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THE TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2009-2010

BROADWAY SEASON
 AT MATHIS AUDITORIUM

IllusionAire

THE MAGIC OF LYN

Tues Oct. 20, 2009 - 7:30pm



Of **MICE and MEN**

Sun Nov. 8, 2009 - 3:00pm Matinee



hairspray

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Thursday, October 1, 2009

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Monday, October 5, 2009

Sunday, October 18, 2009 **13A**

Monday, October 12, 2009

Thursday, October 29, 2009 **9A**

Sunday, November 1, 2009 **3A**

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 **3A**

Thursday, November 5, 2009 **1B**

The Functional Art of Walter Hobbs

Artists on Ashley hosts ceramic artist

BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Art lovers know they can find works by area artists Jeanne Cowart, Annette Crosby, Deb House, Pam Scruggs and Ellen Dewar at Artists On Ashley. Now, visitors can see the work of the Downtown Valdosta gallery's guest artist, Walter Hobbs.

Hobbs' raku and stoneware works will be on display throughout October, but the show opens with a free, public reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, as part of downtown's monthly First Friday events, said Annette Crosby.

Hobbs recently retired as an art instructor from the Lowndes County School System, having worked several years as Hahira Middle School's art teacher.

But Hobbs is also recognized as a ceramicist. Throughout his teaching career, he continued his artistic pursuits. Now, he has more time to devote to his artwork.

Hobbs' work has been on display in numerous



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Artist Walter Hobbs at work. As part of Downtown Valdosta's First Friday, Hobbs is the guest artist at Artists On Ashley.

shows throughout the region. He has been developing the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' pottery studio.

His work can also be found in numerous households. As Hobbs has said in past articles, he believes in ceramic art that looks good but is also functional.

Hobbs makes functional

pottery in different styles from Nigerian pottery to Japanese pottery to old-country pottery. Hobbs incorporates many influences into his style, but he emphasizes that he is a functional potter.

A past interview noted that his bowls, cups, etc., work as fine art for display, but Hobbs suggested peo-

ple use the item. "You have a cup? Drink coffee from it," he said. "Use it. It shouldn't just sit there."

In a 2006 article in Valdosta Scene magazine, Hobbs shared the story of an Ohio man who bought one of his cups. Hobbs received a letter from this man. The letter noted that the man drank coffee from

the Hobbs cup all the time. He took the cup with him everywhere he went. Then the man accidentally broke the cup. A snapshot of the broken cup was included with the letter. The Ohio man wanted to purchase two more of Hobbs' cups.

The moral of the story: Functional pottery is intended to be just that, functional. It can't be functional unless it is used for what it was designed to do.

"If you buy a cup," Hobbs said, "and let it just sit on the shelf then it's no different than a pet rock."



A gathering of works by Walter Hobbs, the guest artist at Artists On Ashley.

GALLERY

Artists on Ashley, 203 N.

Ashley St., hosts guest artist Walter Hobbs throughout the month of October. The show opens with a free, public reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, as part of Downtown Valdosta's First Friday events.



JONATHAN M. CHICK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Anne Wilhoite with Nextep, Bill Shenton with the Turner Center for the Arts, and Parker Lincoln with Lincoln Realty stop to pose for a photo at the Business After Hours Event hosted by Valwood School Thursday evening.

BUSINESS

After Hours

Nature's Edge

Artist explores the dreams of mankind and the great outdoors

BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Artist Diane Farris' combination of photography and mixed media evokes the stuff of dreams.

There are incongruous pairings, such as a crane's flight over fog-drenched cattle. It is an image that is possible but the juxtaposition of figures, the unexpected sight of one with the other, has that hazy reality of the dream world.

Or she brings elements into sharp focus while others fade into a sublime backdrop.

Something in the mixture of photography's realism and Farris' imaginings creates this surreal panorama. Farris has the rare quality to reveal new possibilities while uncovering an inescapable sense of déjà vu.

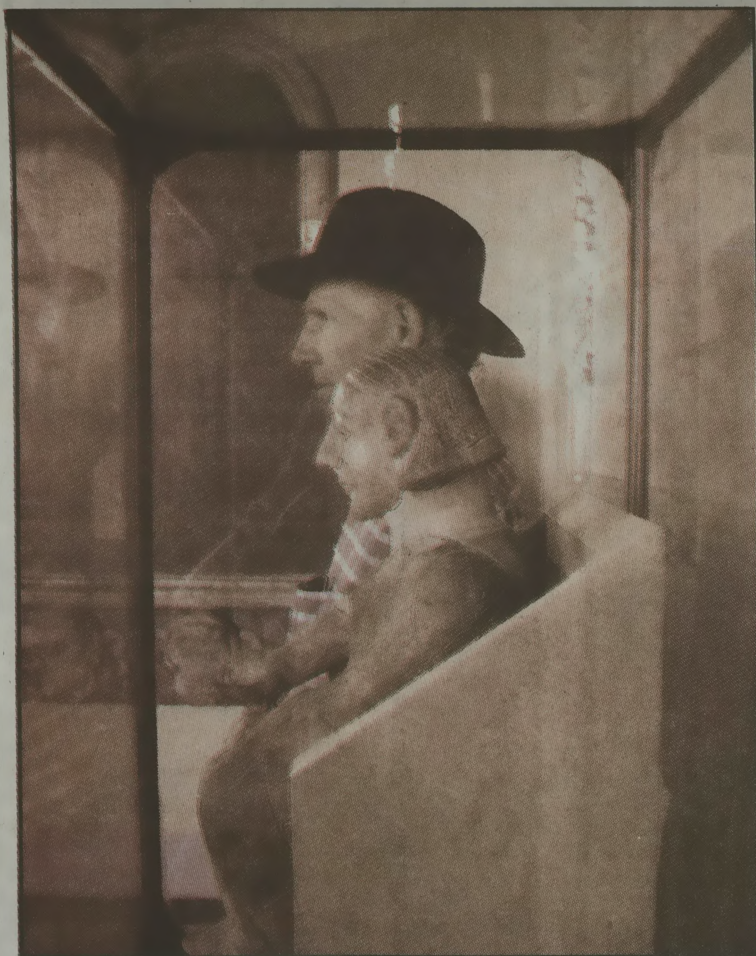
The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents an exhibit, "Nature's Edge," featuring Farris' work from 2008 and this year. She describes the theme of these works as "the edge of nature, that point where people and nature meet, where cranes linger by a fence, where long light enters a beautiful window, where human and animal shadows fall on an ancient wall. An image like 'Dreaming Cranes' — a sleeping infant with cranes emerging from behind oaks in fog — asks whether we are dreaming nature — or is nature dreaming us?"

Cranes are a consistent element in many of these works. "Sandhill cranes and their migrations have occupied Farris for several years," according to artists information from the Turner Center.



'Matins,' artist Diane Farris.

Farris is a Florida-based artist and a busy one. In addition to her Valdosta show, she has another exhibit opening this weekend in Jacksonville. She is also a book illustrator and a teacher.



'Roman Profiles,' artist Diane Farris.



'Shadows,' artist Diane Farris.

GALLERY

Artist Diane Farris' "Nature's Edge" is on display in Josette's Gallery, along with Vivian Jendzio's paintings, Price-Campbell Gallery; artist Joanna White's paper sculptures, Sallie Harmon Boyette Gallery; S.L. Mason Elementary School student art, Roberta George Gallery.

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

Run dates: This show runs through Nov. 11.

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

More information: Call 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org.

Life

Do you believe in Magic?

Presenter Series opens with the illusions of Illusionaire

BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Illusions transformed a shy young girl into a grand stage presence.

That's the back story of Illusionaire's Lyn Dillies, who presents the first show in the 2009-10 season of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Presenter Series Tuesday night.

Dillies has been a professional illusionist for years. She has performed in the Lincoln Center and worked across the nation.

