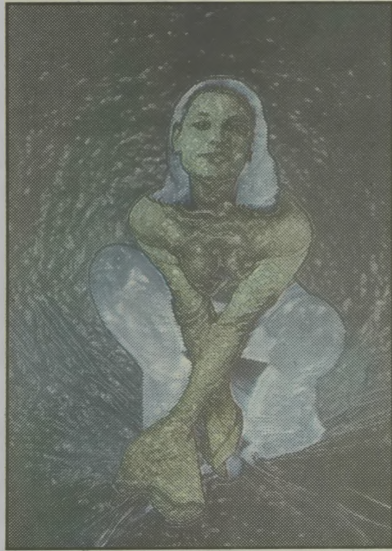
Lake Park, Georgia 31636

Excellent Facilities

Impeccable Amenities

old. She credits her mother, Kay Poindexter, a successful professional artist, as the most significant influence on her career. Since 1994, she has specialized in a watercolor medium and practices her skills on a daily basis. She is presently pursuing an ongoing series that expresses the character of people through the texture and expressions of their faces. Winner of numerous awards and prizes: Best In Show in the Live Oak Artfest Exhibition, Best in Show in the Thomasville Summer Showcase, and Best in Show at Gadsden Arts, Suzanna also has been featured in national publications: Watercolor Magic, The Best of Watercolor, and The Artist's Magazine.

Also in the Hall Gallery will be outstanding computer enhanced photography, fine examples of what Japanese artist, Yung Mann, can do with old and new technology.



Yung Mann

I-75 Exit 5

Lake Park, Georgia 31636

Excellent Facilities

Impeccable Amenities

... watercolor, and The Artist's Magazine.

Also in the Hall Gallery will be outstanding computer enhanced photography, fine examples of what Japanese artist, Yung Mann, can do with old and new technology.

“Glimpses”

of
Yung Mann

Hall Gallery Art Exhibit
September 10 - October 31, 2001

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission
1204 North Patterson Street
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(229) 247-2787



LIVING

INSIDE: WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS,
COMMENTARY, MORE!!!

Growing With Our Community

The Valdosta Daily Tim

day, September 9, 2001



'When Feathers Fly', artist Suzanna Winton.



'Ms. Fanny, Please', artist Suzanna Winton.

Faces in Water

Artist brings
watercolors





'Life On My Mind', artist Suzanna Winton.

WHITNEY GASTON
 sented at the Dallas Symphony
 Orchestra League's Fourteenth
 Presentation Ball in Dallas,
 Texas. She is an assistant man-
 ager with Parisian in Birming-
 ham.
 The future groom is the
 grandson of Mr. and Mrs.
 Charles London of Gardendale,
 Ala., and Mr. and Mrs. John
 Kerr of Russellville, Ky.
 He is a graduate of Auburn
 University with a bachelor of
 arts in mass communications.
 He is employed by ESPN Re-

to vivid life

By Dean Poling
 dean.poling@gafnews.com

Watercolor is a notoriously unforgiv-
 ing artistic medium. Ask any
 artist who has ever dabbled in wa-
 tercolors: One mistake, one slip of the
 brush, and the colors can bleed across wet
 paper and destroy an entire day's work.

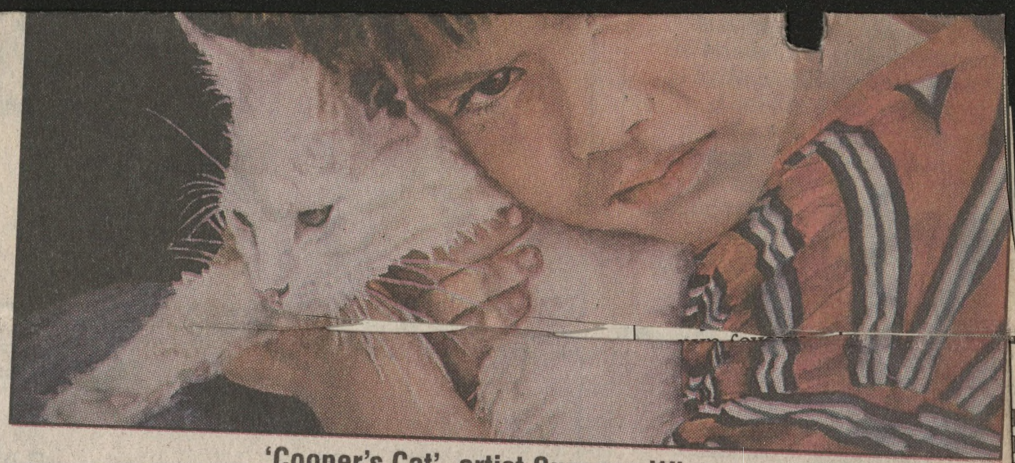
Given this reputation, watercolors are
 often used in dreamy works, hazy pieces,
 with touches of realism, but something
 ordering on impressionism. Watercolor is
 rarely the realm of highly detailed art-
 work; few artists master watercolors to
 such precision.

Suzanna Reese Winton is one of those
 rare artists who has mastered watercolors,
 making them do amazing things, bringing
 detailed portraits to near photo-perfect life.
 A Tallahassee, Fla., artist with a shop in
 Thomasville, Winton opens a nearly two-
 month watercolor exhibit Monday at the
 Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (see
 "Gallery" box on this page for more details).

