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Untitled, artist Ronald Zaccari, Valdosta.



'Pineapple,' artist Earle McKey, Valdosta.



'I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry,' artist Bob Caruthers, Canyon, Texas.

DRAW!

Third drawproject to raise more scholarship money

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Jamie Harmon knows artists. He is the gallery director of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. His wife is Danielle Harmon, a member of Valdosta State University Art faculty. Jamie Harmon is an artist in his own right with his photography.

To raise money for art scholarships and have a little fun, he founded drawproject. Next week, the not-for-profit drawproject holds its third Valdosta gallery exhibit with a show at the arts center.

The first two exhibits — one at VSU and the second at the arts center — raised thousands of dollars for VSU Art student scholarships. Last year, the drawproject split the money raised between VSU Art scholarships and the arts center, Harmon says, with the arts center pledging its half to VSU Art scholarships also.

Harmon mixes fun with purpose for a notable art experience.

"The initial idea was to invite artists that I have met and worked with over the last 10 years to take a piece of paper ... and draw," Harmon has noted. "There were no rules or definition of what a 'Drawing' is ... only their interpretation."

Artists from throughout Valdosta-Lowndes County as well as the nation have accepted Harmon's invitation. Some of the drawings are by professional artists, some by amateurs, and some by people not associated with art. The now former Lowndes County Commission Chairman Rod Casey has a drawing in this exhibit; full disclosure, this reporter has had a drawing in a past drawproject show.

With the drawings arriving during the past several weeks, Harmon frames them for the show in the arts center and posts them on the drawproject Web site for a virtual exhibit. Viewers can take a look at the available drawings on the Web site now through next week's arts center opening.

At the opening, the drawings will be bid on through silent auction. At the exhibit's end, the winning bidders can take their drawings home, while those bids will help keep VSU Art students in school.

GALLERY

Drawproject's third exhibit.

When: Reception scheduled for 5-7 p.m., Jan. 12. Show runs through Feb. 25.

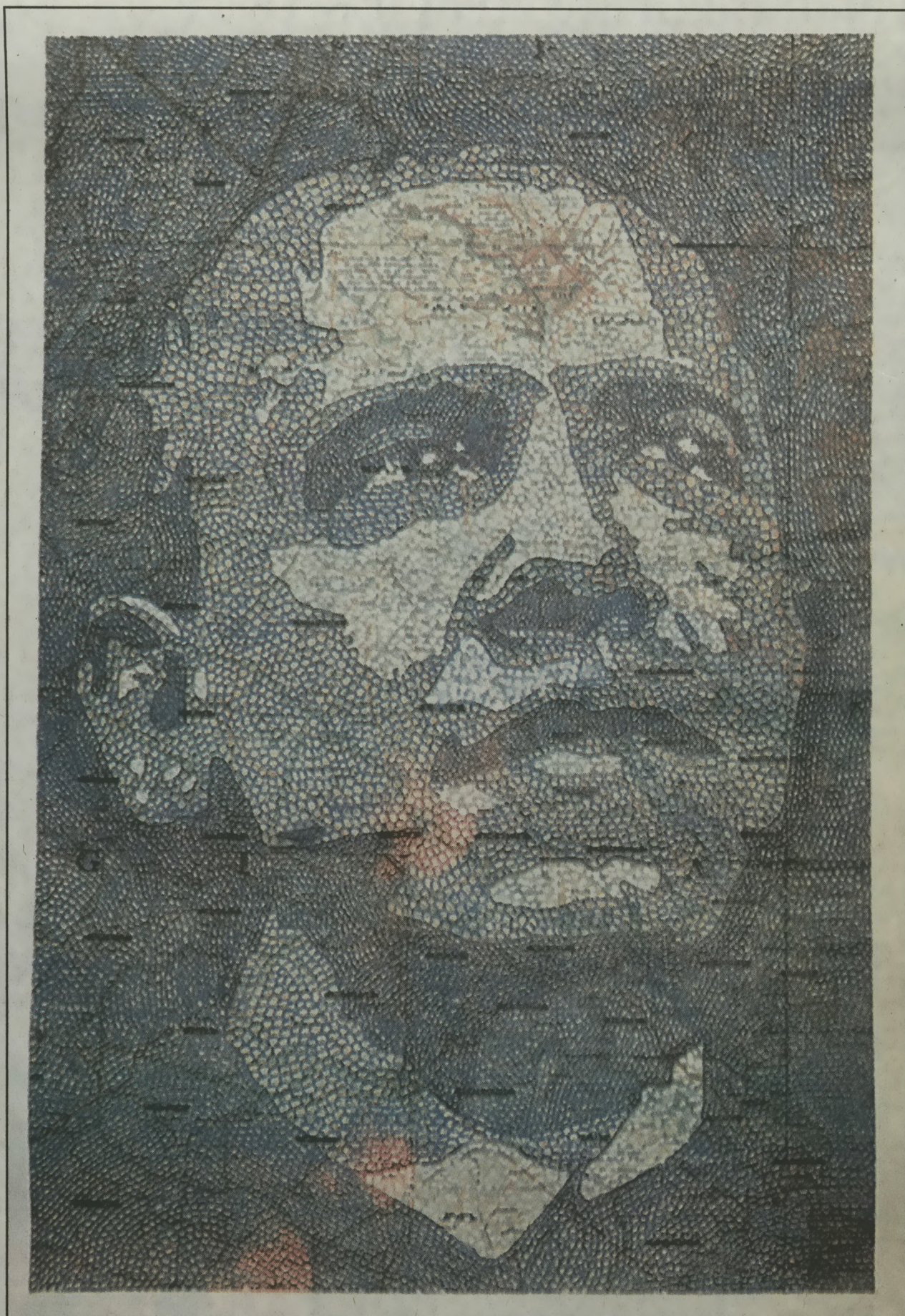
Where: Boyette Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

Internet Web site: www.drawproject.com

Also opening at that time at the arts center: Artist Robert Coon, Price Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Miriam Costanza, Josette's Gallery; art students from Valwood School, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

More information: Call 247-2787.



'15,000 Rings of Hope,' artist Monika Lidman, Seattle, Wash.

The Presenter Series



"BYE BYE BIRDIE" Broadway Live On Stage
Tuesday February 10, 2009

7:30 pm At MATHIS AUDITORIUM - VALDOSTA

Presented By

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Sunday, January 18, 2009

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Monday, January 26, 2009

Friday, January 30, 2009

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Monday, February 9, 2009



Work by Miriam Costanza.

theEverything

Artist Miriam Costanza seeks 'the alchemy of life'

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — There's something of a graphic-design El Greco to artist Miriam Costanza's landscapes. Something of Paul Gauguin's bright flatness, too.

There's a hint of El Greco's "View of Toledo" just beneath the stylized patterns of flowered fields leading to a structure in the distance of Costanza's canvases. Costanza has a sense of another time, in another place, illustrated with a modern sensibility.

She has an illustrator's eye with an aesthetic's panache. Costanza uses a limited but brightly chosen palette, much like Gauguin, forgoing traditional techniques of lighting and shading to create a rhythm of contrast in design and composition.

On Monday, her work is part of a series of new exhibits opening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. She finds inspiration from life.

"That available life energy is what I process through my sensory on a daily basis, and that is what I try to extract in a single brush when I paint," Costanza says in an artistic statement. "I know and feel that every loaded paint brush truly contains 'The Everything,' the alchemy of life."

Born in Argentina, Costanza began her artistic career in her native land, attending the Universidad de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, where she participated in many exhibits. In 1992, she moved to the United States, according to a biography supplied by the arts center, and has exhibited at Amsterdam Whitney Gallery, Leonora Vega Gallery and Roger Smith Gallery, all in New York.

Now living in Miami, in addition to her exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, she is preparing for a show at the Argentine Consulate in New York City.

"My trajectory as an artist for the last 20 years has been to project this source (The Everything) in my aesthetic language, through my landscapes and my abstract works," Costanza says. "As a painter, my objective is to present to viewers the essence of life."

GALLERY

Artist Miriam Costanza's paintings. **When:** Reception scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 12. Show runs through Feb. 25. **Where:** Josette's Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. **Admission:** Free and open to the public. **Also opening at that time at the arts center:** Artist Robert Coon; drawproject; art students from Valwood School. **More information:** Call 247-2787.