Her illusions have included an election-year trick of making the GOP Elephant and Democ-

Dillies
ratic Donkey appear out of thin air. She has incorporated illusions with symphonic orchestra music.

For the Valdosta performance, Dillies says she is bringing a very family-friendly, high-energy show to town, similar to the type of an illusion show audiences might see in New York or Las Vegas.

Yet before the bright lights and the big tricks, Dillies describes herself as a shy, 12-year-old child. Until, she saw the television show "The Magician," starring Bill Bixby as a magic man who fights crime.

"The Magician" inspired her to visit a magic shop. She purchased tricks then she practiced these tricks relentlessly. She enjoyed the method of practicing tricks after school.

She enjoyed even more presenting the tricks to her family and friends. She performed tricks on the school bus, in between classes. She even traveled door to door, performing magic tricks for her neighbors.

"It was the coolest thing. So empowering," Dillies says in a phone interview with The Valdosta Daily Times. "It brought me out of my shell and into society."

She had strong support from her family. With a master-electrician father and a cabinet-making uncle, Dillies had an edge in creating newer, bigger magic props. Her mother took her everywhere to perform. Her childhood interest



'... I slowly realized the novelty of it of being one of the only female illusionists in the world. I looked at it as a challenge.'

Lyn Dillies
Illusionist

SHOWTIME

Illusionaire: The Magic of Lyn Dillies

PreSenter Series presents "Illusionaire: The Magic of Lyn Dillies."

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20.

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

Ticket: \$45.

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

Sponsors: The Valdosta Daily Times, Ambling, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, First State Bank, Georgia Power, South Georgia Pecan, WALB.

I've paved the way for future young girls that anything is possible."

She is a member of numerous magician and illusionist societies and guilds, all dominated by men. Yet, her fellow illusionists have mostly been accepting of her. There is a mutual respect. The Society of American Magicians has named her "America's premier female illusionist."

She explains the difference between a magician and an illusionist. "An illusionist has to be a magician but has expanded into the realm of larger effects, but a magician isn't necessarily an illusionist."

WHAT WE THINK

The art of inspiration

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts kicks off a new season Tuesday evening with "Illusionaire: The Magic of Lynn Dillies." Dillies is billed as America's premier female illusionist.

In an interview in Sunday's editions of The Valdosta Daily Times, Dillies said she began working with magic tricks and illusion effects as a youngster. Her career was originally inspired by the old Bill Bixby TV show "The Magician."

For two decades, the arts center has sponsored the Presenter Series, which brings professional productions to Valdosta-Lowndes County.

Who knows how many people have found inspiration, as well as entertainment, in these great shows.

Gail Hobgood and Nancy Warren spent many hours preparing this year's Presenter Series season, which also includes a stage production of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" (a Nov. 8 matinee), the musical "Hairspray" (Feb. 11), and "Yesterday & Today," an audience interactive Beatles show (March 4).

While these shows will be performed at Mathis City Auditorium, the Presenter Series is just one of

the arts center's many regular programs, which also include art exhibits, concerts, classes, and more.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a proud sponsor of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series, and has been for many years.

SHOWTIME

Illusionaire

"Illusionaire: The Magic of Lynn Dillies" plays 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Ticket: \$45.
More information: Call 247-2787; or visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.

joy, or, who knows, an inspiration that may change a life.

Other sponsors are Ambling, Dr. James Sinnott/Dr. Ed Fricker & Families, First State Bank, Georgia Power, South Georgia Pecan, WALB.

We encourage the community to attend these shows. They may provide a smile, a laugh, an insightful thought, a moment of

Tuesday, October 20, 2009



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ready for Magic

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' staff and Presenter Series Committee are ready for 'Illusionaire: The Magic of Lynn Dillies,' playing 7:30 p.m. today, Mathis City Auditorium. Pictured: Turner Center staffers Sara Jo Grooms, Linda Facile, Nancy Smith, Bill Shenton, Cheryl Oliver, Tracey Timmons, Jenny Howard, and Sharon Lodge (with Pearl, the rabbit); Nancy Warren and Gail Hobgood, Presenter Series committee members. More information: Call 247-2787.

Thursday, October 22, 2009

'Illusionaire:' A magical night!

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Illusionist Lyn Dillies opened the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' 2009-10 Presenter Series with a magical evening for all ages.

Dillies performed a non-stop act of illusions and magic tricks Tuesday night that pulled several Valdosta audience members into the show.

Youngsters partici-

pated in tricks of a floating girl and a boy whose shoe disappeared. One audience member protected a box on stage by shrieking if anyone approached it. One local man kept his head after placing it in a guillotine device.

In another instance, Dillies bounced a beach

ball into the audience. The third person to catch it would either be the "volunteer" if a man over 18, or should be handed to an adult male. On the ball's third bounce, no man accepted it. The ball rolled in the aisle.

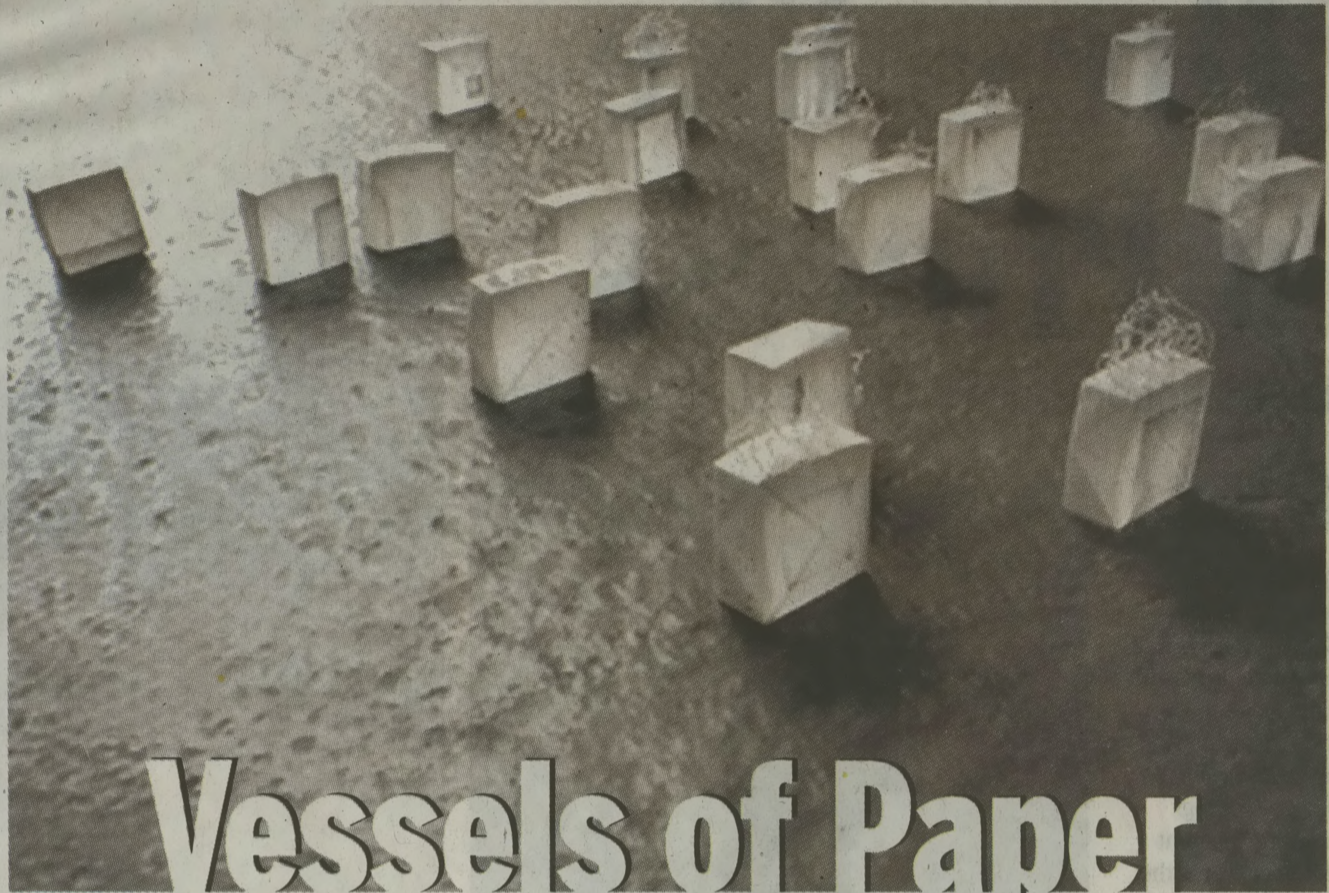
Audience members started it bouncing again.