A sampling of Winton's slides is breath-
 taking. The collection of faces in her work
 diverse. Detailed wrinkles in her work tit-
 led "Ms. Fanny, Please." The folds of pat-
 terned clothing ("Load On My Mind"). The
 almost 3-D beads of the dancing Indian girl
 in "When Feathers Fly." The sisterly hands
 of "2 Shy." All done by essentially making
 water go where Winton wants it to go on a
 piece of paper.

Almost as amazing as the work itself is
 the fact that Winton didn't seriously start
 working with watercolors until 1994.

She credits her mother, Kay Cromartie,
 for her artistic talents at an



'Cooper's Cat', artist Suzanna Winton.





Cultural Arts Center

Calendar of Events
Sept./Oct.

Center Hours

10 am - 6 pm Mon - Fri.
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1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Sun..



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September 10, 2001, Receptions 5 - 7 pm

The Watercolor Portraits of Suzanna Reese Winton

Main Gallery

The watercolor portraits of Tallahassee artist Suzanna Reese Winton capture the personality and "human" history of her carefully chosen subjects. This collection of work is part of an award winning series in which Winton attempts to convey the character of people through texture and expression.

Yung Mann

Hall Gallery

Computer enhanced photography of this Japanese artist Yung Mann is explosive in its use of color and the human form. Dynamic poses, vibrant texture, and the combination of old and new technology lift this exhibit out of the ordinary.

Open-Mic Night: Bring your poetry, short stories, essays, music, comedy routine, whatever for a lively evening of the arts. Free & open to the public. Refreshments served.

Presenters' Series: Buy your season tickets now!

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Sunshine Boys - Neil Simon Monday, January 14, 2002
Funny Girl Monday, February 18, 2002
The Platters Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Adult's & Children's Art Classes, Writing, and Yoga Classes, starting in September and October. **For more information, call 247-2787.**

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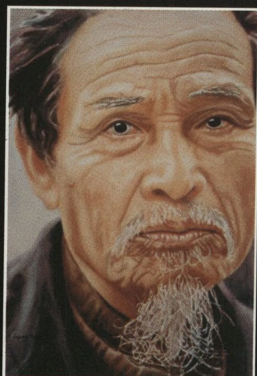
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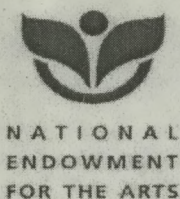
September 10 - October 31



SUZANNA REESE WINTON



*conveying character of people through
texture and expression*



Georgia
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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

LOWNDES VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION - P.O. BOX 1966 - VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603-1966 - 229-247-ARTS (2787)

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission 2002-2003 Activities

- *L/VAC was named the Grassroots Agency, appointed by the Georgia Council for the Arts for twelve years, dispersing over \$10,000 a year to fifteen arts groups in the six county area: Brooks, Clinch, Echols, Cook, Lanier, and Lowndes.
- *In the fall of 2002, L/VAC brought in 10 in-school productions of the *Taming of the Shrew* (Nov. 4, 7pm), *Macbeth* (Nov. 6, 9am & 11am), *Trail of Tears* (full), and *The Ugly Duckling* (Nov 21, 9am & 10:30 am) performed by the GMT Productions (with study guides), serving over 15,000 children. *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *One Thousand Cranes*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *The Emperor's New Clothes* are planned for spring and fall of 2003.
- *Held art classes (oil, watercolor, acrylics, drawing, dancing, photography, and calligraphy for children and adults
- *Held writing workshops every Saturday, 2-4 pm, for adults and teens, no charge
- *Hosted the annual Youth Arts Month Exhibit for elementary & middle schools, 10 counties.
- *Hosted, with VSU, the High-Schools Art Exhibit (42 counties) in the gallery, \$250 in prizes
- *Displayed national, international, and local artists' exhibits in the galleries, 27 exhibits a year.
- *Presented five national touring groups for L/VAC's Presenters Series, and the VSU Mass Choir
- *Organized pre-concert dinners for the Presenter Series
- *Published **Valdosta Voice**, a monthly cultural newspaper
- *Hosted special receptions and tours for schools
- *Supported the Theatre Valdosta Guild, the Valdosta Choral Guild, Withlacoochee Quilters Guild, the Valdosta Cultural Arts Guild, Snake Nation Press, the Southern Artists League
- *Gave scholarships for art and writing classes to underprivileged and people with disabilities
- *Arranged for art classes (furnishing rooms, supplies, and teachers) for LODAC (Lowndes Drug Action Council) for Hudson Dockett, Ora Lee West, Southside Recreation, and the Valdosta/Lowndes Parks and Recreation after-school program.
- *Held yoga classes, every Wed. 6-7:30 pm, free and open to the public
- *Hosted the Southern Artists League's Colson Calendar Competition
- *Hosted the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild Show
- *Hosted the Spring Into Art Show with 200 area artists participating, \$2,500 in prizes.
- *Hosted Artist's Sundays using live models. All free and open to the public.
- *The Center sold Snake Nation Press publications and provided space for all Press activities.
- *Furnished in-house computers for writers
- *Hosted the Open-Mic nights every 4th Saturday, 7pm, free and open to the public.
- *Gave \$1,000 in scholarships to Lowndes High School and Valdosta High School art majors
- *Supplied meeting rooms at no cost for VSU reunions, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Small Business League of the University of Georgia, Azalea City Women's Club, Toastmasters International of Valdosta, 100 Black Women's Coalition, Southern Artists League, Tree Commission, Civic Roundtable, 100 Black Men of Valdosta, Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce, Streetscape Project, Valdosta Chapter of Certified Public Accountants, Lowndes Commission for Children and Youth, Moody Officers Wives' Club, The Haven, Leadership Lowndes, Southeast Training Academy, Helping Others Manage Efficiently, Inc., Retired Educators Association, Valwood School Board, VSU Reading Series, and others.

