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First Place, Valdosta Beauty Category:
Patti Girardin, "Millpond Morning"

GALLERY

Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest is on display in the Jerry Tillman Gallery; along with Andy Warhol's "Handcolored Flowers," Josette's Gallery; The Best of Spring Into Art, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; European Master Drawings, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; Moody Air Force Base Youth Art, Roberta George Children's Gallery; Fine porcelain: Permanent Collection, the Bill, Eleanor and Riley Howard Gallery.

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

Run dates: These shows continue through Aug. 4.

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 (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org



First Place, Valdosta Folks Category:
Callie Beale, "Sara & Bill Henderson"

A Whole New World

City photo contest puts new eyes on familiar sites

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Seeing a place you know through the eyes of someone else can be like discovering a whole new world.

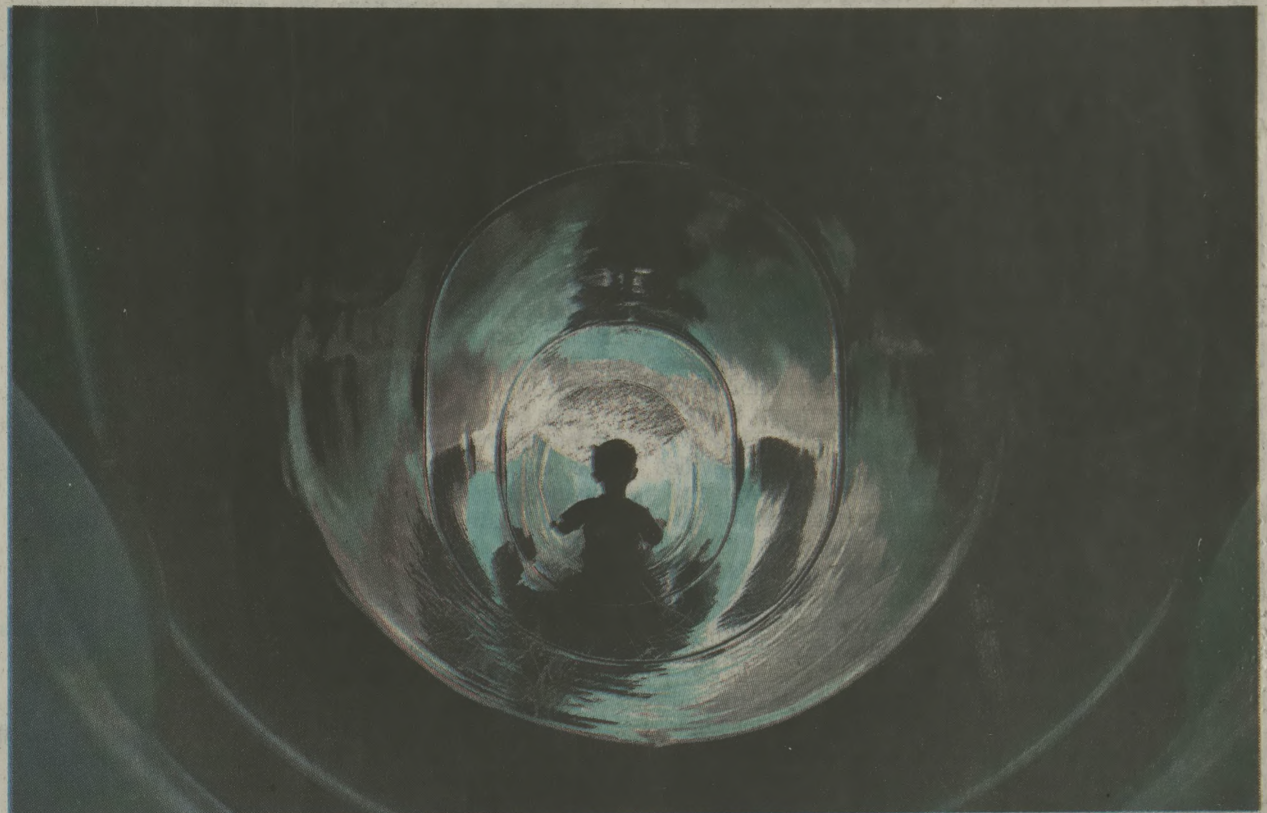
That's how it sometimes feels walking through the City of Valdosta's People's Choice Photo Contest exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The contest asked participants to register area photographs in several categories: Valdosta Folks, Valdosta Scenes, Valdosta Heritage, and Valdosta Beauty.