The third bounce bopped into one man who refused to even raise his arms. Dillies said this reluctance was a new situation for her. Finally, a young woman caught the ball and handed it to Paul Cribbs sitting on an aisle seat near the stage. Dillies performed a mind-reading

trick with him.

Dillies kept the evening full of laughter and oohs, mixing humor with awe-inspiring tricks. She performed tricks with birds, cards, a dancing handkerchief, a twisting machine and other illusions.

A neat trick of an evening!



Vessels of Paper

Joanna White boxes origami

GALLERY

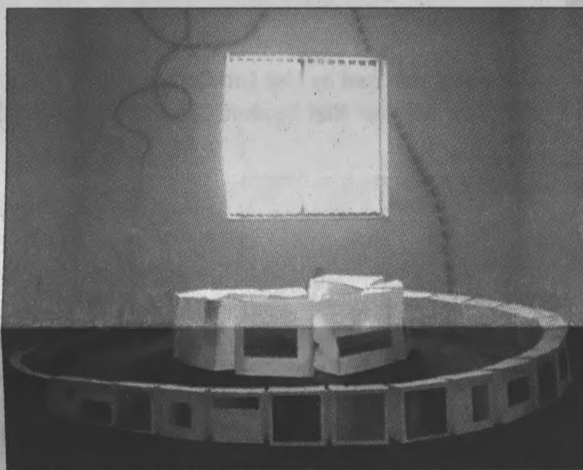
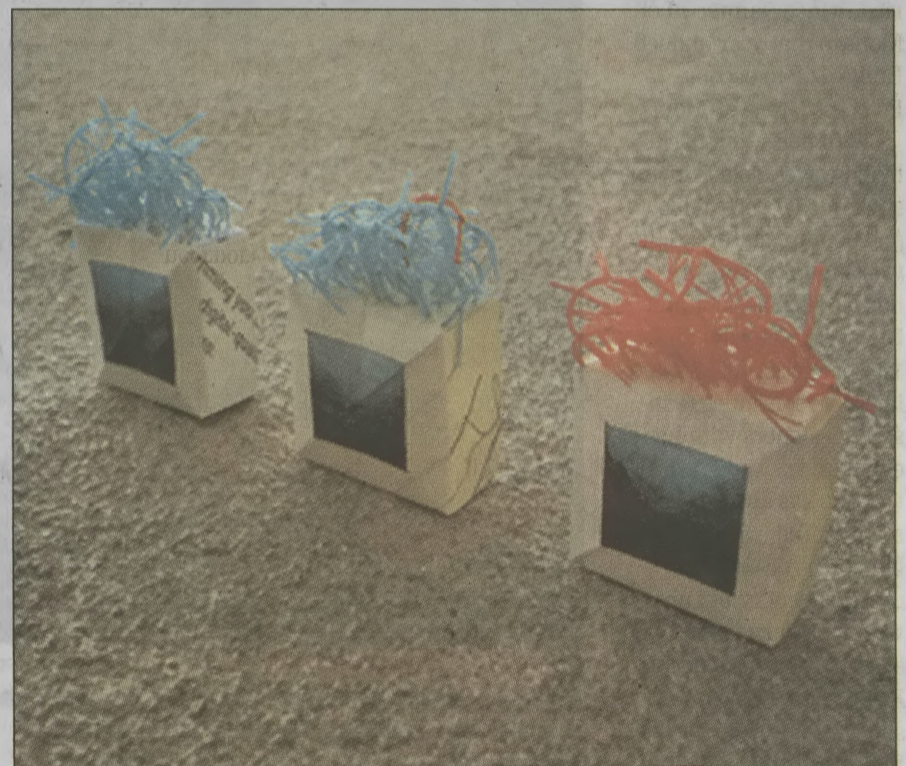
Artist Joanna White's paper sculptures are on display in Sallie Harmon Boyette Gallery; along with artist Diane Farris' "Nature's Edge," Josette's Gallery; Vivian Jenzio's paintings, Price-Campbell Gallery; artist S.L. Mason Elementary School student art, Roberta George Gallery.

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

Run dates: This show runs through Nov. 11.

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

More information: Call 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org



BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Hear the word "origami," the folded creases of paper cranes fly across the

mind. Artist Joanna White turns that image of origami on its head.

White's origami takes the form of paper boxes.

Given her arrangements of these paper

boxes, White's art is reminiscent of fleets of paper boats.

Viewers can see White's art in the Sally Harmon Boyette Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

White sees the box form as a conduit to relaying themes and ideas.

"The origami box form, with its consistent proportions and vessel-like construction, has become a key building

block and formal device in my sculptural and fiber-based work," White says in an artistic statement.

"Though the form suggests solidity, the material is fragile and vulnerable. I'm fascinated by the container aspect of the box, and the weird subversion of the perfect, crisp geometry of the structure by the sagging, fragile nature of the paper. The boxes may function as

several things at once — as houses, bodies, a time sequence, or segments of a greater whole."

Sizes of her work range from a quarter-inch to eighteen inches across. She hand-folds the boxes from thin, transparent papers, she says, as well as "discarded materials such as used Post-it notes, junk mail, or my students' abandoned drawings."

Studied Color

S.L. Mason exhibit at arts center

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — S.L. Mason Elementary School presents a colorful and informative exhibit of its students' work in the Roberta George Children's Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for

the Arts. Students studied Pablo Picasso's Blue Period and a series of the students' blue portraits share what they have learned. The exhibit also offers visitors history on Picasso and this period in his versatile career.

Other student work demonstrate the technique

of pointillism, a complex series of dots that form secondary colors and an image. The exhibit also shares information on this technique. The show travels through the school's grades, with students offering several views and well-done portraits. A show for all ages.

GALLERY

S.L. Mason Elementary
School student art on display in the Roberta George Gallery; along with artist Joanna White's paper sculptures, Sallie Harmon Boyette Gallery; artist Diane Farris' "Nature's Edge," Josette's Gallery; artist Vivian Jenzio's paintings, Price-Campbell Gallery.