Monday, June 3, 2002

'Ecstasy I,'
artist Barbara
St. Denis.





of South Carolina artists

By Dean Poling

dean.poling@gafnews.com

Singer James Taylor has a song about escaping the helter-skelter of the real world in the nostalgic memories of Carolina. Tonight, the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission takes local art patrons on a similar trip with the opening of an exhibit featuring three artists from South Carolina (see "Gallery" box on this page for more details).

Though the subject matter doesn't specifically deal with the Carolinas, the ceramics and paintings by artists Judy Blanchard, Lena Massara and Barbara St. Denis provide a glimpse into what's happening artistically in Georgia's neighbor to the northeast. Preview slides of the artists' works display a range of earthy abstract ceramics, textured multi-media landscapes and dream-like paintings of powerhouse women.

JUDY BLANCHARD

Blanchard describes herself as "an artist of abstract, three-dimensional forms." Working primarily in clay since she was a junior high school student, Blanchard's work alternatively combines form and function (with post-modern ashtrays, bowls and tables) and in many cases simply explores form (such as three-dimensional wall hangings and large almost egg-shaped bulbs atop cylinders of clay).

The colors of her glazes evoke deep tranquil waters;

rate their best techniques for insight and craftsmanship" into her work.

LENA MASSARA

Massara seeks her artistic voice through a complex, and diverse, graphic vocabulary. Using a palette of copper, brass, aluminum and gold leafing, she creates, what appear to be, massive wall hangings richly textured by a meshing of materials with aptly applied acrylic paints to their changing surfaces. She sees her work as containing narrative passages through a different form of painting.

"My creative desire is to experiment with different media on different surfaces to create a visual stimulation ... the unexpected," Massara says in an artistic statement.

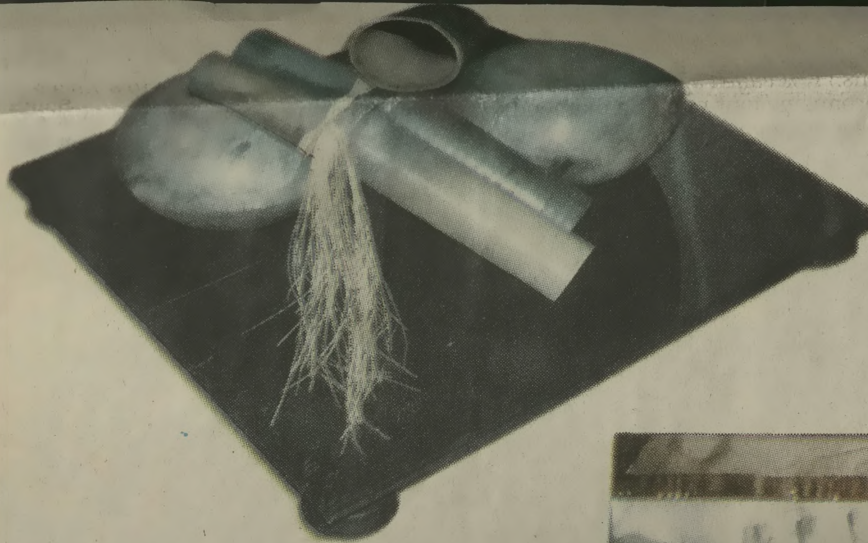
BARBARA ST. DENIS

St. Denis peoples her paintings with thick-limbed beauties dressed in vivid stripes, plaids and patterns. There is nothing realistically proportioned in her painted characters, but Barbie dolls are not realistically proportioned either and they both have proven to be highly successful.

But St. Denis' figures are no Barbie dolls; her painted figures — with their small heads, broad shoulders, pinched waists, gargantuan hands and feet — are lyrical and bold. They suggest warrior women, powerful in their femininity, beautiful in their flawed grace.

Colors are important to her and her choices are dynamic. "I like to experiment with color placement for drama and excitement," St. Denis says in an artistic statement.

"I also like to do figures, not realistic portraits, more a design element."

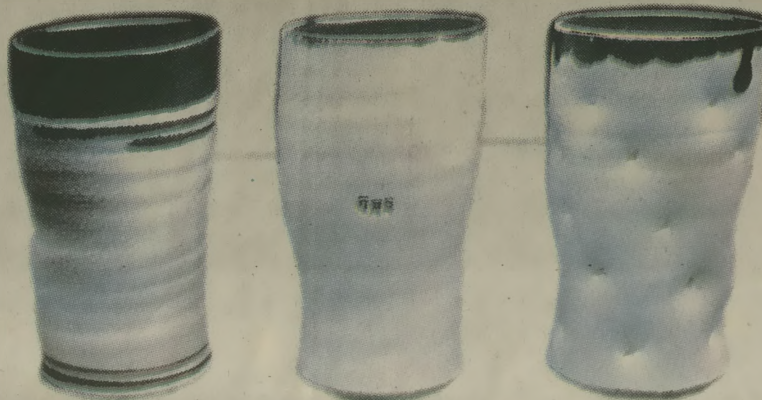


Untitled,
artist Judy Blanchard.



'Four Jacquies,'
artist Lena Massara.

VSU professor's art 'references' function



'Three Cups,' artist Michael T. Schmidt.

VALDOSTA — Michael T. Schmidt's exhibit of clay works also opens today. His pieces add intricate colorations and design elements to utilitarian forms. For example, the coloration of fired porcelain glasses suggests melting snow over a dark rocks or a winter-browned field.