The contest has been part of the city's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Organizers asked Valdosta photographers to share images that celebrate the essence of Valdosta.

Dozens of area photographers submitted works. These photographs are part of the exhibits that opened June 7 at the arts center. From that date through July 7, visitors could vote on their favorite Valdosta photos. Those votes determined the winners announced two weeks ago.

These winners are Mike Gebora's "Time Machine," best in show; Sarah Current's "God and Country," Valdosta Heritage category; Patti Girardin's "Millpond Morning," Valdosta Beauty category; Callie Beale's "Sara & Bill Henderson," Valdosta Folks category; Angela Marafino's "Tiny Tappers," Valdosta Scenes category. Honorable mentions: Susan Davis (two works), Paula Burgess, Astria Lawrence.



Best in Show:
Mike Gebora, "Time Machine"



First Place, Valdosta Scenes Category:
Angela Marafino, "Tiny Tappers"



First Place, Valdosta Heritage Category:
Sarah Current, "God and Country"

Thursday, July 15, 2010

PHOTOSCAPE



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

The pianist plays for People's Choice

Roger Worden plays the piano during the reception for the 2010 Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest Monday evening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for Arts, all part of the City of Valdosta's 150th Birthday celebration.

valdostadailytimes.com

LOC



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

A picture-perfect evening

ABOVE: Gemini Mims sings 'Valdosta Georgia' with Roger Worden on the piano during the 2010 People's Choice Photo Contest Special Reception at the Annette Turner Center for the Arts Monday evening. The singing of the song was part of Valdosta's 150th birthday party and included the naming of the winners of the People's Choice Photo Contest. The song can be found on iTunes by searching for 'OUT OF THE BLUE VALDOSTA' in all caps. To see a video of her performance, go to our website at www.valdostadailytimes.com. BELOW: Mike Gebora stands next to his Best in Show photo. Gebora took the photo of his son going down a slide in McKey Park to take the top award in the show. Other winners: Patti Girardin won in the Valdosta Beauty category; Callie Beale was voted best in Valdosta Folks; Angela Marafino was voted best in Valdosta Scenes; and Sarah Current's photo was voted best for Valdosta Heritage. The contest ended with cake and cupcakes served to the guests.



City's photo winners announced Monday

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — South Georgia photographers will discover the people's choice for best photographs during a ceremony Monday evening.

Displayed in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Jerry Tillman Gallery, the city's People's Choice Photo Competition garnered a great response from both photographers and viewers,

said Cheryl Oliver, the center's executive director.

Voting for the 127 entered photos ended this past Wednesday, she said.

Photographers could enter pictures under several categories.

These include Valdosta Folks, Valdosta Scenes, Valdosta Heritage and Valdosta Beauty. A best-of-show designation will also be awarded, Oliver said.

Photographers were asked to find photos that shared the essence of Valdosta.

At approximately 5:45 p.m. Monday, July 12, the program will begin with a musical tribute by Roger Worden and Debbie Mims.

Mayor John Fretti will address the audience then the announcement of winners, Oliver said.

The center is also using this reception as an opportunity to wish Valdosta a happy 150th birthday.

This year marks the city's sesquicentennial.

Following the photo reception, the center hosts Merritt Giles, Albany Museum of Art curator, to discuss the two exhibits his institution has loaned to the arts center. Those exhibits are Andy Warhol's "Hand-Colored Flowers" and European Master Drawings.

The free, public photo contest reception is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 12, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. More information: Call (229) 247-2787.

Business This Week

Sesquicentennial events coming up



KAY HARRIS

The Sesquicentennial committee members have been working hard for more than a year now to ensure that the city's 150th birthday celebration is a noteworthy year-long event.

Several events are coming up soon, including Monday evening's reception from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for the entrants to the Sesquicentennial photo contest. The public has been voting for the photos over the last month and the winners will be announced on Monday night. There will also be a cake to celebrate the city's birthday and a chance to look at nearly 150 terrific photos taken in the city.