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

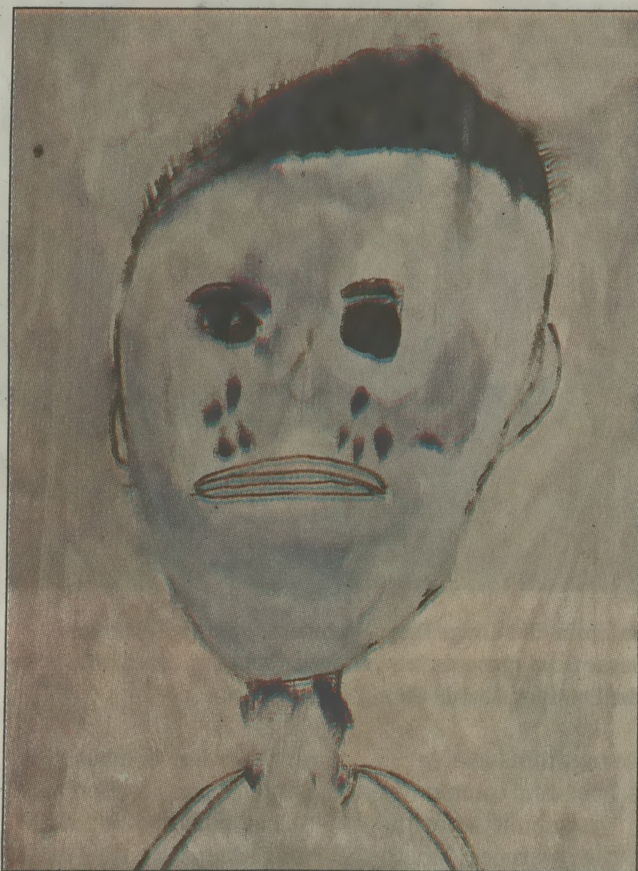
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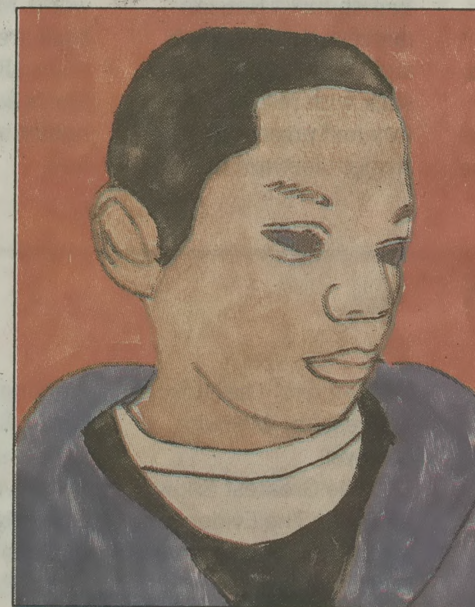
More information:
Call 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org.



Art by Montanna Maxwell, fourth grade, S.L. Mason Elementary School.



Art by Coltean Hughes, S.L. Mason Elementary School second-grader. This work was inspired by the students studying Pablo Picasso's Blue Period.



Art by Willie Collins, fourth grade, S.L. Mason Elementary School

Of Mice And Men



Make plans for next week's Presenter Series show

Best friends George and Lennie find themselves tested by misunderstanding and destiny, the cruelties of people and fate. While some may not immediately know the story, many will recognize the wily, tough, protective George and the lumbering, childlike giant Lennie.

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

SHOWTIME

VALDOSTA — Two of the 20th century's best-known characters will amble across the Mathis City Auditorium stage next week.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts a professional, touring production of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

Best friends George and Lennie find themselves tested by misunderstanding and destiny, the cruelties of people and fate. While some may not immediately know the story, many will recognize the wily, tough, protective George and the lumbering, childlike giant Lennie.

These are the characters of the book that made Steinbeck famous in the 1930s, leading to subsequent characters and works such as Doc and the boys of "Cannery Row" and "Sweet Thursday," the Joads of "Grapes of Wrath," and the other works and people that led to Steinbeck earning the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Of Mice and Men."

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8.

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.

Steinbeck took the title "Of Mice and Men" from a poem by Scottish poet Robert Burns. The 1785 poem, "To a Mouse, On Turning Her Up In Her Nest With The Plough," refers to the famed line of "the best-laid plans o' mice an' men."

Steinbeck went out into the world to find inspiration for the characters who peopled his books.

As a college student-writer, Steinbeck often ditched his studies and his writings to travel as a migrant worker, which is how he met the real people who would become his

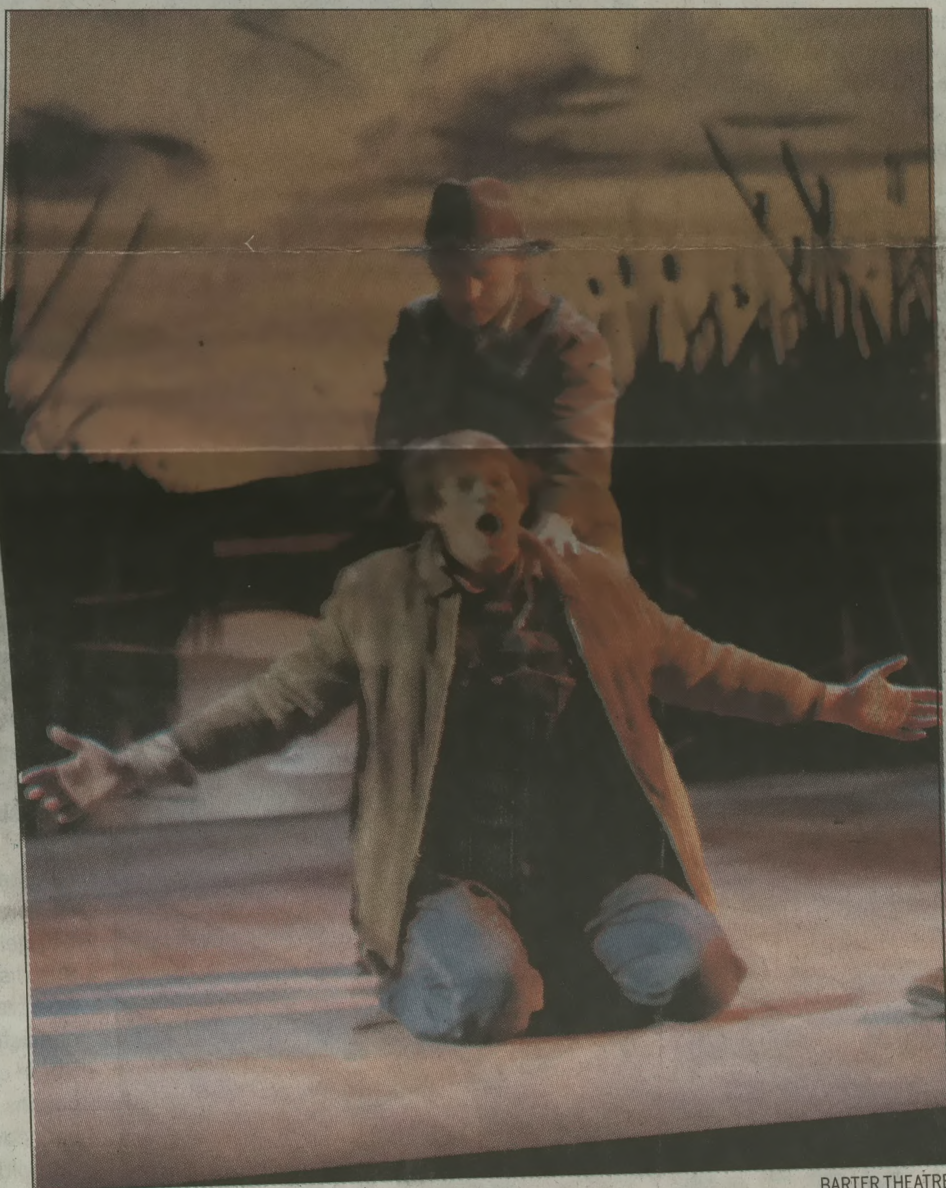
characters like the Joads, Doc, Lennie and George. There were Steinbeck's many wives. His later-year travelings across America with his dog which became the source for his book, "Travels with Charley."

"Of Mice and Men" elevated Steinbeck from a new novelist to an important novelist to a desired

commodity in Hollywood and on Broadway — both picked up the tragic, matter-of-fact tragedy of Lennie and George and their rough-and-tumble world of day laborers on the farms of the Midwest in the 1930s.