In forming his pieces, Schmidt uses the traditional potter's wheel first in an expected manner, then adds his own twists to the turning clay in his hands. He finds his colors and surface textures through several techniques from multiple kiln-firings, sandblasting, etc.

"My sculptures often reference the functional roots from which they evolved, both in craftsmanship and design," says Schmidt, who is an assistant professor of art at Valdosta State University.

— Dean Poling/VDT

GALLERY

South Carolina artists open in the Main Gallery, and Valdosta artist Michael T. Schmidt opens in the Hall Gallery, with a reception, 5-7 p.m. today, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St. The reception is free. The exhibits are on display through mid July. More information: LVAC, 247-2787.

LIVING

Growing With Our Community

Monday, September 9, 2002



'Distant Horizons,' watercolor, artist Marion W. Hylton.



'Birdman,' watercolor, artist Marion W. Hylton.

Get Real

Realism, expressionism ... LVAC exhibit promises plenty of real art

By Dean Poling
dean.poling@gafnews.com



VALDOSTA
There is an extremely fine line between the detailed realism of a painting and the expected realism portrayed in a photograph. If a painting is too realistic, people are impressed by the artist's devoted skills, but many viewers often silently contemplate a nagging thought: "Gee, that's incredible, but why not just take a photograph?"

Executed properly, an artist can paint a realistic scene and still

Untitled, artist Doris Garrington.



Untitled, artist Doris Garrington.

retain the essence of a painting — a dream-like illusion of reality seen in the brushstrokes or the dappled colors just between the lines.

Previewing slides of artist Marion W. Hylton's watercolors and pastels for her gallery showing at Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (see "Gallery" box on this page for details) reveals she can walk that line. Her work captures the boundless details of a tree's chipped bark or an aging man's wrinkled face under a straw hat or the fuzzy texture of infant birds. But she doesn't lose the quality nor the integrity of her medium. Look at the tones of her watercolor, "Distant Horizons," a highly detailed piece (incredible to capture in the fluency of watercolors) full of subtle shadows, folds of fabric and grained wood — that alluring mystery of paint on canvas. A remarkable quality of realism balanced in illusion. Describing herself as a life-long active artist, Hylton strives to paint in the realistic tradition, and she is remarkably successful. Yet, again, the underlying beauty of her work is she has retained a respect for the intricacies of her mediums, whether it is watercolors, pastels, acrylics or oils.

Opening this evening with a public reception, Hylton joins two fellow Gainesville, Fla., artists for the LVAC exhibit: Doris Garrington and Linda Blondheim.

A more abbreviated preview of Garrington's work sharply contrasts Hylton's realism approach. Garrington's watercolors and pastels are expressive and revel in the rainbow of the painter's palette. Her brushstrokes are broad and colorful, expansive and bold, yet subtle. There is no question that she is a painter. An artist's statement notes that Garrington is "concentrating her efforts toward the capture of the elusive effects of light on color and mood in landscapes. An especially challenging interest has developed in the rendering of reflections in water, requiring that an appearance of translucency be achieved through the use of the essentially opaque medium of pastels."

In Blondheim's slides of pastels and oils, she takes an immediate, vibrant approach to her colors. Her landscapes explode with loaded brushes and colors. Her brushwork is bold and deft creating expansive vistas lined with trees and tall grasses. "My work becomes more expressionistic as I mature as an artist," Blondheim says in an artistic statement. "I strive to capture the scene before me in a lush, painterly fashion. Many pochades are done on site to prepare for larger paintings. Many of my paintings are started on site. Some larger paintings are finished in the studio."

GALLERY

Artists Marion Hylton, Doris Garrington (Main Gallery), Linda Blondheim (Hall Gallery) open their exhibit with a 5-7 p.m. free public reception today, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St. The exhibit runs through Oct. 15. LVAC gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; 2-4 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: 247-2787.



'Flagler Beach,' pastels, artist Linda Blondheim.



'My Backyard II' ls, artist Linda Blondheim.

LIVING

Growing With Our Community

Tuesday, April 2, 2002



SPRING INTO

SPRING INTO ART



ARTWORK (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): 'Insomnia Series #1,' photograph, Bill Humphries; 'On The Wings Of Angels,' acrylic, Florence S. Prisant; 'Grapes-Birds,' acrylic, Suzanne Huff; 'Track Thru The Country,' acrylic, Donalee Pond-Koenig.

Fifteenth annual LVAC/First State art show coming next week

By Dean Poling
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA

Spring Into Art exhibits have always been a smorgasbord of artistic styles, methods, mediums and tastes. From no-nonsense country landscapes and esoteric abstract canvases to detailed still-life and impressionistic blurs of colors, the kitschy, the sublime, the highly skilled, the primitive, the Spring Into Art Exhibit features dozens of local, state, national and even a few international artists all gathered under the roof of the First State Bank & Trust's headquarters, 527 N. Patterson St.

Next week, the 15th Annual Spring Into Art Exhibit, co-sponsored by First State Bank and Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission (see "Gallery" box on this page for more details), opens with a benefit reception, and it is hailed as "an international show," says Wilby Coleman, a local artist and LVAC's visual arts committee chairman, in the exhibit's production notes. "We have pieces from all over, including California, Canada and England. The show has grown to be much more than when Eddie Norris, founder of the Spring Into Art Exhibit at the First State Bank, wanted a show that would allow any artist to display two pieces of art."