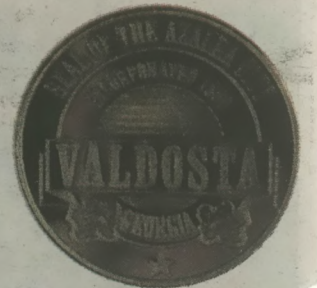
Coming up in August is another exciting event — the committee, with lots of help, is burying a time capsule in Drexel Park to be opened in 50 years. There will be items from area schools, photos, and historic artifacts included. It's a neat way to commemorate the city's birthday as well as preserve parts of our history for future generations. I doubt I'll still be around in five decades, but if I am, I'll be here for its opening.

There will be more fun activities as the year progresses, but take advantage



Mayor John Fretti holding the sesquicentennial coin.

of and attend any and all you can.



THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



Several area youngsters learned the culinary arts this past week during a cooking-etiquette class at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Cooking with Kids

Cooking, etiquette, tasting, this class tries it all

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — One may wonder how to connect a children's cooking and etiquette class? Teacher Pat Cordova uses the meal to bridge the gap.

This past week, several area youngsters met in the kitchen of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for these summer classes.

They spent mornings cooking. One day, the youngsters learned to make meatballs and sauce for spaghetti. Another day, they prepared baked chicken fingers and monkey bread. They baked sweet potatoes. They created desserts and fruit smoothies. Cordova taught youngsters the basics of the kitchen, while she and adult volunteers such as Caren Shapiro handled the stove and oven.

In the afternoons, the same youngsters learned lessons on proper etiquette. How to properly sit. How to shake hands.

But what better place for cooking to meet etiquette than at the table?

That's where Cordova made the transition from the morning's lessons in cooking to the afternoon's course on etiquette.

As the youngsters sat to eat each day's creation as their lunch, they learned proper table manners and etiquette. A meal is a good starting point for proper manners.

For both subjects, Cordova usually told the youngsters what



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIME

Catherine Gerber, Kelsie Strauch, Chandler Call and Matthew Gerber top strawberry shortcakes with blueberries.

to do first rather than letting them experiment.

"I suggest they try it this way rather than playing with the food," said Cordova, easily referring to either cooking or etiquette with this comment.

This is Cordova's fourth summer teaching this week-long class. Students range in age from 8 to 14 years old.

Already, last week, halfway through the class, some students were applying what they learned in the class at home.

Since starting the class, Matthew Gerber said he began

setting the table at home. Kelsie Strauch said she had made a lemon-meringue pie. Megan Webster said her parents said, "cook," and she prepared pork chops.

Zack Johnson should be ready to make meatballs as he explained the process for a visitor: Mix the meat and various ingredients; roll the mixture into balls; saute them.

Each day, youngsters took turns preparing desserts. Edie Copeland placed sliced strawberries into the cake cups for strawberry shortcake.

Each year, Cordova seeks a menu that represents something each youngster likes. But when dealing with children and food, finding something that every child likes is difficult.

"I insist that they try everything we make," she said. "At least a little bit. Just one bite."

This year's students included Emma Kieselhorst, Will Jones, Megan Webster, Allie Holt, Caroline Langston, Matthew Gerber, Catherine Gerber, Edie Copeland, Zack Johnson, Chandler Call, Sarah Kate Call, Kelsie Strauch, Kylie Smith, Emma Martinez.



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Edie Copeland places sliced strawberries into the cake cups of strawberry shortcakes during last week's cooking and etiquette classes at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

After the youngsters prepared the dishes, Pat Cordova, right, and Caren Shapiro handled the stove and oven.

Artful Fireworks

Moody youth art show explodes with color



My Family Rocks with images of Isabella Waters, 10 months, Anthony Anderson, 2, Logan Damrom, 3, D.J. Glenn, 4, Dawson Glenn, 6, Delaney Glenn, 10, and Darby Glenn, 13, from Beth's Itsy Bitsy Family Child Care.



BY DEAN POLING

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Moody Air Force Base Youth Art Exhibit offers a rainbow of images from imaginations that soar past any rainbows.

Flying hot dogs and rocket-powered hamburgers bust alongside fireworks. A row of guitars demonstrate one artist's love for family in "My Family Rocks."

The exhibit displays drawings, art made from construction paper and paper plates, photo collage and more.