“As a painter, my objective is to present to viewers the essence of life.”

— Miriam Costanza



'Trigal,' artist Miriam Costanza.



PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Gallery exhibit raises art scholarship funds

ABOVE: Susan Jones, left, and Janet Cothron discuss art work in the drawproject 2009 art scholarship fund-raiser at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday.



RIGHT: Artist Carrie Chick looks over 'Untitled' by Josh Jones at the drawproject 2009 art scholarship fund-raiser at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday.

PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Exhibit raises thousands for art scholarships

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The Drawproject 2009 exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts raised approximately \$5,000 for the arts during Monday evening's reception.

"The reception was great with hundreds of people attending," Jamie Harmon, the arts center's gallery director and creator

of the drawproject, notes in an e-mail. "Not every piece sold at auction, but we still have six weeks of exhibit left, and last year we made \$1,500 after the auction."

This third annual drawproject features drawings from many Valdosta, Lowndes County and regional artists, as well as artists from across the nation. Harmon hands artists he's met a couple pieces of paper and asks them to draw a

On the Web

www.drawproject.com

donated picture for the project.

These works are gathered and displayed both in the arts center and online by visiting www.drawproject.com. During the arts center's public reception, people could bid on the drawings.

Drawings that were not purchased Monday evening remain open for purchase through Feb. 25, when the exhibit closes.

Harmon estimates the drawproject will raise about \$6,000 by that time, which will be split between Valdosta State University art scholarships and the arts center. Last year, the arts center donated its half to the university's art scholarship fund.

The drawproject exhibit is on display in the Boyette Gallery of the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Mondays and Sundays. More information: Call 247-2787.

valdostadailytimes.com

Thursday, January 15, 2009



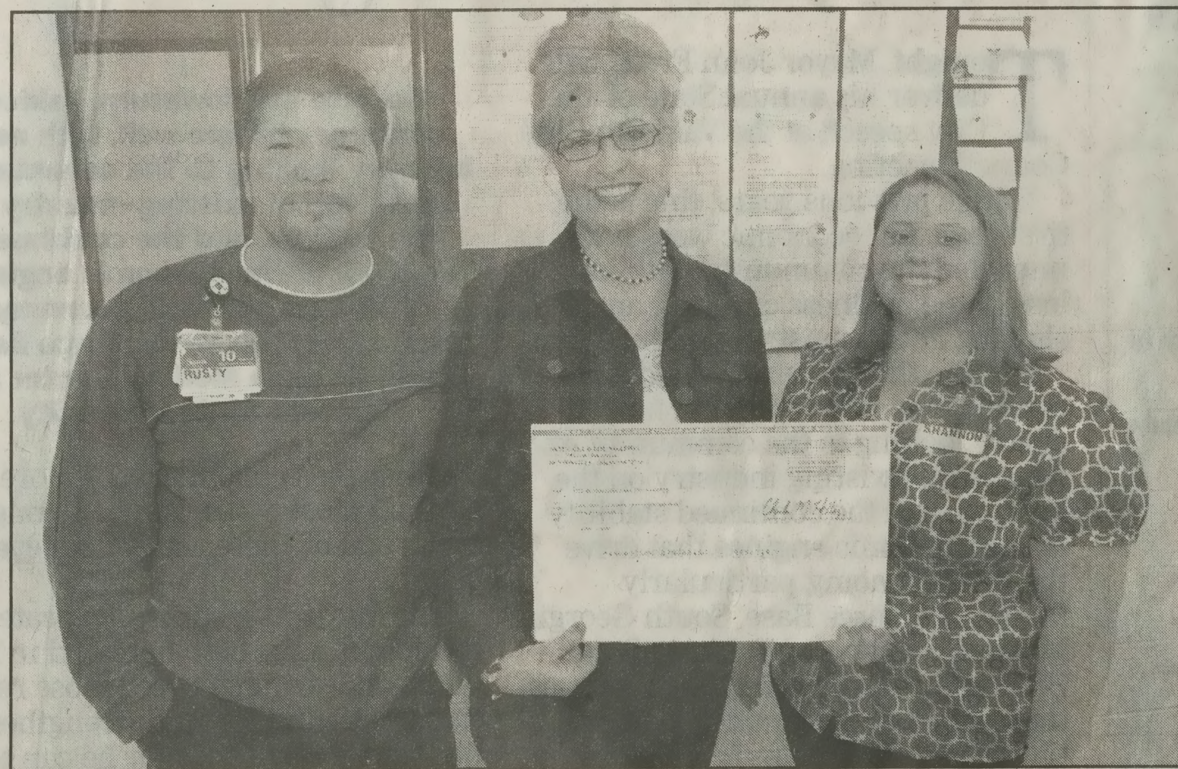
PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Rhonda Thagard bids on a painting during the opening reception for the Drawproject 2009 fund-raiser Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Thursdaylife

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Valdostadailytimes.com



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sam's supports the Arts

Sam's Club Foundation recently donated \$500 to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Art Explorations program. This venture has become a highlight of the center's programming. The Art Explorations program started in 2007, with help from the Griffin Family Foundation, to provide art education beyond what the children of the Boys and Girls Club could receive in school. "Since then we have expanded from one to three days per week, with classes for three different age groups," says Cheryl Oliver, center director. Dr. Stephen Lahr coordinates the project, providing teachers from Valdosta State University's Art Education Department. Additional 2008-09 funding comes from the Griffin Family Foundation. Pictured, from left to right, are Rusty Taylor, Sam's Club membership and marketing manager; Oliver; Shannon Vinson, Sam's Club membership and marketing supervisor.

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Concert brings Broadway to Valdosta Thursday

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Organizers build on a past show to present "The Life and Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" Thursday night at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

It's similar to the show "Broadway Comes to Quitman," which featured several songs from the musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber, except this time the show comes to Valdosta, but area creators are making some changes during this week's rehearsals.

Brooks County's Elizabeth Jones and Cheryl Griner Oliver, the arts center's executive director, de-

CONCERT

"The Life and Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" plays.

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

■ **Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

■ **More information:** Call 247-2787.

veloped this show, which presents a medley of songs from Webber musicals, such as "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and more.

In creating a show based on the life of a ver-

satile composer, Webber seemed the natural choice. Jones has also developed other musical shows, such as "An Odyssey of Love Songs" and a selection of songs from the World War II era.

For "The Life and Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber," Jones plays piano while Oliver narrates. They are joined by long-time collaborators, singers Larry Adams and Erin McKenzie, both Jones' former students, trumpet player Harrell Mann, as well as Gail Bearrentine, organist, and Myra Jordon on flute.

Jones and Oliver developed this show several years ago and have presented it in various South Georgia venues.

valdostadailytimes.com

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Book signings this week

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Two book events are scheduled locally this week.

● Valdosta artist Wilby Coleman signs his book, "Irony: The Metal Sculpture of Wilby Coleman," at 6:30 p.m. today at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library, 300 Woodrow Wilson Drive.

Through the photography of local artist Julius Ariail, the book is a collection of Coleman's iconic "found art" pieces of junked metal which he turns into whimsical and thought-provoking three-dimensional art.

The book is also filled with back stories on the creation of many of these

On the Web:
snakenationpress.org

works, as well as Coleman's penchant for a joke within the title of his artworks.

Locally owned and operated Snake Nation Press has created many wonderful volumes of books through the years, but "Irony," its first art book printed locally with Colson Printing, is Snake Nation at its best.

The book will also be available at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts gift shop; the Snake Nation Press Web site at snakenationpress.org; Hildegard's in downtown Valdosta; or by calling

Roberta George at 242-1503. Cost: \$53 with tax.

● Valdosta State University's Department of English continues its 2008-09 Contemporary Writers Series this week.

David St. John will read from his works at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the VSU University Center Theatre.

He has been awarded some of the most prestigious prizes available to poets, including fellowships from the NEA and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. He is the author of nine poetry collections, including "The Face: A Novella in Verse."