Unlike many exhibits, which require extensive submissions of photographs and slides of art works for potential inclusion in the show, the Spring Into Art Exhibit allows all entrants to be displayed for approximately three weeks before the juried winners are taken for an extended

exhibit at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St.

"This gives many fledgling artists a chance to meet other artists and have their works beside that of more experienced artists," Coleman explains in the exhibit notes.

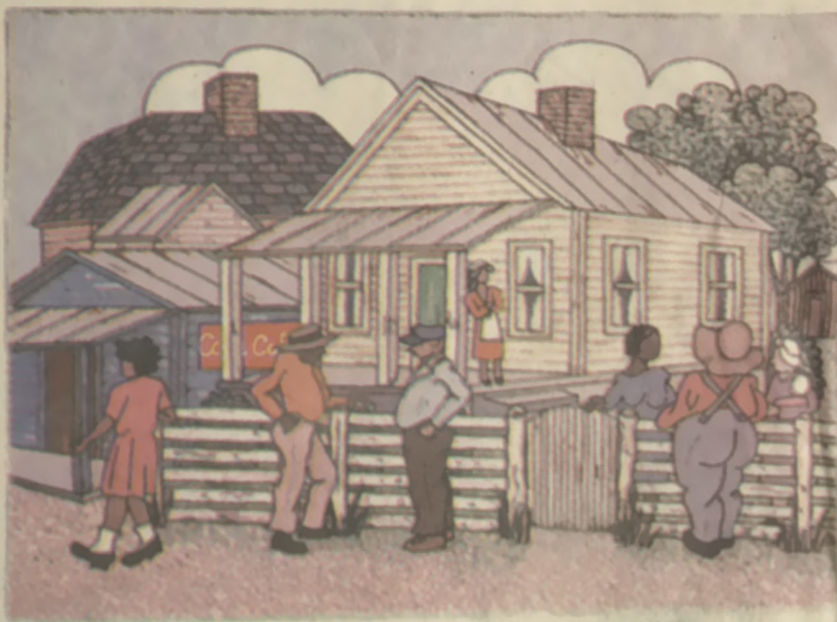
While slides are not required for the exhibit, LVAC recently released a few slides of submitted works as a small sampling of what fellow artists and patrons can expect.

There are the wild, rambling, acrylic rainbow landscapes of artist Donalee Pond-Koenig's "Track Thru The Country," contrasted with her detailed pencils for her work, "Inside." The kaleidoscope explosion of artist Florence S. Prisant's "On The Wings Of Angels." The illustrative, almost three-dimensional acrylics of Suzanne Huff's "Grapes-Birds." The rustic, colorful charm of Annie Greene's yarn works, such as "Saturday Morning Chats." The rumples, empty-bed landscapes of Bill Humphries' "Insomnia Series."

Though diversity is always a Spring Into Art hallmark, the show consistently offers something new — this time it affords LVAC the opportunity

to peruse its future home. "This year is different in many respects," Patti Girardin, LVAC board chairman, says in the exhibit notes. "We know that the First State Bank building will be (LVAC's) future home, and we'll be looking at the walls and rooms with an eye to re-modeling." Indeed, this time next year, the First State Bank building should actually house the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission as the renamed Annette Howell Turner Center For The Arts.

Also, as it has for the past several years, Colson Printing will select pieces for its annual art calendar.



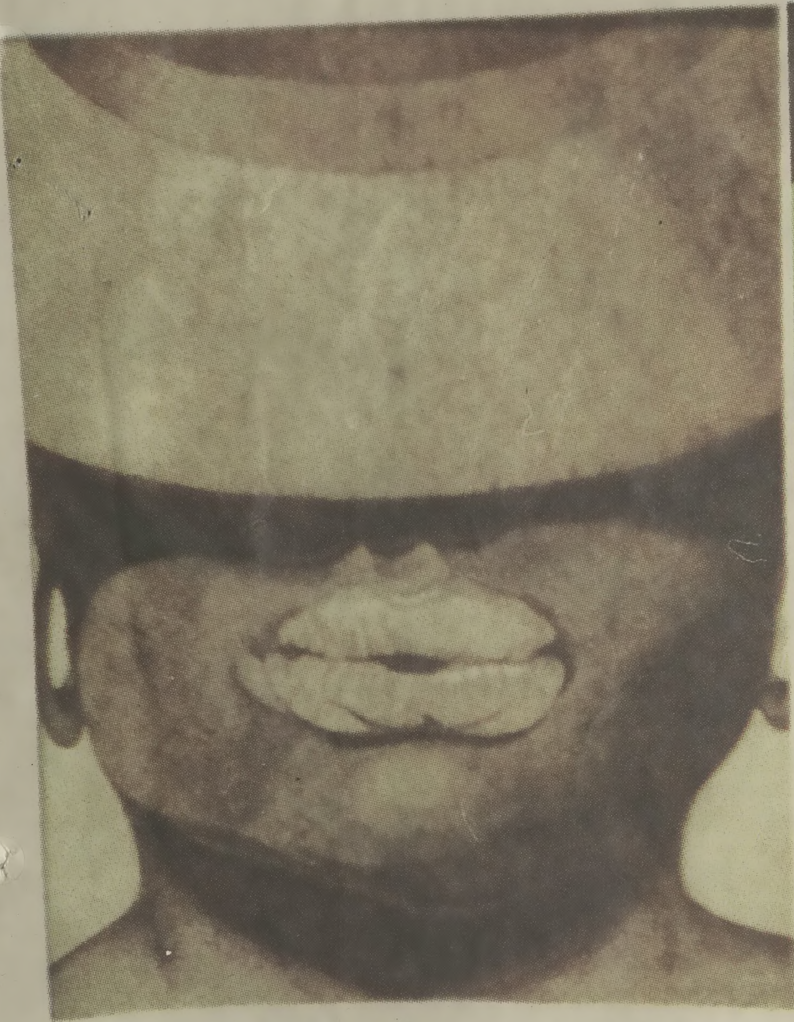
'Saturday Morning Chats,' yarn, Annie Greene.

gallery:

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission's 15th Annual Spring Into Art Exhibit opens with a benefit reception, candlelight buffet, 6-9 p.m. Monday, First State Bank & Trust, 527 N. Patterson St.