It is also an art show keeping with a patriotic theme of an Air Force Base, and just in time for the Fourth of July weekend. Several pictures hang by red-white-and-blue bows in the Roberta George Children's Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

GALLERY

Moody Air Force Base Youth Art is on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery.

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

Run dates: These shows run from June 7 through Aug. 4.

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 opening reception dates).

Admission: Free.

More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org

LIFE

valdostadailytimes.com



The Moody Air Force Base youth art offers a wide variety of styles and techniques.

PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Simply the Best

Best of Spring Into Art

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Spring Into Art is the exhibit that just keeps on giving.

The art show is the largest in the region, and the most inclusive.

As long as artists follow the rules, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts finds space for all Spring Into Art entries.

With hundreds of entries filling wall space in almost every one of the center's galleries, Spring Into Art is almost too much.

It nearly overwhelms the viewer because there is so much art to see.

Then comes the Best of Spring Into Art.

During the traditional April Spring Into Art, judges have marked the art that has been accepted in the traditionally June Best Of show.

Come the opening of the Best of Spring Into Art, the

THE WINNERS

Best in Show: 'Viva La Patria,' artist Ani Dillon.

Photography/Drawing/printing making: First place, Jo Farris; second place, Jeffery Baisden.

Photography: First place, Jamie Harmon; second place, Jacquelynn Buck.

Mixed Media: First place, Darryl McCoy; second place, Grahame Eggleston.

Sculpture: First place, Anthony Scheffler; second place, Thomson Moore.

Ceramics: First place, Walter Hobbs; second place, Michael Schmidt.

Jewelry/Craft: First place, Anthony Scheffler; second place, Samantha Walls.

Honorable mentions: Dr. Joe Morgan (twice), Billy Dykes, Colquitt Tanner, Vincent Keese, Cindy Miller, Blake Pearce, Andrew Glassmire, Angela Marafino, Suzanna Winton.



Best of SIA Sculpture Winner Anthony Sheffler's 'The Middle Child.'

center announces the winners. The Best Of show may be the most controversial and discussed show of the year.

Annually, this show leads numerous artists and viewers to debate the winning works.

Always fun and always animated, agree or disagree with a year's winners, Best of Spring Into Art inspires some of the best South Georgia art discussions of the year.



Best of SIA Painting Winner Jo Farris' 'Before Leaving.'



Best of SIA Photography Winner Jamie Harmon's 'Personhood.'

Master Strokes

Arts center exhibit features the works of European masters

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts traditionally exhibits recent art from nearby artists.

Yet, the European Master Drawings displayed in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery are not only by artists from far away but also from a long time ago.

Part of the Albany Museum of Art's Shaffer Collection, these sketches are hundreds of years old. Some of the works' artists are known while the artist identities be-

GALLERY

European Master Drawings are on exhibit in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; along with Andy Warhol's "Handcolored Flowers," Josette's Gallery; the Best of Spring Into Art, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest, Jeffry Tillman Gallery; Moody Air Force Base Youth Art, Roberta George Children's Gallery; Fine porcelain: Permanent Collection, the Bill, Eleanor and Riley Howard Gallery.

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

Run dates: Now through Aug. 4.

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 (229) 247-2787; or visit www.turnercenter.org

These are sketches, but Shaffer does not exaggerate in terms of quality. The show features artist renderings doodled as ideas for larger works, or as training, or simply an artist passing time. But what doodles they are.

Shenton points out one sketch, "Adoration of Madonna and Child in Heaven," beautifully rendered by an unknown Italian artist, of a man dressed in robes, a Madonna, and a winged cherub. Shenton asks if anything unusual strikes a viewer about the drawing: The robed man

These are sketches, but Shaffer does not exaggerate in terms of quality. The show features artist renderings doodled as ideas for larger works, or as training, or simply an artist passing time. But what doodles they are.

hind many of the works have been lost to history.

Even if the artists are unknown, Bill Shenton, the gallery curator, says the quality of the works remain immediately recognizable.

"People have recognized the talent in these sketches to preserve them for hundreds of years," Shenton says.

Randolph Shaffer Jr. (1914-94), an Albany native, is credited with saving these works in the 20th century and now beyond.