This reading is also part of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, cosponsored by Snake Nation Press.

the BOLD

Robert Coon takes his sculpture inside the arts center

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — For the past several months, a series of sky-pointing sculptures have been installed on the grounds of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

These are the work of artist Robert Coon, a Vero Beach, Fla., sculptor. Though Coon had already secured a January 2009 exhibit at the arts center, he lent these works to the center as a heavy-duty series of coming attractions for the show that is currently on display both outside and in the center's Price Campbell Foundation Gallery.

Coon deals with large, graphic shapes of metal for his massive sculptures, creating otherworldly abstract forms that pierce perceptions while several seem to reach to pierce the sky.

Coon has said that he enjoys working from his imagination. "Part of what was important to me was the negative space inside the geometry — the empty part, not the metal that was there," he is quoted as saying in the Vero Beach Magazine.

Coon's work has an impact, as noted by the many comments his sculptures received when first installed outside the arts center. Now, viewers can feel that impact inside the arts center as well.

**'Containment,'
artist Robert Coon.**

GALLERY

The sculpture of artist Robert Coon.

When: Show runs through Feb. 25.

Where: Price Campbell Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

Also showing at the arts center: The drawproject, Boyette Gallery; artist Miriam Costanza, Josette's Gallery; art students from Valwood School, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

More information: Call 247-2787.



BYE BYE BIRDIE

says Hello to Valdosta

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is preparing for the third show in the 2008-09 Presenter Series with "Bye Bye Birdie," playing 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. This nationally touring revival brings back the beloved musical satire of late '50s America, focusing on music star Conrad Birdie's farewell concert before being drafted in the Army. The fictional character's name is a play on Conway Twitty's name but he's based purely on Elvis Presley. Tickets are on sale, \$45 per seat, and may be purchased by calling 247-2787; or visiting the arts center 527 N. Patterson St.



BYE BYE BIRDIE PHOTOS: COPYRIGHT 2008 CAROL ROSEGG

'Birdie' flies to Valdosta

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — "Bye Bye Birdie" means hello road for the cast of the popular musical.

The Windwood Theatrical production makes one of its first stops Tuesday night in Valdosta as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series. Last week, The Valdosta Daily Times spoke with two of the principal actors before the show's opening night in Virginia.

BIRDIE: Eli Budwell

"Bye Bye Birdie" features an Elvis-type star named Conrad Birdie preparing to go into the Army. One of the fun things about the character is that Birdie is inspired by Elvis, but he is not Elvis.

That's also one of the fun things about playing Birdie, Eli Budwell says.

"No one can really be Elvis," Budwell says. "But I put a little Elvis in there but a little John Travolta too. A little 'Greased Lightning' (which Travolta performed in 'Grease'). But not so much that I can't be me, too."

Trained in New York, Budwell travels professionally for the first time with "Bye Bye Birdie," which will be on the road for about 14 weeks.

After touring the nation, "Birdie" may return to Broadway. If it does, Budwell would like to be the Birdie on Broadway.

He's concerned about keeping in shape while on the road.

Birdie wears tight pants, and Budwell would prefer looking like the early, thin Elvis rather than the older, thicker Elvis.

KIM: Lara Hayhurst

Another New York-trained actor, Lara Hayhurst also tours professionally for the first time with "Bye Bye Birdie."

The notion of seeing the country while performing excites Hayhurst. Considering she plays the very crazy-for-Birdie teen Kim, Hayhurst must keep excited and excitable.

"Kim is a sweetheart," Hayhurst says of her character.

Ann-Margret gave a memorable performance as Kim in the movie version of "Birdie." That was 40 years ago, and Hayhurst feels little pressure to copy Ann-Margret.

BIRDIE | 4A

Birdie

Continued from page 1A

Still, with the Ann-Margret image in mind, many may not recall that the character of Kim is only 15 years old. Hayhurst, 24, says playing such youth requires energy.

"It keeps you going," Hayhurst says. "Kim's such a sweet funny girl. She's so young. Sometimes I feel like I'm being ridiculous."

She feels ridiculous because superstar Birdie drives Kim crazy. This teen mania for celebrities, however, keeps "Bye Bye Birdie" relevant two generations after its premiere.

"Birdie is definitely an Elvis character," Hayhurst says. "He has that excitement like Beatlemania around him. That's still happening. Today, it's the Jonas Brothers. So that hasn't changed."

SHOWTIME

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Bye Bye Birdie."

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$45.

Reservations, more information: Call 247-2787; or visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.



PHOTO BY CAROL ROSEGG

Though about 40 years old, 'Bye Bye Birdie' remains relevant. Teen girls swooned for the Elvis-like Birdie as they do now for the Jonas Brothers. A professional tour of the musical plays Valdosta Tuesday night.



Artist Hank Evans, fourth grade.

Colorful Visions

Valwood School art displayed at arts center

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Visions of children can be fanciful, insightful, and almost always colorful.

The Valwood School art exhibition at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts meets all of these expectations. Featuring the younger students of the school, the exhibit presents numerous drawings, paintings and styles of expression.

The arts center's Roberta George Children's Gallery is dedicated to exhibiting work from area children and students. This gallery gives youngsters the opportunity to see their work presented in a professional manner, exhibited along with works from professional artists in the center's other galleries.

These exhibits also offer the opportunity for new people to visit the center, to enjoy the children's works, as well as the fanciful, insightful and colorful visions of numerous regional artists.

GALLERY

Valwood School art exhibited.

When: Show concludes Wednesday.

Where: Roberta George Children's Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

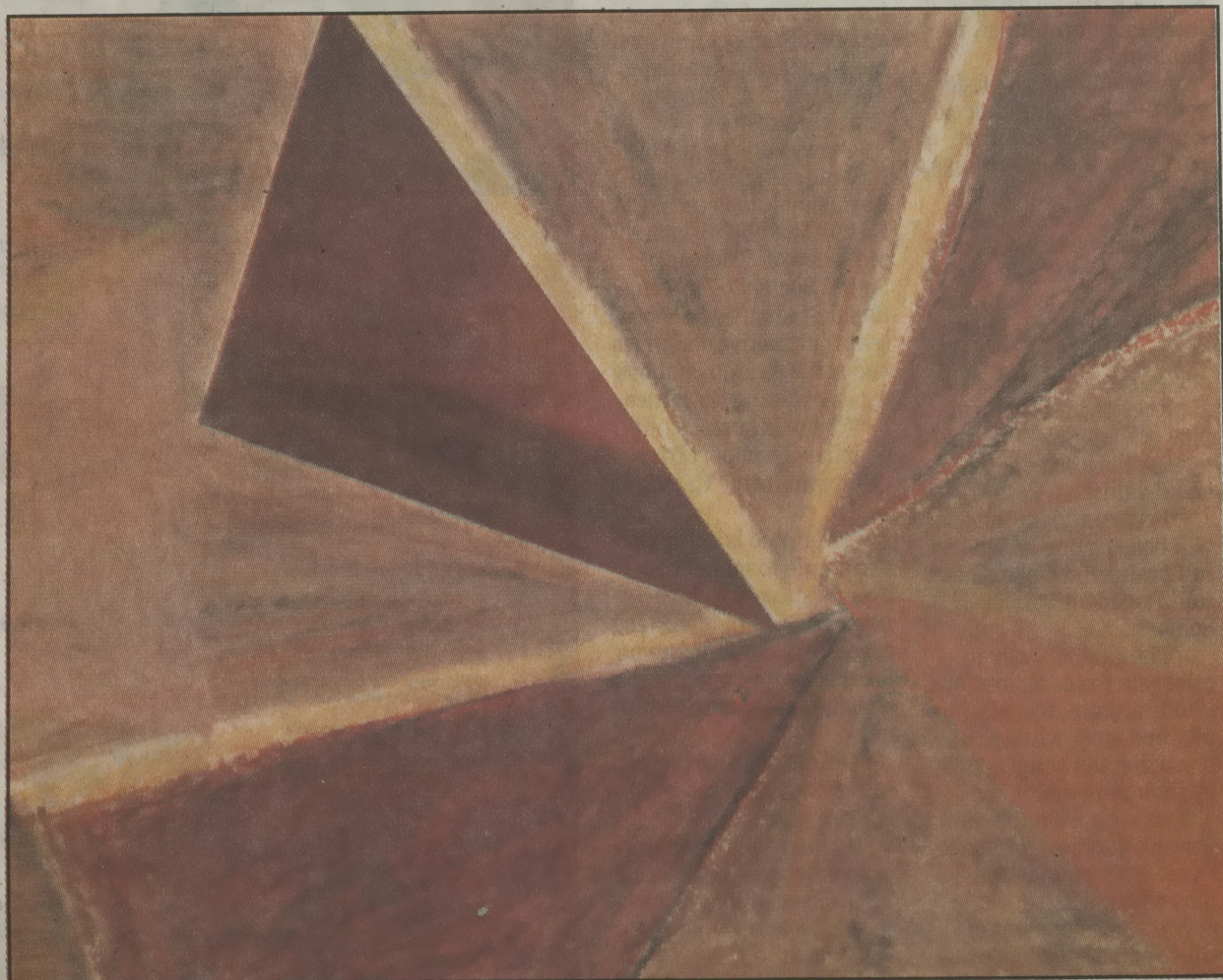
Also showing: drawproject, the Boyette Gallery; artist Robert Coon, Price Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Miriam Costanza, Josette's Gallery.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

More information: Call 247-2787.