Tickets: \$35, per person. The exhibit continues through the month.

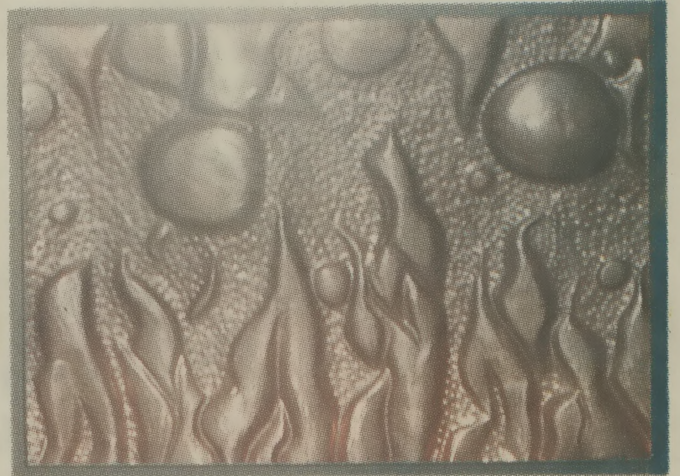
More info: 947-9797



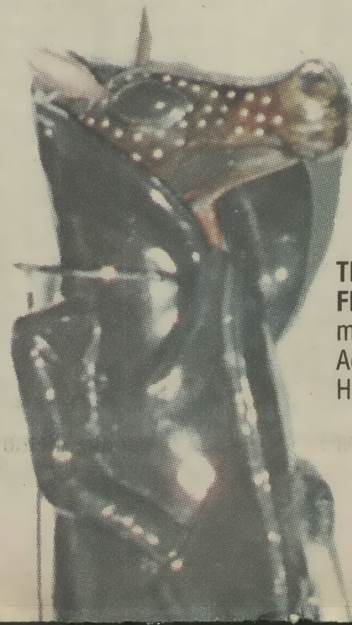
TWO-DIMENSIONAL FIRST PLACE: 'Someone You Know,' pen & ink, artist Alex Resch, Brooks High School.



TWO-DIMENSIONAL SECOND PLACE: 'Mingling Universe,' acrylic, artist Anna Davis, Ware County High School.

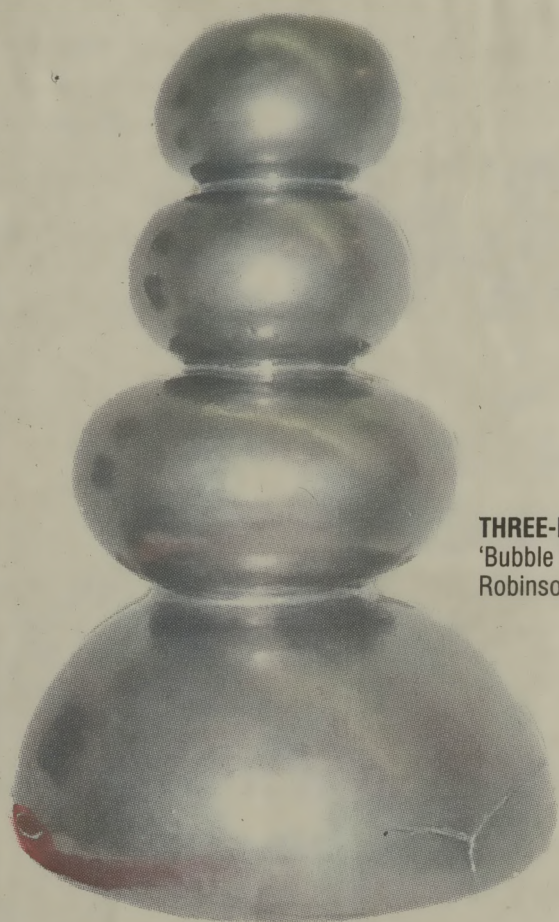


TWO-DIMENSIONAL FOURTH PLACE: 'Leaked,' copper, artist Elizabeth Wilding, Suwannee High School. She also won third place in three dimensional for the ceramic work 'Connected Hearts.'



THREE-DIMENSIONAL FIRST PLACE: 'One Nation,' mixed-media, artist Dante Acevedo, Brooks County High School.

TWO-DIMENSIONAL THIRD PLACE: Untitled, printmaking, artist Jodie Weber, Suwannee High School.



THREE-DIMENSIONAL SECOND PLACE: 'Bubble Pot,' ceramics, artist Megan Robinson, Suwannee High School.

Looks of a WINNER

Top awards in school art exhibit

VALDOSTA

This year's Invitational High School Art Exhibition, showing at Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, features scores of drawings, paintings, sculptures and other works by students from numerous South Georgia schools. The show is sponsored by LVAC and Valdosta State University Art Department, with both organizations inviting regional high school teachers to submit the best works of their students for display and judging.