"I had a very sharp eye for quality work unwanted by the average commercial dealer," according to a Shaffer quote cited in the arts center's program. "In many cases, the people who owned these drawings did not recognize their quality. ... Quality in any condition was my criteria. In this way, I hope that I have avoided the pretentious fakes and misrepresentations so dear to people buying only names."



CHRIST CARRYING THE CROSS: An early 17th century work on oak, gall ink and wash on paper, by an unknown Italian artist.



SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS: A gray and white wash on gray blue paper by Italian artist Ciro Ferri in the mid 17th century.

has three hands. The artist was apparently testing whether the robed man's right hand should be posed upwards in what appears to be a gesture of supplication, or pointing down to a cherub near his feet.

In another sketch, a woman carrying a bucket appears to approach a Christ-like figure. Though the artist clothed the woman, a navel and other body parts remain as evidence that she had originally been drawn nude.

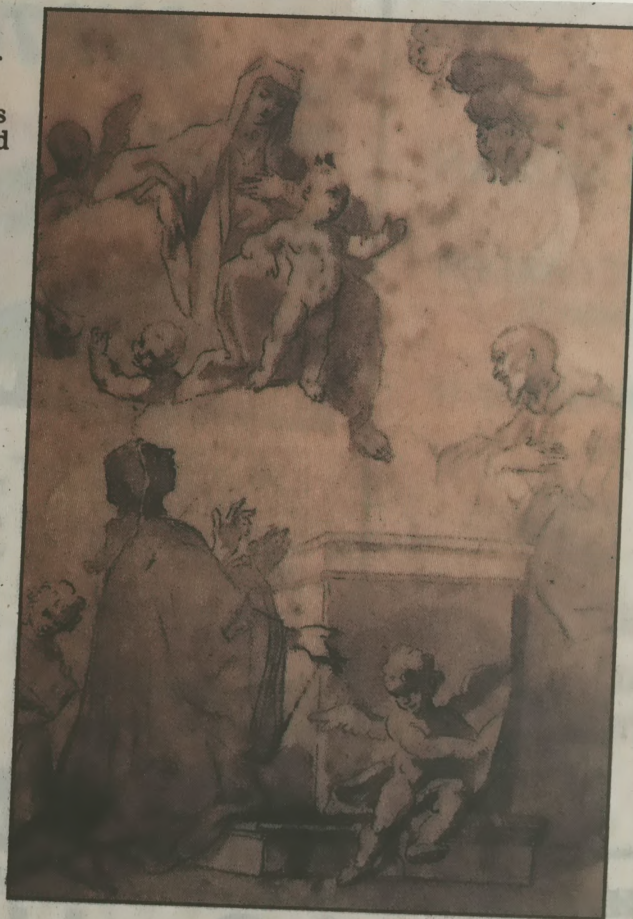
Another sketch details portions of an urn. While the top rim remains vague, the artist rendered fully realized figures to decorate the urn. Meanwhile, behind the urn are the faded remains of an apparently abandoned perspective sketch of a cityscape. Whether the artist was reusing a piece of paper or the perspective drawing was intended as part of the urn will likely never be known, but it is a fascinating study.

Along with the just-opened exhibit of Andy Warhol's "Handcolored Flowers," the Shaffer Collection of European Masters Drawings exhibit is on loan from the Albany Museum of Art. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is the first recipient of Albany's program to share pieces from its collection with other sites across the state.

The collection includes 56 works ranging from the 15th century to the 18th century. "The largest representation of a national school is the group of 19 Italian drawings," according to the arts center. "Examples of Dutch, Flemish, French and German origin round out the selection. Although religious and mythological themes dominate this exhibition, there is a fine representation of genre subjects (scenes of everyday life) as well as a sprinkling of figural studies and designs."

Shaffer donated approximately 150 such drawings to the Albany museum in 1988.

The drawings are reflective of great talent, but they also give viewers a timeless peek into the creative process of artists whether from long ago and faraway or in the now just around the corner.



ADORATION OF MADONNA AND CHILD IN HEAVEN: An ink and wash on paper print from the 17th century by an unknown Italian artist.