Artist Aiden Washnock, kindergarten.



Artist Taylor Grantham, seventh grade.

The Presenter Series

THE NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS



THE AMAZING CHINESE ACROBATS LIVE!

THE NEW SHANGHAI CIRCUS FROM CHINA

Thursday March 12, 2009

7:30 PM AT MATHIS AUDITORIUM - VALDOSTA

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Sunday, March 1, 2009

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Monday, March 9, 2009

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Shanghai CIRCUS

SHOWTIME

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the Shanghai Circus.

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$45.

Reservations, more information:

Visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.; or call 247-2787.

Show swings into town

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — This is not a circus of tigers and lions and bears, but there's still plenty of "oh, my!"

The Shanghai Circus is one of non-stop movement. A circus of acrobatics: Tumblers, somersaults, balance, grace.

The Shanghai Circus arrives this week in Valdosta. It is the last show of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts 2008-09 Presenter Series.

Typically housed in theatres in Branson, Mo., and Pigeon Forge, Tenn., the Shanghai Circus also takes its show on the road. Valdosta is one of several stops for the 28 performers who are accustomed to traveling.

The circus performers are from China, says Kate Kong, the group's manager, in a recent phone interview. For 10 years, each year, young acrobats travel from China to the U.S. to perform with the Shanghai Circus.

In China, they have attended acrobatics school for years. They travel to the U.S., perform then return to China. A new group of acrobats arrive the next year.

Nancy Warren saw this show during a trip to Branson. She says it is an exciting, non-stop performance for all ages. Warren heads the Presenter Series with Gail Hobgood.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a long-time sponsor of the Presenter Series. The Times is joined by fellow sponsors Ambling Companies, First State Bank & Trust, Georgia Power, Mr. & Mrs. John A. Lastinger, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, South Georgia Pecan, WALB NBC 10.



ATWATER-DONNELLY

HOOTENANNY! Arts center hosts folk music

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts a Hootenanny later this month.

A hootenanny is a casual get-together featuring folks singers. The center's Hootenanny will feature the folks songs of Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly.

The Rhode Island couple plays a little bit of everything folk using a bit of everything. Atwater-Donnelly plays songs they've found in New England, Ireland, Appalachia, Prince Edward Island, the Midwest and from other locales. They play these songs using the Appalachian mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, Irish tiri whistle, guitar, limberjack, harmonica, percussion instruments and more.

Atwater-Donnelly start the day with programs for area school children. At 9:30 a.m., March 20, they perform for area kindergarten through third-graders. At 11 a.m., they play for fourth- through sixth-graders. Valdosta High School Performing Arts Center is the location for the student programs. Space remains for additional classes; call 247-2787 to make arrangements.

The Hootenanny featuring Atwater-Donnelly starts with a 6 p.m., March 20, barbecue, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St., with music starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30 per individual; \$55, couple; \$10, child. More information: Call 247-2787.

While Atwater-Donnelly plays generations-old music, The Valdosta Daily Times used the modern convenience of e-mail to ask the musicians a few questions.

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: You perform traditional folk music from many places. Was there a period where you both searched for these songs? Do you continue seeking these songs?

AUBREY ATWATER: "Yes, we are always in some stage of research and travel. We learn most of our songs, dances, and instrumentation from the inspiration of travel and meeting individuals who sing, dance, or play the pieces that move us. We are self-taught and play by ear. When we meet people who play a piece or dance we wish to learn, we ask them to show us on the spot, or we record them, or we get a CD or DVD with the piece on it. There are also many folk archives in the forms of records, tapes, CDs, videos, and downloads and we occasionally learn songs and dances that way too. It's a very personal process and every song or dance we do has a personal story behind it!"

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: How would you describe these songs?

AUBREY ATWATER: "The songs and dances we do are primarily traditional American with Celtic, European, Native, and African roots. The songs are story songs (ballads), gospel songs, work songs, love songs, etc., and most of them are very old, the authors unknown. They reflect our American heritage and the continuous migration of people. And although they are old, the themes are still very relevant and alive. The dances, either contra, square, or circle dances that Elwood calls, or the percussive clogging that I do, are also ancient, and we put our own spin on those traditions. These songs and dance traditions have a wonderful way of bringing people together, reminding us of our roots, and creating community."

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: As technology seems to "flatten" the world, is there a concern that these sometimes centuries-old songs will be lost if not performed and recorded?

AUBREY ATWATER: "The good thing is, although many songs may be lost forever, thousands and thousands are archived. The archives available to us on the Internet are overwhelming and amazing. You can, for example, go to a Web site, listen to someone singing a song in a folk festival in Arkansas in the 1960s. Certainly the traditional process has changed dramatically in recent decades, as has entertainment since electricity came into homes but folk music in the U.S. and the songs are very much alive and well. Besides live performance, they are just coming out in the form MP3s now!"

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: Are there any constants in these songs from culture to culture?

AUBREY ATWATER: "Yes, someone just e-mailed me today about a Mexican love song. She summarized the plot about love, honor, betrayal and murder. The stories across cultures are strikingly similar which leads me to the conclusion that human beings, no matter what culture, have the same basic needs and struggles."

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: How long have the two of you worked together?

AUBREY ATWATER: "Over 21 years."

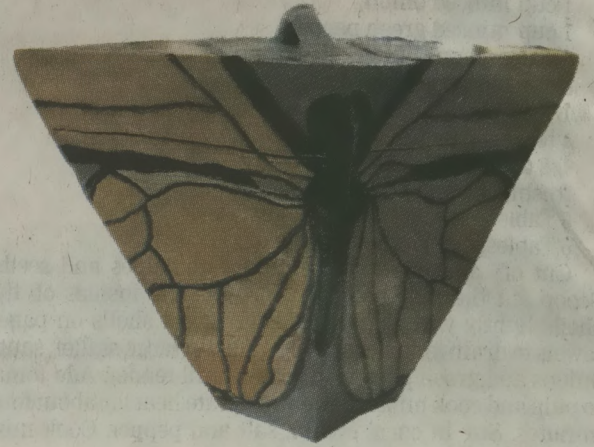
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES: In Valdosta, you are scheduled for school performances and a performance for the general public. Any differences between the approach of the two performances?

AUBREY ATWATER: "The school performances which are geared for kids K-6 grades, will include dialogue and repertoire suitable for those ages. Children's songs and interactive songs with questions, sing-alongs, and movement. We do some of that sort of thing for evening, adult-oriented audiences as well but the repertoire and dialogue is different."





FIRST PLACE: 'Chillin'' artist Alan Chiang, senior, Valdosta High School.



SECOND PLACE: 'Mariposa,' artist Alicia Lawson, senior, Lowndes High School.

GALLERY

The Invitational Regional High School Competition, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; along with Youth Art Month exhibit, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; Georgia Christian School exhibit, Roberta George Children's Gallery; Art Educators exhibit in Josette's Gallery.

When: The show runs through April 3.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787.

High Art

Valdosta, Lowndes high schools dominate exhibit

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Valdosta and Lowndes County students dominate an annual high school art competition.

A Valdosta High student won the top honor while two Lowndes High students won second- and third-place awards.