With a reception last week, numerous students were awarded with top prizes as well as honorable mentions. Today, we take a look at the prize-winning art presented in two categories: two-dimensional (paintings, drawings, etc.) and three-dimensional (sculpture, pottery, etc.).

Invitational High School Art Exhibition continues into January, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: 247-2787.

— Dean Poling/The Valdosta Daily Times

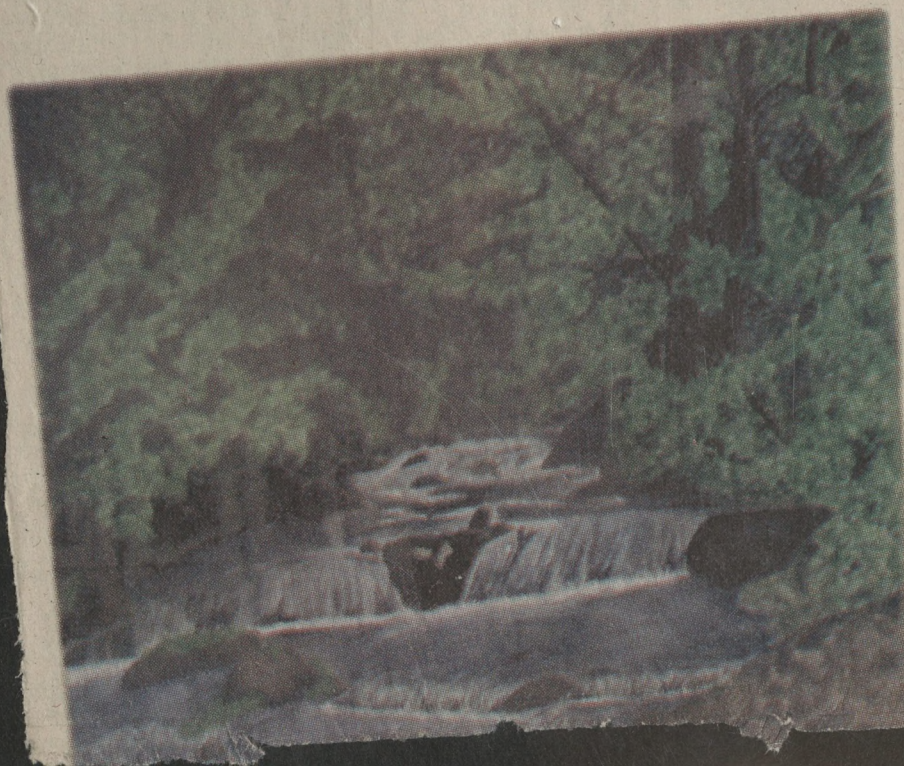


THREE-DIMENSIONAL FOURTH PLACE: 'The Lovers Dream,' mixed media, artist Elizabeth Parra, Brooks County High School.

Monday, December 9, 2002



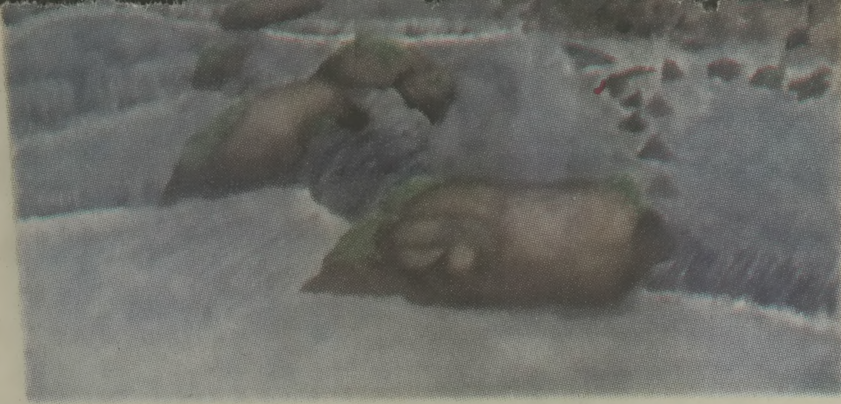
Untitled, watercolor, artist Aliyah Jones, Valdosta High School.