PAULETTE AND VIRGINA: An ink on laid paper drawing from the early 19th century by an unknown French artist.

urban garden

Opinion

WHAT WE THINK

Thumbs up, Thumbs down

THUMBS DOWN: To people who refuse to identify criminals and thugs in their communities. The Valdosta Police Department has initiated a program to counter gangs' "Don't Be A Snitch" campaigns. Reporting crimes to police is not being a snitch. It's protecting your neighbors, your families and yourself from being future victims of crimes. The only way communities can take back their streets is if residents refuse to be intimidated by thugs.

TWO THUMBS UP: To citizens who have voted early this past week in the primary election and to citizens who are waiting for more information on candidates before voting. Those who already know which candidates they like should go ahead and let their votes be counted. Those who wait should also be commended as the intensity of the campaigns increases in coming weeks. Whether you have already visited the polls, or won't until the last minute on July 20, we commend all who vote their convictions.

THUMBS UP: To Peach State Summer Theatre for successfully pulling off the risky proposition of pre-

senting the musical "White Christmas" in June. Song, dance, stories and romance: This show has it all, even snow in South Georgia. Bravo!

THUMBS UP: To Cook High School infielder and pitcher Kaleb Cowart for being a first-round draft pick by Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Angels this week. As a Cook High Hornet, Cowart hit .654 last season with 11 home runs, 59 runs batted in, 55 runs scored. He also went 10-1 as a pitcher, with a 1.05 earned run average and 116 strikeouts in 73 innings. Play ball!

THUMBS UP: To the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for presenting two exciting exhibits with Andy Warhol's "Handcolored Flowers" and the European Masters Drawing display. The center always does a remarkable job hosting art from South Georgia and regional artists, but including these famed and international pieces is a real treat. A second thumb for the center's Cole Porter show this past week, too.



PAULETTE AND VIRGINA: An ink on laid paper drawing from the early 19th century by an unknown French artist.

An
by an

PHOTOSCAPE



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Fine tuning

Bill Brown tunes the piano at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Wednesday morning. Brown is retired from Moody Air Force Base and has been tuning pianos for 35 years.