Winners were named last week during the reception for the Invitational Regional High School Competition in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery.

This exhibit features student art works from high schools from South Georgia and North Florida. The arts center and Valdosta State University Art sponsor the exhibit.

The exhibit glimpses into what's happening in area high school art classes. This center's entire exhibit series honors art education. In addition to the high school exhibit, the arts center opened the Youth Art Month exhibit, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; Georgia Christian School exhibit, Roberta George Children's Gallery; and an exhibit honoring the teachers who teach art students with the Art Educators exhibit in Josette's Gallery.

The high school winners:

First place: Alan Chiang, senior, Valdosta High School, "Chillin'"

Second place: Alicia Lawson, senior, Lowndes High School, "Mariposa"

Third place: Brittney Register, senior, Lowndes High School, "Pepper Jack"



THIRD PLACE: 'Pepper Jack,' artist Brittney Register, senior, Lowndes High School.

Opinions

Our Opinion

Arts flying high in Valdosta

This week, two high-flying productions arrive in Valdosta. One is "Peter Pan." The Valdosta children's theatrical troupe and Theatre Guild Valdosta present this musical production of the timeless tale of a boy who won't grow up. Peter Pan can also fly, and it will be the flight that makes this show all the more intriguing.

Gingerbread Players enlisted the famed Flying by Foy, which has helped famous Peter Pans from Mary Martin to Sandy Duncan fly. A Foy representative arrived in town last week and has been working with the local children wearing the hidden flying harnesses and the adults who will be working the cables backstage.

Belief is a main theme of "Peter Pan," and Gingerbread Players and Theatre Guild Valdosta want audiences to believe that Pan, Wendy and the rest can fly.

As "Peter Pan" opens Thursday for the first of three weekends of shows, the Shanghai Circus will be doing some flying of its own in Mathis City Auditorium.

The Shanghai Circus features acrobats from China. These acrobats perform in Branson, Mo., and Pigeon Forge, Tenn., when not touring the U.S.

The Shanghai Circus is the last show of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series 2008-09 season. It concludes a season of shows such as the Three Redneck Tenors' Christmas performance,

Shanghai Circus

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts the Shanghai Circus.

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Where: Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$45.

Reservations, more information: Visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.; or call 247-2787.

Peter Pan

Gingerbread Players and Theatre Guild Valdosta present the musical "Peter Pan."

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 7 p.m., March 19-21; 2:30 p.m., March 22; 7 p.m., March 27, 28; 2:30 p.m., March 29.

Where: The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$15.

Reservations, information: Call 24-STAGE.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

While the Presenter Series features professional touring shows, it would not be possible without the hard work of local board members, staff and volunteers with the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor. Other sponsors are Ambling Companies, First State Bank & Trust, Georgia Power, Mr. & Mrs. John A. Lastinger, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, South Georgia Pecan, WALB NBC 10.

Both "Peter Pan" and the Shanghai Circus demonstrate a community commitment to arts. These performances show why the arts are flying high in Valdosta-Lowndes County.

FOCUS on weekly events

Valdostadailytimes.com



As the cloudy skies diminished and the sun came out, Drexel Park overflowed with men, women and children enjoying the fun of the annual festival.

Valdosta-Lowndes Ninth Annual Azalea Festival

Photos by Paul Leavy



David Hansen, 5, attempts to solve a Chinese puzzle.



Sisters Peyton and Kaydy Clarke show off fake mustaches.



Jacob Gibbs, 10, helps Bob the Clown with a trick during the festivities.



Malik Bolton, 9 and Marquez Jenkins, 10, right, manage to keep their balance as they try to knocking each other off a padded platform.



A mustached Tori Strawbridge, 8, is photographed by Jamie Harmon, who was printing the photos and handing them out to his models.



The Flat Creek Cloggers from Nashville perform on the stage.

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Photo by Mary Akyias Harman

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BBQ DINNER - 6PM
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Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Valdostadailytimes.com



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Valdosta Rotary Club President Dr. Carl Cates speaks to Rotary members and their guests during the Valdosta Rotary Club's 90-year celebration held at the Annette Howell Turner Center for The Arts Tuesday evening.



PAT GALLAGHER/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Rotary celebrates 90 years

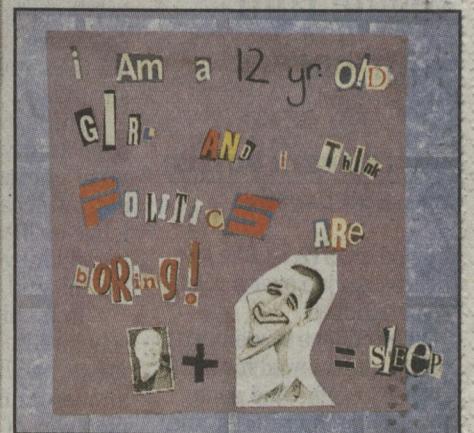
Honored for being a Rotary Club member for over 50 years are Dr. Robert L. Stump, left, with 63 years, Sandy Campbell, standing, with 52 years, and Art Smith with 51 years, during the Valdosta Rotary Club's 90 year celebration. Not shown are Harold Bennett with 52 years, and Ed Crane with 54 years.

Youth Art Month

Youngsters shine in exhibit

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Colorful images, powerful messages, stunning compositions dominate the Youth Art Month exhibition at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



Work by Morgan Manning, St. John's School sixth-grader.

Along the walls and partitions of the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery hang dozens of watercolors, drawings, paintings, inks, photographs, mixed-medium, acrylic, chalk, pencil and crayon creations by students from numerous local and regional schools.

The works exhibit the talents of the children and their talented teachers who share the art experience through the region's many school systems.

The show also allows dozens of area elementary and middle-school students to participate in an exhibit shown in the professional setting of a gallery. It is an opportunity and a learning experience for these students who may continue pursuing art in the future.

Annually, the arts center and Valdosta State University Art, in association with the National Art Education Association, present Georgia Art Education Association's Youth Art Month. It is an opportunity to celebrate the arts as well as express the importance of arts in schools. This show is also a boon for the arts center: With scores of children's art being exhibited, this exhibit brings numerous relatives of the child artists who have never been to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts previously.

Today, this newspaper shares only a sample few of the many great talents and regional schools represented in this show.