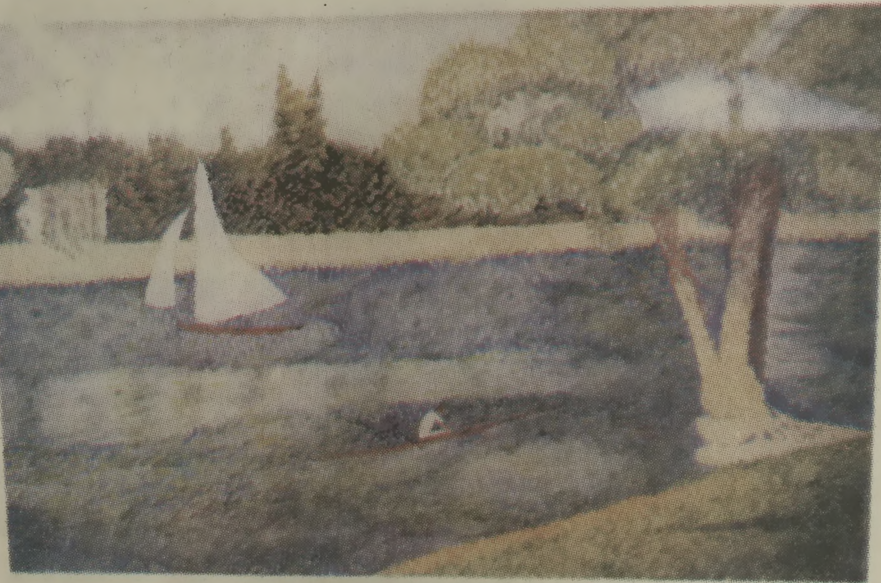
High (school) Art

VSU, LVAC sponsor
annual student show

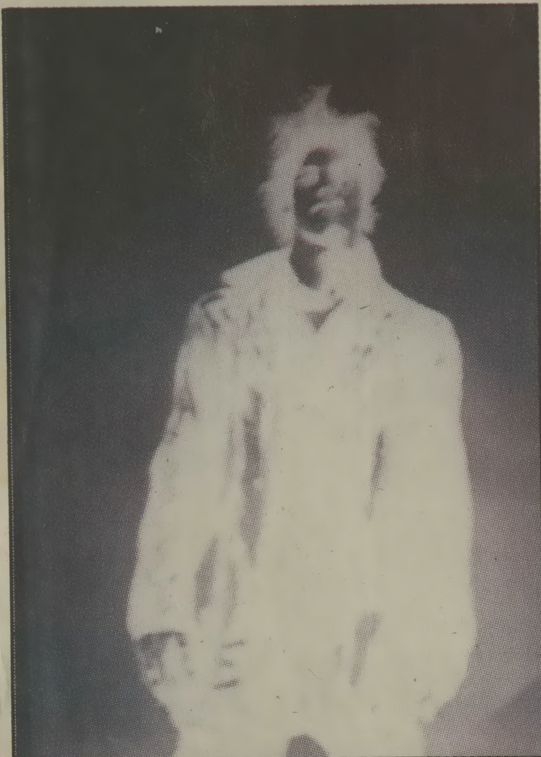
By Dean Poling
dean.poling@gafnews.com



'Solitude,' watercolor, artist Harrison Stalvey, Valdosta High School.



'Riverside Pointillism,' acrylic, artist Ming Lin Jr., Valdosta High School.



'Life,' scratch art, artist Thomson Moore, Lanier High School.

GALLERY

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and Valdosta State University Art Department's "Invitational Regional High School Art Exhibition" opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. today, Main Gallery, LVAC, 1204 N. Patterson St., Valdosta. The show runs through Jan. 10. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: 247-2787.

Each year, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and Valdosta State University's art department host an Invitational Regional High School Art Exhibition, and the tradition continues this year with the show scheduled to open today (see "Gallery" box on this page for more details on time, location, etc.). Featuring the works of dozens of young artists from high schools in South Georgia and North Florida, the exhibit is always a pleasing event for many reasons.

It allows viewers to see the works of young, local artists. Granted, some skills are rough and some subject matter is predictable given the age, experiences and training of the artists. However, there is always at least one piece, quite often several, that completely dazzle, leaving viewers a bit awestruck at the level of skill and talent on display, invariably smiling and shaking their heads: "A high school student did this?" Yes, indeed, a high student did.

Traditionally, the exhibit provides adults a glimpse into the attitudes and thoughts of the area's high school students from year to year. As the national dialogue on war rises, will this mood find its way into the students' work or will it have no bearing on the artworks submitted? The answer will likely revolve around the interpretations of each viewer but, like any good art show, each viewer will come away with some opinion of what local students are feeling or not feeling about several subjects.

For students, the exhibit gives them a real-world taste of preparing for an art-gallery exhibit. From viewing the works submitted by the middle of last week, many students had not only provided the traditional matte for their works, but framed their pieces as well. But the exhibit doesn't end with the creation and packaging of a work, it continues through a juried exhibition in which the art is judged and the best paintings and sculptures are awarded. Students can attend an opening reception for the exhibit, which allows them to discuss their works with viewers as well as discuss and see other works submitted by other schools. And students know that for the next several weeks, their works are on public display in LVAC's galleries, where they can visit the show repeatedly if they wish.

And the high school exhibit also demonstrates the importance of art education in our public schools as well as developing and promoting the arts within society at large. Annually, it is apparent through exhibiting young artists' works that art instructs youngsters in discipline to achieve a desired result, promotes positive forms of self-expression and communication, and can prompt serious thought through reflective and creative pursuit.

Each year, the exhibit seems to grow to include more schools. This year's exhibit, says Karin Murray, a VSU art professor and exhibit organizer, includes works from students in Valdosta High School, Lowndes High School, Valwood, Lanier High School, Coffee High School, Jeff Davis High School, Suwannee High School, Griffin High School, Cairo High School, Telfair County High School.

Artwork shown on this page was selected from works that had been submitted to the show by Wednesday afternoon of last week.

Bruce Bobick

June 4 - July 11



Lincoln Quilt



Cultural Arts Center

Calendar of Events
June/July

Center Hours

10 am - 6 pm Mon-Fri.
10 am - 4 pm Sat.
1:30 pm - 4 pm Sun.

June 4, 2001, Reception 5 - 7 pm

Main Gallery

J. Bruce Bobick

J. Bruce Bobick is currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Art at the University of West Georgia. He is a graduate of Notre Dame and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Winner of numerous grants and awards, his watercolors and mixed media work has been shown in solo and invitational exhibits throughout the nation and St. Petersburg, Russia, Italy, and in the U.S. Embassy in Brussels.

Hall Gallery

Sunday Sketches

Haley Rosenberg, a local artist, will exhibit drawings and watercolors done from life. Many of these fine pieces come from the Sunday afternoon sessions with live models hosted by the Southern Artists League at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center.

Adult's & Children's Art Classes, Writing, and Yoga Classes, starting in June.

For more information, call 247-2787.

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