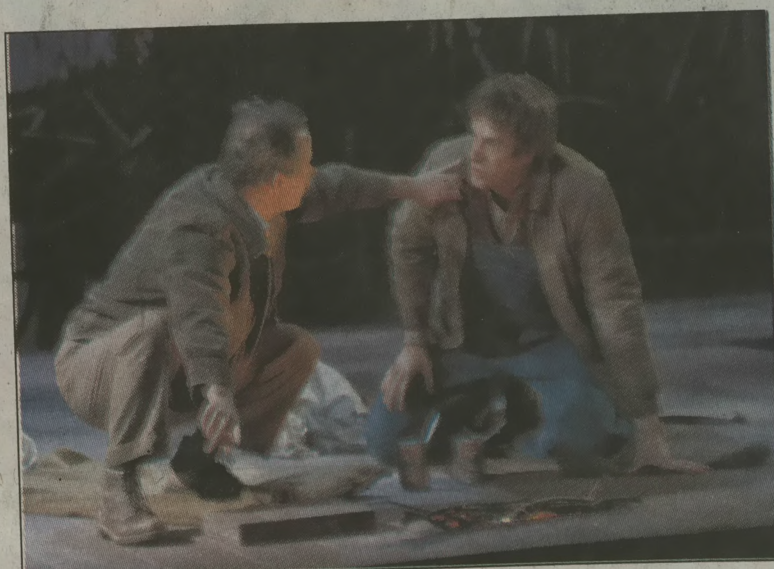
In adapting his book for stage and screen, Steinbeck insisted that he remain true to the coarse

language of his novel, because he felt that the language and charged situations of the book captured the character and world of the men he once worked with as a migrant worker. Anything less, any watering down of the language, would compromise the novel's, and subsequently the play's, authenticity.



BARTER THEATRE

George must make a difficult decision with Lennie.



Getting into the act

Monday, November 2, 2009

valdostadailytimes.com

duce theatre to young people.

Meanwhile, both Valdosta High and Lowndes High offer award-winning theatre programs. Both high schools have spent the past several weeks preparing for this week's one-act regional high school competition in Moultrie. Lowndes High School Off-Broadway will present the Elton John-Tim Rice musical "Aida." Valdosta High School Drama competes with Noel Coward's British 1930s comedy, "Blithe Spirit."

Meanwhile, the area has regular performances from VSU Theatre & Dance which opens the musical "Damn, Yankees" next week; Theatre Guild Valdosta which recently wrapped the Agatha Christie mystery "And Then There Were None"; the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series which hosts a professional touring production of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" this weekend; and Peach State Summer Theatre which presents three professional musicals each summer.

Valdosta Middle School Players has set the stage for other regional middle schools. Perhaps, other middle schools should consider following the VMS example by getting into the act.

Valdosta Middle School is the only area South Georgia middle school offering a theatre program.

Late last month, Valdosta Middle School became the first South Georgia middle school to compete in regional one-act theatre competition.

VMS Players Director Toni Jarvis ensured that her school could participate by not only preparing for its first competition but by agreeing to host the competition. She wasn't certain of funding to transport her players to regional competition in any other location.

The move paid off and Jarvis and her students will travel now. VMS Players' "Dracula: The Death of Nosferatu" won passage to state one-act competition later this month. Valdosta Middle cast and crew also won awards for performances and special effects.

The reason why Valdosta Middle is the first South Georgia middle school to compete in these competitions is simple.

Valdosta Middle School is the only area South Georgia middle school offering a theatre program.

VMS started the theatre program a few years ago under Jarvis' direction. Given regional youth and children's theatre activity in the region, it is a move other area middle schools may want to consider.

Valdosta-Lowndes County has two children's theatres with the Little Actors Theatre and the Gingerbread Players of Theatre Guild Valdosta. Both of these organizations have attracted hundreds of young people to performance and stage work during the past several years.

Valdosta State University Theatre has annually toured area schools with shows designed to intro-

valdostadailytimes.com

4A Friday, November 6, 2009

On the Road with 'Of Mice and Men'

Show plays Valdosta Sunday

BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Mike Ostroski can see the parallels between his life as a traveling actor and that of his character in John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

Ostroski plays Lennie, the lumbering giant who wanders the Depression-era country from place to place with his friend George. For the past several weeks, Ostroski and the "Mice" cast have been wandering from place to place across the nation.

On Sunday, "Of Mice and Men" wanders into Valdosta for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series' showing.

"Lennie and George keep dreaming about find-



PHOTO: BARTER THEATRE

Mike Ostroski, left, as Lennie in 'Of Mice and Men,' playing Sunday afternoon as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

ing a home one day," says Ostroski, who called earlier this week prior to a show in Montana. "And they won't have to travel so much and live hand to mouth. They're looking for the American Dream of having a home and security and that feeling of comfort."

He draws comparisons and contrasts to Lennie and George's lives to the lives of touring profes-

sional actors.

"There's the travel. There's something new every day," he says. "... The crew will wake up from sleeping on the bus in a completely different climate from where they left the night before. It can be surreal."

The Barter Theatre troupe will travel from Montana, stopping for shows along the way, to Valdosta during a short pe-

riod of days.

"Still, as actors, we're getting paid and there's a per diem," Ostroski says. "Things are secure and warm ... at least until Thanksgiving."

The national tour ends the weekend prior to Thanksgiving then Ostroski and the rest of the actors will be looking for new roles and new work.

Until then, Ostroski will inhabit the role of Lennie each night. Lennie is one of the most recognizable characters from 20th century literature. Even people unfamiliar with Steinbeck and "Of Mice and Men" often recognize the slow-witted characterization of Lennie.

Ostroski received good direction early in this production to avoid playing Lennie as a stereotyped character, or impersonating a previous actor's per-

formance of the character.

"The director wanted us to tell our version of the story and not at all attempt to tell the story people think they know," he says. "We're doing Steinbeck, but we're trying to find our own truth to these characters."

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Of Mice and Men."

When: 3 p.m. Sunday

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

Ticket: \$45, general admission; \$20, students.

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

NOTE: Adult content.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.

THE TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTER SERIES AT MATHIS AUDITORIUM

BROADWAY SEASON

Thurs Feb 11, 2010 - 7:00PM

hairspray

• BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT •

The Turner Center for the Arts presents the blockbuster Broadway show of the season- it's "HAIRSPRAY"! It is 1962, the 50's are out and change is in the air! Baltimore's Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and even bigger heart, has one passion: to dance! She wins on a local TV dance show and overnight becomes a teen celebrity. It is great music, great dancing and great fun!

Don't miss "HAIRSPRAY" coming to Mathis Auditorium Feb. 11th, 2010.



PHOTO:
Norman Jean Roy

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HAIRSPRAY

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564644bgv

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

8A Sunday, November 8, 2009



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Of Mice and Men' today

'Of Mice and Men' will be performed at 3 p.m. today at Mathis City Auditorium, presented by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series. Box office opens at 2 p.m.; ticket price: \$45; special student/teacher price: \$20 each. Pictured (clockwise from left): Turner Center staffers Linda Facile and Cheryl Oliver promote the show with part-timers Kayla Timmons (LHS senior) and Sara Jo Grooms (VSU Junior). The Valdosta Daily Times is a Presenter Series sponsor.

Taking art to the streets

Sidewalk art part of education program

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — A police officer stopped Thursday afternoon as Brian Wrinn quickly chalked a geometric design on the sidewalk in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse.

As the officer looked above him, Wrinn explained the design as part of an art project for area youngsters. With the sun already sinking and about a dozen youngsters coming his way down Ashley Street, Wrinn kept drawing.

Seeing the youths, the

officer nodded and walked away. Soon, the dozen youngsters were on their hands and knees, chalk in hands, turning Wrinn's charcoal design into multi-colored sidewalk art.

These scenes were common sites this week as three groups of students tattooed the sunset sidewalks in a kaleidoscopic rainbow of chalk.

The students are part of the Valdosta State University Art, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and the Boys and Girls Club's Art Explorations program.

Funded by the Griffin



DEAN POLING/THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Students prepare a chalk drawing in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse.

Family Foundation and a grant from the WalMart Foundation, the Art Explorations program has introduced art to dozens of Valdosta-area youngsters in recent years, said Cheryl Oliver, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts executive director.