GALLERY

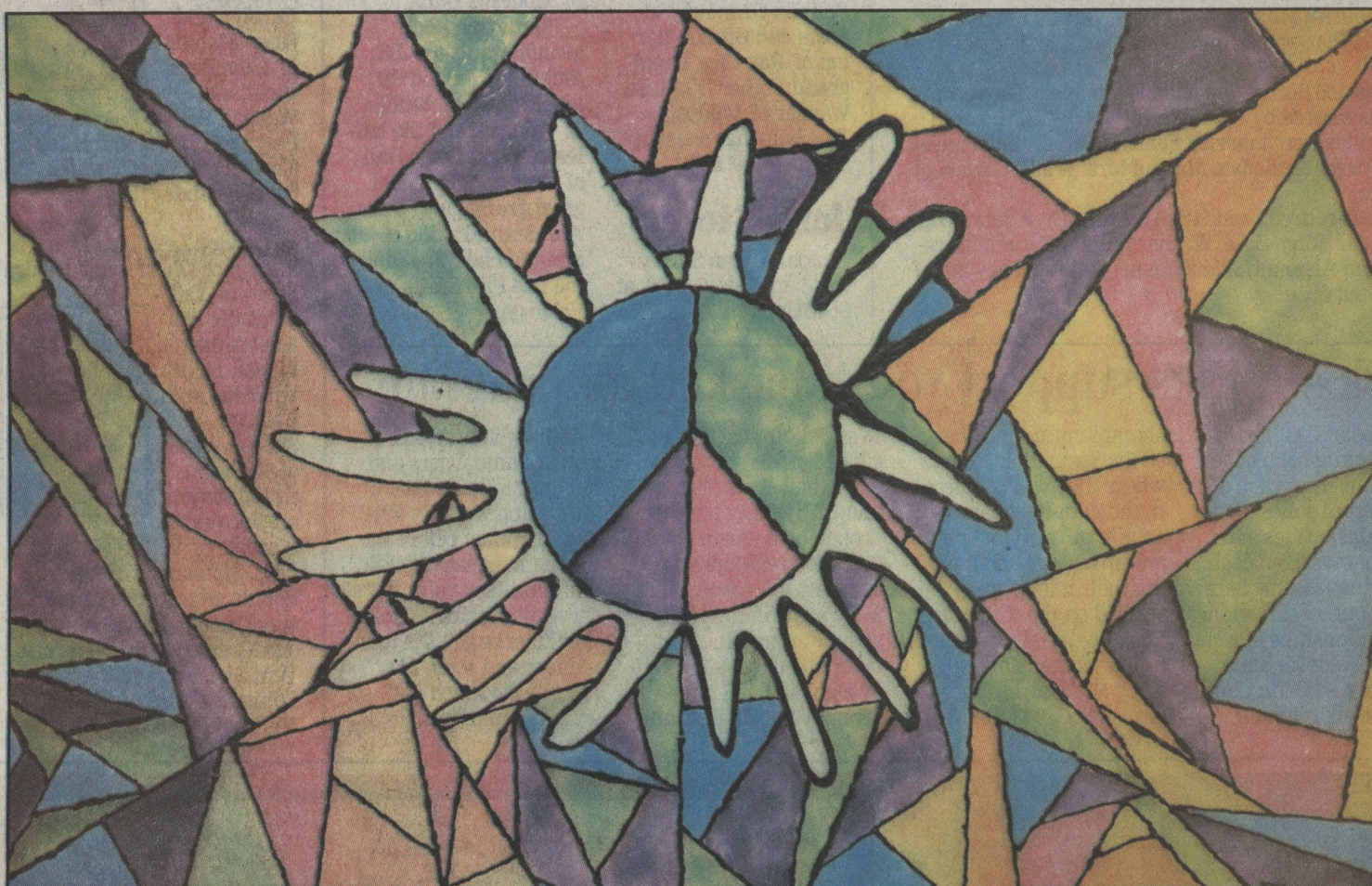
Youth Art Month exhibit, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with the Invitational Regional High School Competition, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Georgia Christian School exhibit, Roberta George Children's Gallery; Art Educators exhibit in Josette's Gallery.

When: The show concludes Friday.
Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patton St.
Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.
More information: Call 247-2787.



Work by Kierra Miller, Hahira Elementary second-grader. Teacher Hannah Herndon.



Work by Tamara Cutlip, Lowndes Middle eighth-grader. Teacher Debi Davis.



**BEHIND
The
SCENES**

Hangings

“Once or twice a year, you want a show that will have some people scratching their heads. ...”

— Jamie Harmon

BY DEAN POLING

Nearly two years before the glasses of wine, sparkling conversations and an evening's reception for four galleries of new art at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, curator Jamie Harmon sits alone at a computer seeking Web sites for regional artists.

Some of these artists he finds through his searches. Some he checks out following a recommendation.

Most artists fit into the criteria of regional, meaning no further away than an eight- to 10-hour drive. Any further away, Harmon explains, shipping becomes a problem. Most artists do not want to spend the money to ship their works a great distance; the arts center cannot afford to pay shipping save for the rare exception.

Experience has proven “if an artist is represented by a gallery, it's not going to happen,” Harmon says. With the gallery expecting its share of an artist's sales and the center expecting its percentage, a representing gallery likely won't release an artist to appear in an arts center far away.

“But if the artist has no gallery representation,” Harmon says, “we can often get them by directly dealing with the artist.”

What type of artist does Harmon and the arts center wish to directly deal with? Every type.

In addition to taking an artist's location, representation, and availability into account, Harmon must weigh the artist's preferred medium and style against what has already been scheduled for arts center's exhibits.

“If we put oil paintings in all four galleries at the same time, it would probably be kind of boring,” Harmon says.

He and the center strive for diversity in an opening. A recent series of shows grouped a drawing exhibit featuring works by numerous artists from the area and across the nation; the large, metal, abstract sculptures of a Florida artist; a series of landscape paintings; and children's art from a Valdosta school.

“We have about 28 slots for shows a year,” Harmon says, referring to the center's four galleries, adding that works from area schools are assigned to the Roberta George Children's Gallery. “Which leaves us about 21 shows. So, you don't want 21 oil painting shows, or 21 photography shows. You want diversity.”

He is also looking for a mix of styles and themes. He seeks the beach scenes, but he seeks the abstract works. He looks for lifelong professional artists but also folk artists who have dedicated their lives to art.

He wants shows that will elicit a response. “Once or twice a year, you want a show that will have some people scratching their heads,” Harmon says. “You don't want to offend ... but you want to find something that opens minds to different kinds of art.”

Once all of these elements have been taken into consideration, Harmon approaches the center's visual arts committee. Headed by Gloria Boyette, this committee has the final word on accepting exhibits for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Once approved, Harmon schedules the exhibits, with the schedule typically planned out 18 months in advance.

During those 18 months between being scheduled and opening a show, Harmon keeps regular contact with the artists. He answers their questions, reminds them of the show's dates, arranges receiving the art, and any number of other preparations. This contact occurs all while other shows come and go from the arts center.

As an opening date nears, the art for a new series of shows arrives.



Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts curator Jamie Harmon arranges pieces of pottery.



Rena Taylor of Clyattville Elementary hangs art belonging to children from her class in a gallery of Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts before the start of Youth Art Month.



Jamie Harmon assists art teacher Jessica Maine of St. John's School with an arrangement of wall hangings before the opening of Youth Art Month.

Then, the switch is on.

Wednesday: The old series of shows traditionally end on a Wednesday.

Thursday and Friday: Harmon schedules the Thursday and Friday after a show ends as days for artists to pick up art from the just-ended exhibits. The old art goes out; some Harmon places in temporary storage.

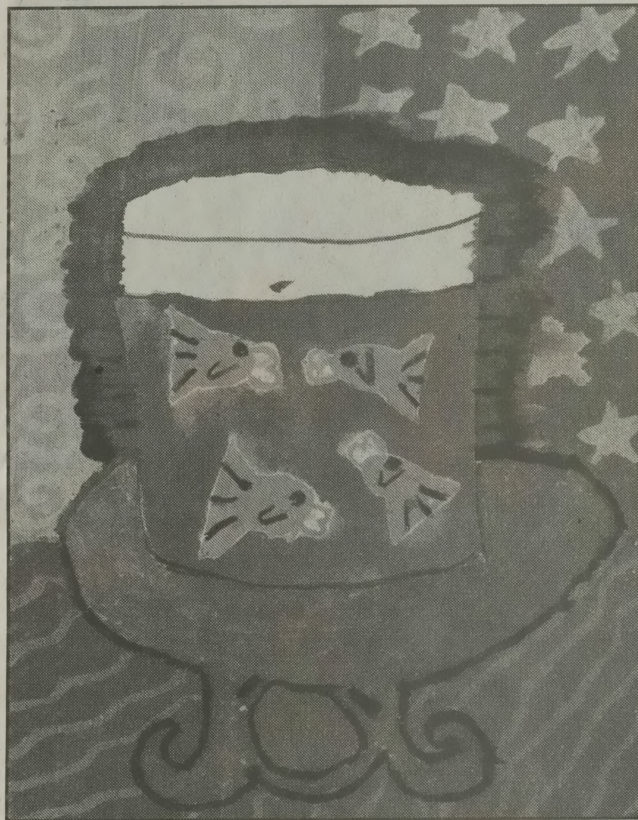
Saturday: Harmon hangs the shows. Harmon prefers working alone in hanging a show; however, he does have a few experienced volunteers who help him. On occasion, an artist will hang his or her own show. Spring Into Art is different; for this April show, Harmon and several volunteers will hang about 400 pieces of art within three hours on a Friday evening.

Sunday: Harmon arranges and adjusts the lighting for works in each gallery. He places the tags by each work of art. The large stickers identifying each show are placed on each gallery wall; Harmon designs these logos by computer; the printing is outsourced.

“You don't want to offend ... but you want to find something that opens minds to different kinds of art.”

— Jamie Harmon

Monday: The galleries are cleaned. Food and wine are prepared. Traditionally, with a few exceptions, the arts center's shows open with a free, public reception, between 5-7 p.m. on scheduled Mondays. At 5 p.m., the doors open. The public arrives. And a new series of exhibits, a show at least 18 months in the making, is ready for viewing.