PHOTOSCAPE

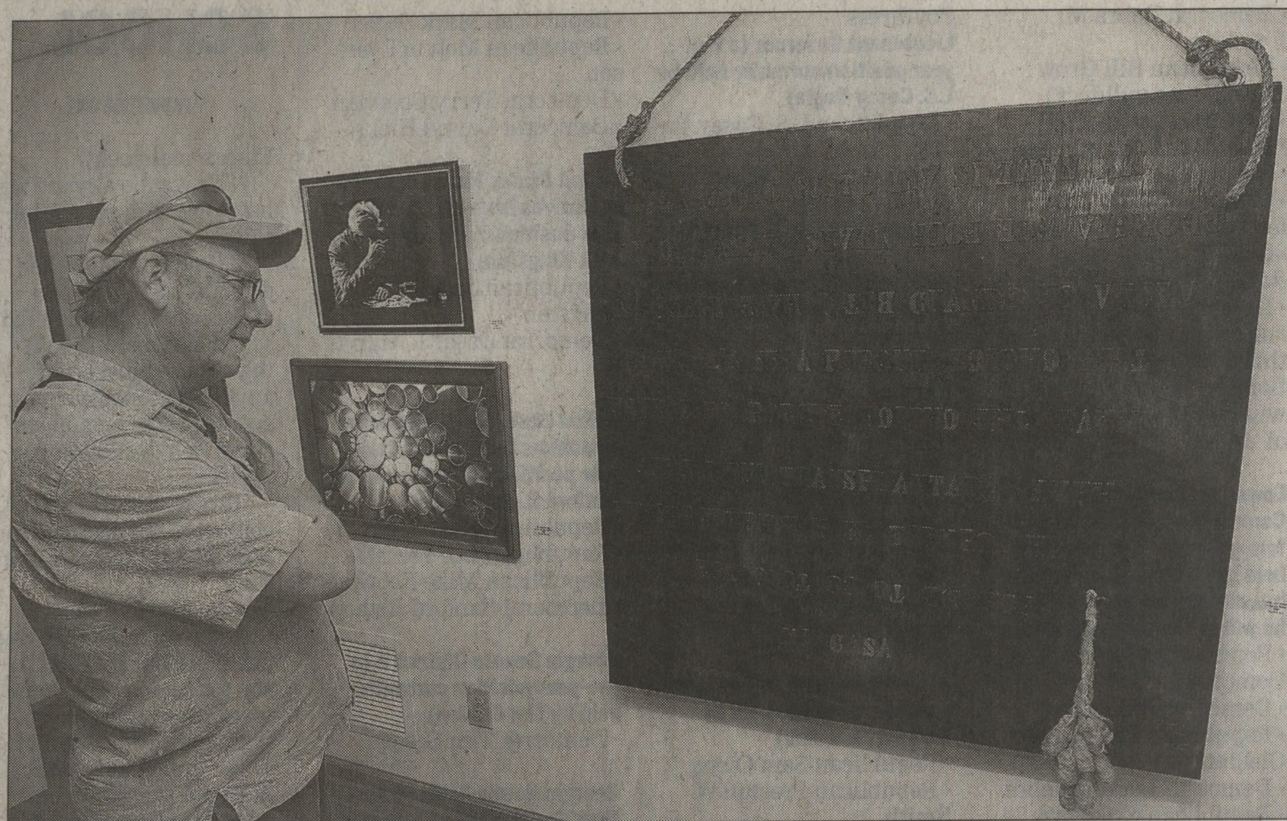


PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Works of art by Warhol

Mary Mathias looks over an Andy Warhol piece on Monday evening in Josette's Gallery at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. It was opening night of the Warhol Handcolored Flowers exhibit as well as three other shows and the Best of Spring Into Art.

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PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Springing into art

ABOVE: Gary Bone from Gainesville, Fla. looks over Ani Dillon's 'Viva La Patria' that was juried best in show for the Spring Into Art exhibit at the Anntte Turner Center for the Arts Monday. **BELOW:** Tiffany Christie looks over photographs on display Monday for the City of Valdosta's Second Annual Photography Contest at the Annette Turner Center for the Arts. Christie was one of the photographers who submitted an entry into the contest. The public can come and vote for their favorites until July 7.





A Carl Thieme Saxonian Porcelain Factory porcelain vase from Dresden, Germany, circa 1902-1916.

Porcelain Prizes

With 300th anniversary of European porcelain, arts center unveils latest in collection

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Additional pieces of Germanic porcelain have been added to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' collection.

By donating groups of pieces in shifts during the past few years, Eleanor Howard of Valdosta has donated her extensive porcelain collection to the arts center's permanent collection. Several weeks ago, Howard donated more pieces to the center.

These donations coincide with the 300th anniversary of the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory. Some of Howard's pieces are Meissen porcelain.



Howard

Has donated several porcelain pieces to the arts center.

"On Jan. 23, 1710, the Elector of Saxony, August the Strong, founded the first European porcelain manufactory in Meissen under the name Royal Polish and Electoral Saxon Porcelain Manufactory," according to information provided by Jenny Howard, Eleanor's daughter-in-law. "A couple of years before, the alchemist Friedrich Bottger had been the first person in Europe to create a fine, hard-paste porcelain that closely resembled the then-highly regarded porcelain imported from China. Bottger had experimented with kaolin, burnt alabaster and quartz."

Blending these ingredients, Bottger fired them at 2,372 degrees Fahrenheit, realizing he had discovered the formula for hard-paste porcelain. The Meissen factories opened two years later.

On June 6, 1710, Meissen's Albrechtsburg Castle began producing Europe's first porcelain. Meissen's State Porcelain Manufactory continues producing porcelain today, and Meissen has spent this year celebrating its porcelain's 300th anniversary. Eleanor Howard came into possession of her collection in the years following World War II.

Capt. William R. Howard, her husband, served as a U.S. serviceman during the era of the Berlin Airlift in Germany. Eleanor purchased the porcelain from German families. Some of these porcelain items date back to the 1700s. Some are very rare. Bill Howard died when two planes collided during one of the Airlift's humanitarian missions. Eleanor Howard was left to raise their infant son, Riley, alone. She returned to Valdosta. The German porcelain became the centerpieces of her collection.

In 2007, she began donating this collection to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The arts center dedicated a gallery to her family. The Bill, Eleanor and Riley Howard Gallery houses these porcelain pieces.

The latest donated porcelain and others are on display, the only gallery not featuring Spring Into Art works in the arts center. The porcelain display continues next month as the center opens several new shows.