The sidewalk art was this week's lesson in the 10-week fall program, "Public Art in Public Spaces," said Dr. Stephen Lahr of VSU Art.

Lahr coordinates the programs and assigns VSU

art-education students to lead the courses.

On Tuesday, Lahr and the VSU art students led 5- to 7-year-olds in sidewalk art; Wednesday, 8- to 9-year-olds; Thursday, 10- to 12-year-olds.

Lahr wanted the sidewalk art to be a part of Downtown Valdosta's First Friday events, beautifying the city and raising awareness of the arts center, VSU and Boys and Girls Club project.



PHOTO: DR. STEPHEN LAHR

Brian Wrinn, a VSU Art student, center back, works with youngsters in the Art Explorations program.



PHOTO: DR. STEPHEN LAHR

Art Exploration program students create a chalk work of art on a Downtown Valdosta sidewalk. The program's fall theme is Public Art in Public Spaces.

Out of Africa

Center revives East African art collection

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jerry Tillman returned to Lowndes County with tales of Africa. A U.S. State Department employee, Tillman worked in Africa from 1960-1972. He traveled to rural villages in the eastern half of Africa, specifically in Somalia, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

He served as the state department's financial controller for U.S. aid missions, working closely with disaster-aid programs. But he also enjoyed bartering with tribesmen, specifically the Tanzanian tribe of the Makonde.

"When you see something you want, you have to barter for it," Tillman said in an interview nearly 25 years ago. "Some things take half an hour to buy. In fact, I bought most of my pieces that way."

Through this process, Tillman developed an impressive collection of east African pieces. So impressive, it was considered one of the largest private Makonde collections outside of Africa.

Back in Lowndes County, Tillman often showed these artifacts to area school students, while curators from large metropolitan museums appealed for him to donate the African works to their collections. Tillman reportedly considered these offers before deciding to donate the collection to what was then the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Center.

When LVAC moved and became the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, a gallery was dedicated to Tillman's African art collection. Some past curators never really knew what to do with the pieces of this collection.

For three exhibit cycles this year, the center stored the African art away. Its gallery used for Spring Into Art, a city photo exhibit then a library summer art show.

Several weeks ago, center curator Bill Shenton re-organized Tillman's African art for a new display. Shenton spent a day preparing the masks; the once-poisoned arrows and bows; the skins of zebra, an Abyssinian monkey, cheetah; the various charms to induce sleep, cure alcoholism, improve fishing, stave off colds and sickness; rare ivory carvings from elephant

tusks; antlers from horned African creatures; the bass thrum of metal thumb pianos; carved wooden bells for camels.

Shenton has created an exhibit that brings the African art to life as something new. Debuting during the most recent exhibit opening, even patrons already familiar with the African art kept returning to the new Jerry Tillman gallery exhibit.

After mounting the show, Shenton's work continued. He has researched pieces. He visited with Tillman's sister, who shared stories and recollections about various pieces in the collection.

Shenton can already speak with authority on items during a tour of the gallery. He reaches for a long-haired, ivory-handled flyswatter. "These flyswatters were like our cell phones," he says. "Everybody had one and you wouldn't think of leaving



GALLERY

Jerry Tillman's African art, part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' permanent collection.

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.

stories about the spirits and their relations with humans, they would carve it in wood,"

Tillman said in a 1980s *Spectator* article written by long-time Valdosta Daily Times staffer Terry Richards when he was a Valdosta State student.

Tillman told how materials were as representative as the image. In a piece called "Kembu," for example, dark wood represents the ocean while light wood symbolizes the beach.

He shared stories of waterproof straw water carriers, wooden Somali

bells to help find camels and herd them into a shamba (Swahili for "enclosure") at night, and how the poison arrows lost their potency through the years.

"They would take a particular type of cactus-like plant, cook it until it boiled, then dip the arrows in," Tillman said in *The Spectator* article. "The resulting poison, once in the bloodstream, acted as a muscle paralyzer. Once it reached the main muscle, the heart, well, bingo."

Tillman has since passed away, but his stories and his art collection continue reaching the imaginations of arts center visitors.

Several of the pieces represent curatives to ward off illness and alcoholism, improve fishing, and more.



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Bill Shenton, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts curator, stands amidst the African art of the center's permanent Jerry Tillman collection. Tillman lived many years in Africa. Recently, Shenton created a new and lively display for the pieces.

home without it."

For years, Tillman spoke with authority on the pieces of his collection. He often shared how the Makonde tribe told stories through sculpture because they had no written language.

"If someone wishes to portray village life, or tell



This knife is made of ivory. Though its blade is paper thin, the ivory is durable. This piece is part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' permanent African art collection from Jerry Tillman.

Today

Veterans Day Program

Refreshments will be served. Call 269-7055., 604 S. Oak St., Southside Recreation Center, 11 a.m.

Thursday

Freshstart Smoking Cessation Class

Hosted by South Georgia Medical Center. To register call Community Health Promotions at (229) 333-1610, ext. 5., SGMC Dining Room 2, 7:30 a.m.

Line Dance Lessons

Lessons will be held at Lakeland/Lanier County Rec. Bldg. at Flatland Park, off Valdosta Hwy. 221 about 1 mi. S. of Court-house, Call 455-2267., 6:30 p.m.

NARFE 1044 meeting

NARFE Meeting, 2965 N. Ashley St., Ichiban Japanese Steak House, 12:30 p.m.

Positive Christian Singles Divorce & Dating Support Group

Support and education for all who are separated, divorced, widowed, never married, or have had a broken relationship. Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Library, 300 Woodrow Wilson Dr., 8 p.m.

Real Club Luncheon

Speaker: Mrs. Linda Gail, Georgia Cares Coordinator. She will be talking about things you need to know regarding Medicare. Bring a covered dish along with a friend. Lakeland United Methodist Church,

Fellowship Hall, Lakeland, 11:45 a.m.

Positive Christian Singles "Angel" Dance Party

Celebrate World Kindness Week with us. Compete in our Angel Tournament. Win "Angel Points" by doing acts of kindness for others, participating in "angel dances", pinning wings on the angel, and singing "angel songs." Cost: \$5 before 8:30pm; \$8 after 8:30pm; students \$5; under age 13 free Building with Cupid Flag on Mailbox, 1650 River St., Valdosta, November 13, 8:30 p.m.

Friday

Valdosta Newcomers Dinner Night Out

RSVP at 242-7506., 4479 N. Valdosta Rd., Charlie Trippers, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Bazaar

Christmas shop, food, precious gems and trash and treasure. Public invited. Proceeds go to Missions., Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 100 E. Park Ave. 11 a.m.

Children's Culinary Class Creative Holiday Cupcakes and Cookies

Learn the ABCs of baking just in time for the holiday season. This class is taught by Janice Worn. The age range is 8-12. Please call the Turner Center for the Arts to sign up. 229.247.ARTS (2787)

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St., 10 a.m.

Fall Bazaar

Six rooms full of hand-made crafts and gifts and more. 2408 Bemiss Road Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Rd., 8 a.m.

Spiritual Reflections

Volkman one of four new shows at arts center

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — At first glance, the art of Mary Jane Volkman evokes the photography of National Geographic — those otherworldly images from other parts of the shared world.

Looking closer, the subtleties rise in Volkman's works: the blending of color, the vivacity of tone. These aren't photographs but paintings with an eye toward photo-realism and a hand that makes each brushstroke count.

Volkman's work is one of four new exhibits opening this week at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

She writes that her painting "Picking Beans"

is from a scene in north central Florida. "Mukoro in Flood Plain" is from a scene from the Caprivi Strip in Namibia.

Raised in Ohio, Volkman traveled to Africa in 1974 and stayed for 28 years. As an artist in Africa, her work included images for postage stamps, coin designs and a portrait of an African king.

She published a book of her African paintings called "Glimpses of Namibian Life: A Moment in Time."