A work identified to an artist named Amber, a fourth-grader.



A work identified to an artist named Boston, a third-grader.

Youthful Visions

Georgia Christian exhibit showed young energy

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — A colorful and expressive exhibit just closed at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

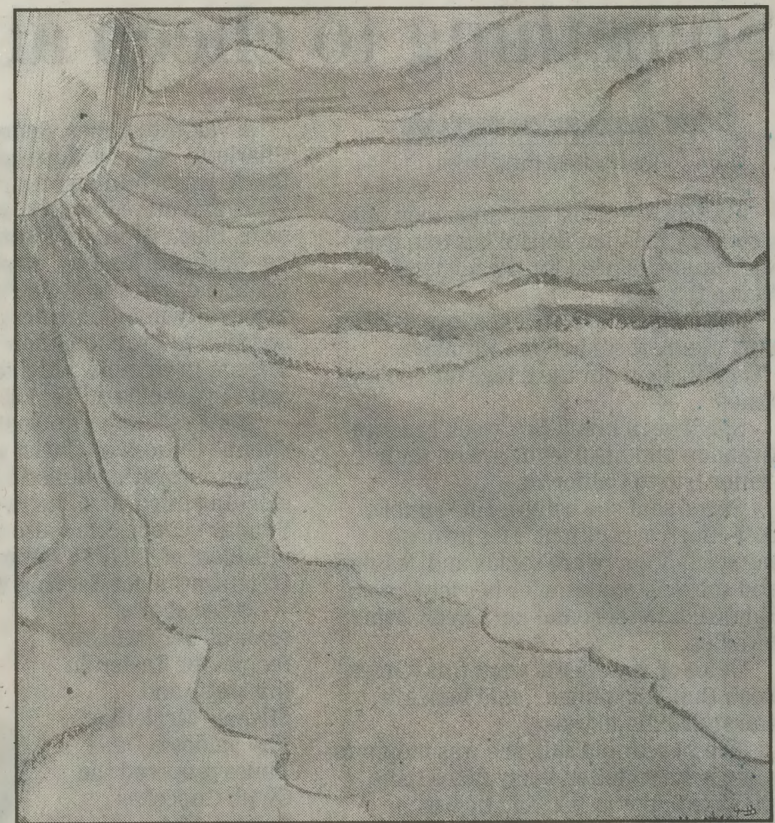
While the arts center had dedicated all of its galleries to young artists and art educators for Youth Art Month, the Roberta George Children's Gallery is dedicated to youth art year round.

During the Youth Art Month shows, the students of Georgia Christian School were the artists on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery. These works were by the students of teacher Lindsay Shea Colson.

There were no last names placed with the art. Only the youngsters' first names were displayed. But the colors and designs seemed to transcend names and went to the creative heart of young art.



A work identified to an artist named Brooke, a seventh-grader.



A work identified to an artist named Hunter, a fourth-grader.

Valdostadailytimes.com

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Berrien student wins contest

VALDOSTA — Rachel Keith, a third-grader at Berrien County Elementary School, won the Invitation Design Contest for the 2009 Spring Into Art event at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta.

Nine-year-old Rachel credits her art teacher, Coby Rice, with helping her develop her artistic talents. She says she was actually 8 years old when she drew the colorful design (prior to her March birthday) and admits to being surprised at learning she had won.

"It made me feel really good, and I'm excited about it," Rachel said.

Asked about her inspiration for the brightly colored floral still life, Rachel said as she drew and painted, "I was looking at it in my head."

Rachel is the daughter of Scott and Elizabeth Keith of Nashville. She has one sister, China, 16, and a brother, Dracey, 7. The Turner Center will frame Rachel's original painting for display in the lobby during the Spring Into Art exhibition. Rachel will be recognized at the

April 13th reception and presented with a certificate for a free art class at the center this summer.

Spring Into Art is the Turner Center's biggest annual art show and fundraiser. Reservations are required for the reception on April 13, which will include a catered buffet and a chance to be among the first in Valdosta to view and purchase 470 original pieces of artwork. Tickets are \$45 per person. Please call 247-2787 for information and reservations.



Rachel Keith



'Asian Garden,' artist Karen Sasine.



'King's Grill,' artist Pam Scuggs.

GALLERY

The annual Spring Into Art exhibit. **Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. **Opens:** The show opens with a paid reception, 6-9 p.m. Monday. **Reception ticket:** \$45 per person. **Run dates:** Show runs from Monday through late May. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays with exception of show-opening dates. **More information:** Call 247-2787.

SPRING into ART

The area's most democratic art show returns

BY DEAN POLING
The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Spring Into Art returns Monday night with hundreds of images and three-dimensional works from hundreds of local and regional artists.

And the exhibit should continue its tradition of being a premier showcase for the region's artists.

This year's exhibit is scheduled to feature 450 pieces from 230 artists from our immediate region, as well as the state, the Southeast and various points across the nation, according to Cheryl G. Oliver, the arts center's executive director.

Last year's Spring Into Art featured 439 works from 239 artists.

Spring Into Art remains Valdosta's largest, most inclusive, and democratic of art exhibits.

Though Spring Into Art is a juried show, it is unlike many other juried shows anywhere. Most exhibits accept many entries and then pare down those entries



Art by Barbara Balzer.

Spring

Continued from page 1E

through the judging process to include half or typically less of the entries.

As long as the artists keep to the rules and enter their two entries by the deadline, everything entered in a Spring Into Art show is given exhibit space at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Though all works will be exhibited, judges will still pick favorites either today or Monday morning.

On Monday evening, these selected works will be marked, which will indicate they will be included in the subsequent Best of Spring Into Art show in June.

Spring Into Art is more than just the largest of the area's art shows. It is intrinsically connected to the history of the arts center and its umbrella organization, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

Originally, LVAC's headquarters were located in a small building several blocks north up Patterson Street. This smaller building was too small to exhibit as ambitious a project as Spring Into Art.

LVAC had a friend in First State Bank & Trust in Downtown Valdosta. Back then, the joke had been that First State's downtown offices looked more like an art gallery than a bank. This was particularly true on many occasions as, for more than a decade, the bank annually served as the host for the Spring Into Art shows.

Several years ago, when First State Bank announced the move of its main offices from downtown to a corner of Perimeter and Bemiss roads, LVAC learned it had even more friends.

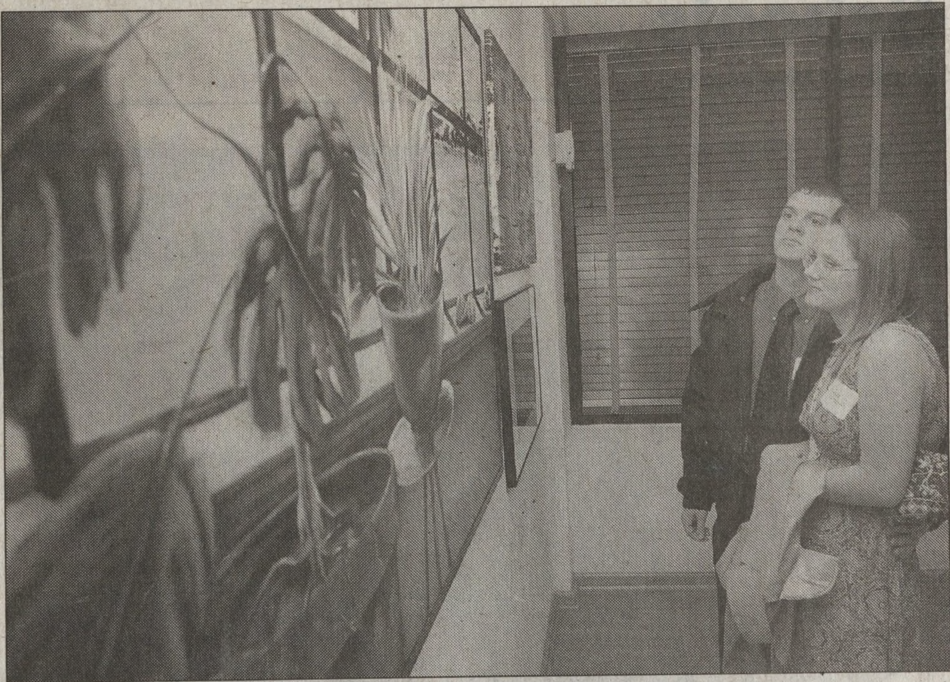
Former Sen. Loyce Turner, who had ties with the bank, and the Turner family donated more than a half-million dollars toward LVAC purchasing the downtown building from First State. The addition of other contributions led to the purchase, refurbishing the bank building into an actual series of art galleries, and a foundation for its operation.