A visit allows viewers to see the latest additions to the collection as well as milestones in a 300-year history.



Porcelain from the Sandizell Porcelain Factory, circa 1951.



A porcelain plate attributed to the Meissen factory from the first half of the 20th Century.



A gold and porcelain cup from Dresden, Germany, circa 1918 from the Richard & Gerhard Wehsener factory.

Anything Goes!

Arts center hosts 'The Life and Music of Cole Porter'

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Cole Porter lived a complex life.

Porter was the rare Tin Pan Alley songwriter who both wrote his lyrics and composed his music. A man who, at times, lived an openly homosexual lifestyle for early 20th century standards — much to the embarrassment of his wife, Linda Lee Thomas, who knew of his preferences but was humiliated when he flaunted his affairs. Still, when his legs were crushed by a falling horse, Linda stayed by his side. He composed songs, Broadway musicals, and worked in Hollywood, living an extravagant lifestyle.

His life became the subject of the Kevin Kline movie "De-Lovely."

Much of his music has stood the test of time. Songs include "Night and Day," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "I've Got You Under My Skin." His Broadway musical comedies include the still-popular "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Anything Goes."

On June 10, Elizabeth Jones leads The Sounds of Dixie in "The Life and Music of Cole Porter," also featuring Jeani Synyard's Ladies Tap Class and Cheryl Oliver as narrator in a one-night-only performance at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"He was in a class of his own," Jones says of Cole Porter. "His style was very unique. He wrote lyrics with lots of feeling and his songs are reflective of his life story. ... With his songs, he may do something one way and then do something completely different with the next line. ... He was in a class of his own in introducing this type of music. People really had to listen to appreciate it."

Jones and Oliver realized their mutual appreciation for Cole Porter's work preparing for a Book Review Club. In preparing a different kind of book review, they realized they had a winning combination on their hands.

In their first pairing, Oliver presented a book review on the life of musi-



Cole Porter

cal composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. To enliven the review, Oliver asked Jones to accompany the review with selections of Webber's music. They developed this popular format into an Andrew Lloyd Webber show.

They have repeated the winning formula for Cole Porter.

Oliver, who is the arts center director, is preparing a text on Porter's life for the upcoming show.

"He had a fascinating life," Oliver says. "He was wealthy. ... He lied his way into situations, but people loved him. He was the life of the party."

He met his wife, a wealthy divorcee. She was aware of his homosexuality, but the marriage suited them both.

"They had a platonic but passionate relationship," Oliver says. "She was committed to him."

While some may disagree with aspects of Porter's flamboyant lifestyle, Oliver and Jones describe his music as "incomparable." His music reflected the libertine nature of the 1920s while raising spirits in the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Jones has been preparing a group of regional singers and musicians to perform the show's songs. Given she is from the Brooks County town of Dixie, Jones calls her group, The Sounds of Dixie. The evening will intersperse Oliver's narration on Porter's life with Jones directing selected Cole Porter songs. The evening opens with a performance by Jeani Synyard's Ladies Tap Class.

Tickets are on sale with limited seating available.

Director, accompanist: Elizabeth Jones. Narrator:

SHOWTIME

The Life and Music of Cole Porter

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

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 10.

Ticket: \$20; seating is limited advanced; advance ticket purchases advisable.

Reservations, more information: Call (229) 247-2787.

Cheryl Oliver: Soloists & Instrumentalists: Larry Adams, J.J. Hobbs, Myra Jordan, Harrell Mann, Edwin Pope, Electa Ricket, Emily Wall. Chorus: Larry Adams, Larry Cunningham, Nancy Elsberry, Bob Gaines, Cheryl Henry, J.J. Hobbs, Myra Jordan, Harrell Mann, Zenda McDaniel, Karen Murray, Patti Neiwoehner, Edwin Pope, Tom Pope, Electa Ricket, Julie Sevann, Ginger Shiver, Jimmy Sirmans, Dawn Squires. Jeani Synyard's dancers: Emily Anderson, Gloria Boyette, Sarah Smart, Frances Crawford, Barbara Jenkins, Sally Kurrie, Lamb Lastinger, Jane McLane, Ginna McTier, Julie Umberger. Stage design: Daniel Hanifan.

8A Sunday, May 30, 2010