In 2002, Volkman moved to Gainesville, Fla., where she has continued working both in the studio as well as painting outdoors.

"Completed over the past several years, this

sampling of plein air and studio paintings is both an attempt to remember people and scenes I observed while living Namibia, Africa, for 23 years, and a 'getting acquainted' exploration of our adopted home in the southeast — a corner of my motherland new to me," Volkman says in an artistic statement.

"As an artist and as a person I am captivated by the diverse sea of faces and lifestyles in our human family, and appreciate the exquisite beauty of the natural world which supports us and is entrusted to our care. My paintings are an expression of my love of life and the spirit I see reflected in all things."



'Picking Beans,' artist Mary Jane Volkman



'Mukoro in Flood Plain,' artist Mary Jane Volkman

GALLERY

Artist Mary Jane Volkman's paintings will be on display in Josette's Gallery; along with artist Pat Regan, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Rene Guerin, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; VSU Senior Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

Opening reception: These shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday.

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

Run dates: These shows run Monday through Jan. 6.

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.

Overload

23 artists, two galleries, one senior show

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Valdosta State University Art has so many seniors graduating this fall that the VSU Gallery isn't big enough to properly showcase all of them.

The seniors will present their works in the VSU Gallery with an opening reception this afternoon, but their work will also be on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The arts center's shows open Monday evening.

Given the situation of presenting the works, as well as the work load of the graduating seniors, these artists have found the perfect name for their exhibit: "Overload: Senior Art Exhibition."

"Throughout the semester, the seniors have been meeting once or more a week getting ready to display their work for the school and communities," according to the seniors, who are also responsible for promoting the exhibit.



'Meredith,' artist Maegan Moore

GALLERY

'Overload Senior Art Exhibition'

Reception: A free, public reception is scheduled 1-3 p.m. today.

Where: VSU Art Gallery, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.

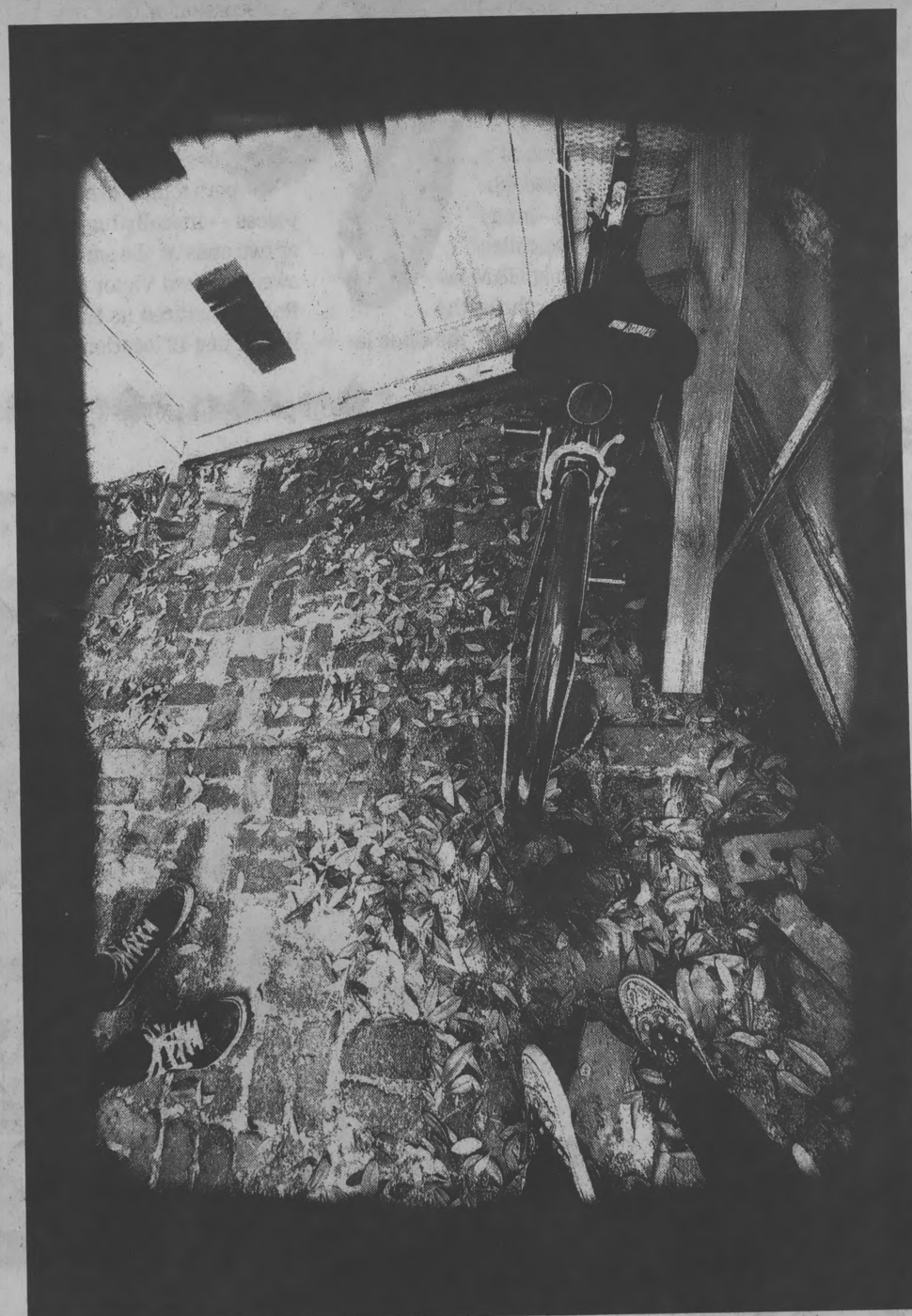
Run dates: Show runs through Dec. 7.

Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays.

Admission: Free

This year's graduating seniors are Cathy Herring, Lauren Jones, Kate Patrick, Leann Barry, Britney Baxter, Teri Carrington, Joshua Flores, John Gay, Jason Hall, Laura Kissinger, Angela Marafino,

Brandon McMillan, Hayley Milleman, Maegan Moore, Abbie Preston, Janice Rago, Amanda Sawyer, Cynthia Shalls, Chuck Touchton, Julie Umberger, Jay Warren, Page Yorkey, Alex Zimmerman.



'Familiar Photo,' artist Angela Marafino

PHOTOSCAPE



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Creating a masterpiece

Michele Corbitt, left, and Susan Grantham work on their oil painting during their oil painting class taught by Faye Hyatt at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



'The Politicians,' artist Rene Guerin.

Dance of Color

The Works of Rene Guerin



'Chickens,' artist Rene Guerin

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA _ Vibrant colors dance across artist Rene Guerin's canvases.

Her colors are clean and definitive. Each color jumps from a canvas where blue is blue, reds are red, and there is no muddying of one for the other.

Yet, these individual colors cohere into the totality of the composition.

Guerin seems a conjurer who can take a pure palette and bend it to her vision, shape it to her will.

Guerin's paintings are among the current exhibits showing at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. A dazzling show in an explosion of color.

GALLERY

Artist Rene Guerin's paintings are on exhibit in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery, along with artist Pat Regan, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Mary Jane Volkmann, Josette's Gallery; VSU Senior Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

Run dates: Through Jan. 6.