The center is named for Annette Howell Turner, Sen. Turner's late wife who was a woman who greatly supported local arts.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St., opened six years ago, appropriately with the 2003 Spring Into Art exhibit as its inaugural show.



'Hero vs. Fire,' artist Micah Starr.



PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Spring Into Art

ABOVE: Spring into Art artist Krystle Stotter and her fiancé Kyle Paisley look over the various art pieces Monday during the opening night for the juried art show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

RIGHT: Ann Smith and Ingrid Carroll take a close look at a pair of untitled clay pieces by Barbara Balzar at the opening night for the 22nd Annual Spring into Art at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday evening.



PAUL LEAVY/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

NASHVILLE, BERRIEN COUNTY, GEORGIA 31639

APRIL 15, 2009

Nashville



RACHEL KEITH

Rachel Keith, a third grader at Berrien Elementary School, won the Invitation Design Contest for the 2009 Spring Into Art event at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta. For more information, see inside this edition.



CONTRIBUTED ARTWORK

VHS art teacher earns signature status

Teresa Middleton, Fine Arts Department chairperson at Valdosta High School, recently had a watercolor painting of her daughter Emily juried into the 2009 Georgia Watercolor National Juried Exhibition. This exhibition entry earns her the prestigious status of signature membership in the Georgia Watercolor Society. Middleton also had a painting from the Spring Into Art Show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts selected for the next Colson Calendar. She does paintings and murals by commission, teaches classes for the Valdosta State University Learning in Retirement Program and has paintings for sale at City Market in downtown Valdosta.

Unique Ideas Ceramics for Mom

Sale returns to VSU Art

BY DEAN POLING

The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University art instructor Michael Schmidt continues to reveal the talents of the university's ceramics department with this weekend's Seventh Annual Mother's Day Ceramics Sale.

The sale is scheduled to feature ceramic bowls, pitchers, jars, vases, plates, platters and more designed by Schmidt, Jeni Morris, Laura Kissinger, Hayley Milleman, Kate Patrick, Abbie Preston, Michele Derome and more. Works in the show promise to be combination pieces that are both artistically inspired yet designed for practical use.

Thirty percent of the sale's proceeds benefit VSU Ceramics Visiting Artist Fund, which will allow the art department to continue hosting guest artists which have included Brian Jensen, Utah Valley University, Shane Christensen, Dixie State College, Utah, Brooke Cassady, Charleston, S.C., Suzannah Zucker, University of Georgia, Brad Schwieger, University of Ohio, Chuck Johnson, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Jasey Allen Jones, University of Georgia, Stephen Heywood, University of North Florida, Ryan Fitzer, Southern Methodist

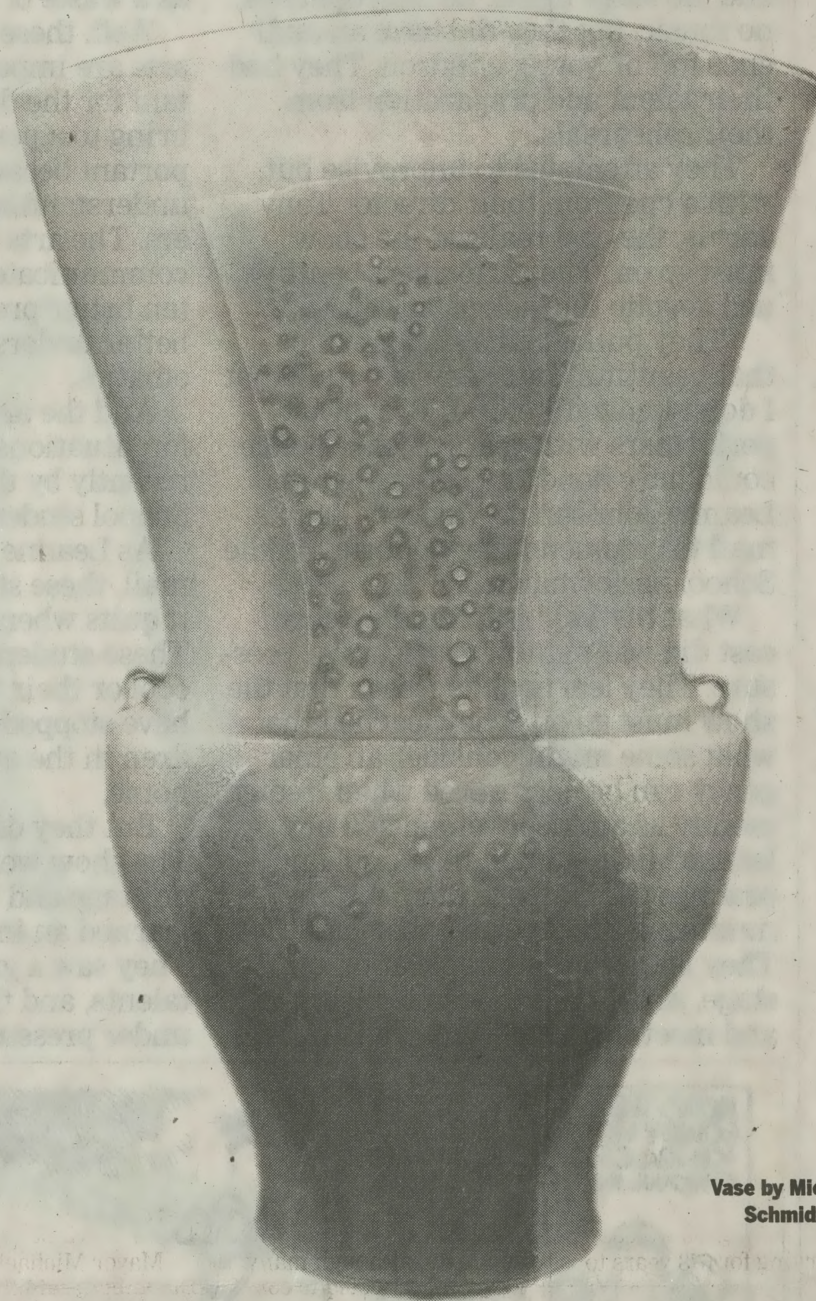
University, Texas.

Last fall, VSU and the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts collaborated to bring three ceramic artists for an exhibit and a series of workshops, Schmidt says. "Fundraising events

like this have been instrumental in bringing nationally and internationally recognized artists to programs like ours, here at VSU," Schmidt says.

■
The Seventh Annual Mother's Day Ceramics

Sale is scheduled for 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Ceramics Lab, Room 136, first floor, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. More information: Call 333-5835.



Vase by Michael Schmidt.



Art by Roxanne Newton.



'Beer Belly Slumber,' artist Hollis Barnett.

'Big Joe,'
artist Troy
Allen.



Spring Into Art: Another Look

GALLERY

The annual Spring Into Art exhibit, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.
 Run dates: Show runs from Monday through late May.
 Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays with exception of show-opening dates.
 More information: Call 247-2787.

BY DEAN POLING
 The Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — The 2009 Spring Into Art Exhibition continues at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. This year's exhibit features 450 pieces from 230 artists from throughout our immediate region, as well as the state, the Southeast and various points across the nation. It is a show so big that there's more than can be fully appreciated in one trip. Spring Into Art remains Valdosta's largest, most inclu-

sive, and democratic of art exhibits. Though Spring Into Art is a juried show, it is unlike many other juried shows anywhere.

Most exhibits accept many entries and then cull down those entries through the judging process to include half or typically less of the entries.

As long as the artists kept to the rules and entered their two entries by the deadline, everything entered in a Spring Into Art show is given exhibit space at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

In May, the center will feature the pieces that were juried by the judges in the Best of Spring Into Art show.