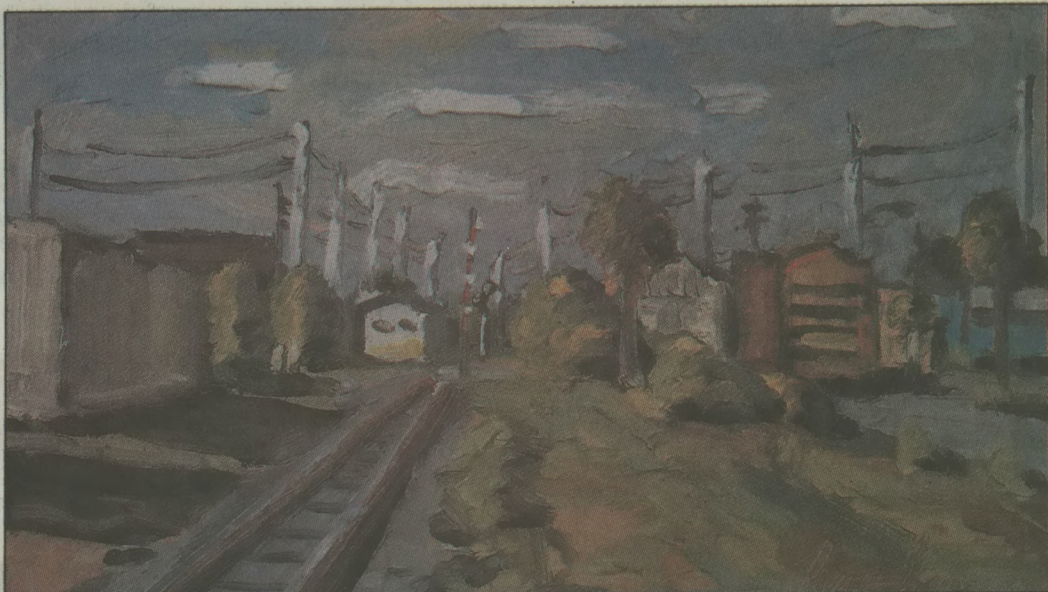
Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed, Sundays and Mondays.

Admission: Free.

More information: Call 247-2787



'Budgies,' artist Rene Guerin



'Railroad Tracks,' artist Rene Guerin

The Art of Doing

Lahr named art association president

BY DEAN POLING

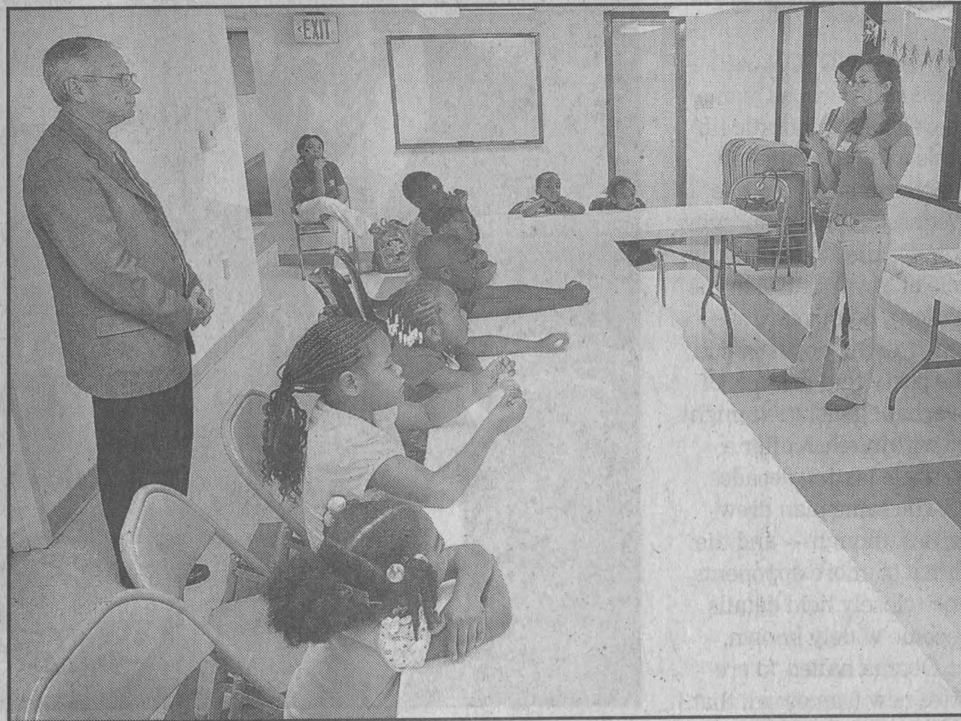
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Hard to imagine Stephen Lahr any busier.

He teaches art appreciation classes with Valdosta State University. He coordinates VSU art-education majors with the Boys & Girls Art program at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. He's worked with Smith Northview Hospital in its on-going series of art exhibits. He's a member of the Southern Artists League. He works on his own art work, a regular in local and regional exhibits. In the past, he's served as VSU Art's department head and its gallery curator.

He's been named the Georgia Art Education Association's Art Educator of the Year in Georgia, twice recognized as the GAEA's Higher Art Educator of the Year in Georgia, the National Art Education Association's Southeastern Region Art Educator of the Year in 2008, making him the top art educator selected from a dozen states. In 1976, Lahr was named the NAEA's Western Region Art Educator of the Year.

Now, for the second year, he's been nominated the NAEA's national art educator of the year for 2010, rising as a nominee from a field of 20,000 art educa-



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Dr. Stephen Lahr, left, works with Valdosta State University art education students and young artists. Lahr is the new Georgia Art Education Association president-elect and has been nominated as the National Art Education Association's National Art Educator of the Year.

tors. The NAEA represents members from elementary, secondary, mid-level and high schools from all 50 states, as well as members from the nation's art museums, departments of education, colleges, universities and art councils throughout the U.S. and 66 other countries.

And he's just been elected as the GAEA's president-elect, a six-year commitment that will have him serving two years each as president-elect, president, and immediate past president of the organization that represents 750 art educators statewide.

"I was looking at retirement and don't see it happening any time soon," Lahr says. "I'll probably have to give something

up." His job as president-elect will be to bring in new and lapsed GAEA members from the state's 1,971 certified art teachers. His goal is to double the organization's membership in the next two years.

It's a tall order.

"Art teachers, traditionally, don't like to join things," he says. "They are often loners, but once they get involved, it's an amazing thing."

Lahr's passion for art began during his childhood in his native Nebraska. He earned degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, did post-graduate work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Missouri-Columbia in educational administration

and leadership.

He recalls his first job as a junior and high school art teacher when the position was often part-time with low wages. He persevered and was appointed to serve as the Nebraska Department of Education's first state art consultant and taught art at Nebraska universities before taking a position at Valdosta State.

His term as president marks a precedent, too. This will be the first time South Georgia art educators have consecutively served as the GAEA's presidents. Lahr follows Debi Davis, who is the current GAEA president. She set a precedent, too. She is the first GAEA president from South Georgia.



Work by artist Pat Regan.

NEO-CLASSICAL IN RETROSPECT

The art of Pat Regan

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



'Winged Victory,' artist Pat Regan.

VALDOSTA — Artist Pat Regan finds a neo-classic world within the colors of an expressive palette.

Some canvases suggest the lost glories of civilizations past evoked with the modern tastes of vision and brush.

Regan's current exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents the world of a ruined past with an eye on a vibrant tomorrow. It's a fitting analogy as Regan presents works from throughout a long artistic career, a look at the past with an eye to the future.

"Although this retrospective spans almost 50 years of work, there are threads of similarity," Regan notes in an artistic statement. "The abstract expressionism from the 1960s still resonates in my newest abstracts. Use of color and calligraphic line remain a constant."

Regan presents bold abstracts, bold both in design and vivacity of color — as much an influence on the work now as then, as much as the more external forces that shape the expression of the artist's vision.

"The many influences throughout my years of producing art can be seen in this exhibition," Regan

notes. "Being the observant traveler and artist, I found fascination in the rose red sandstone of Petra, the clay banks of Mississippi or the aged walls of my studio space in the Palazzo Fortuny in Venice. The sense of discovery and energy of creating art has not diminished over the years."

GALLERY

Artist Pat Regan's work is on display in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery' along with artist Mary Jane Volkmann's paintings, Josette's Gallery; artist Rene Guerin, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; VSU Senior Exhibition, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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Art work by Pat Regan.