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Council creates city art program

BY JOHNNA PINHOLSTER
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The City of Valdosta will soon have a public art program.

During Thursday's regular Valdosta City Council meeting, council members unanimously approved an ordinance to establish a public art program.

The goal of the pro-

LOCAL

Thursday, February 25, 2010 5A

Rickman, Middleton named VHS STARS

BY JOHNNA PINHOLSTER
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Art and science intertwine in the mind of Jordan Rickman.

The Valdosta High School senior is the 2010 STAR Student for the school system.

Achieving STAR Student status was never Rickman's goal, just obtaining a high score on the SAT to ensure all options for his future education were open.

He plans to study computer science in college, but art will always be a major factor in his life, he said.

"I will definitely keep doing art the rest of my life, even if it is not a main career choice," he said.

Rickman chose art teacher Teresa Middleton as the 2010 STAR Teacher.

In 20 years of teaching, this is Middleton's first time being selected as a STAR Teacher, a rare occurrence for fine arts teachers, she said.

Middleton holds Rickman in high regard and has big dreams for his future.

"Jordan is going to design a rocket ship, produce the music that plays in the rocket ship and paint the outside of the rocket ship before it leaves," Middleton said.

Though Rickman said he has been drawing since middle school, he became truly focused on improving his art when he got to high school and encountered Middleton.

She helps students highlight their strengths and provides tips on how they can improve, even if they are not looking for the help, Rickman said.

Many students considered art classes an easy



JOHNNA PINHOLSTER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Valdosta High STAR Student Jordan Rickman and STAR Teacher Teresa Middleton display two of Rickman's self-portraits. Both works are untitled. The one on the left was done in charcoal and the one on the right was done in conté crayon. One of Middleton's acrylic works is in the background.

way to make a good grade, but not in Middleton's class, Rickman said. Students have to earn their grades.

Rickman will have two self-portraits showcased in the Youth Art Month Invitational Regional High School Competition Art Educators' Exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts that opens this weekend.

The high school can only select six students to participate in the juried show, Middleton said.

Rickman's medium is mostly charcoal, pencil and pen, but he has expanded into ink and has begun work on a mixed media project.

Middleton said Rickman has even produced some pottery pieces.

In addition to art and academics, Rickman is a

member of the Marching Cats and was named first chair for the district band. Throughout his high school career, he has been involved at a various times in art and drama, helped form a campus environmental group his junior year and is a member of the science club.

Academics are important in anyone's life, no matter what career path they choose because the knowledge learned will help in any facet of life, Rickman said.

Rickman has not selected a college as of yet, but he has been accepted to Stetson, Mercer University and Rollins College.

He is waiting to hear back from Williams College, Oberlin College and Swarthmore College.

Rickman is the son of Dr. Jay and Pam Rickman. To achieve this recog-

niton, Rickman had to have the highest Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) score and be in the top 10 percent of his graduating class.

Annually, the top academic senior in each participating high school is named the STAR Student for that school. High school STAR students compete for system titles, then district-wide honors. District winners and their teachers are then invited to Atlanta to compete for the state STAR awards.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators Foundation Inc. is the state coordinator and primary state sponsor for the STAR program. The Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor the state program.

helped alleviate this condi-
He uses his voice to
share memories with for-
mer students who ap-
proach him with success
stories. He uses his voice to
still advise young people
that to find fun, they need
an education, that they
must work hard and stay
in school, that they must
make a commitment.
Sitting in a room of this
church where he has been
coming since his infancy,
speaking of Ruth to whom
he's been married for more
than 50 years, Ralph Coun-
cil understands commit-
ment, especially to a
church.
For though they have
been married for more
than a half century, the
Councils each attend the
churches where they were
raised.
He attends Macedonia.
She attends St. Paul A.M.E.
Church, where she re-
ceived a Founders Day hon-
or last week.
She'll come to his
church this weekend to see
him receive his honor.
Ralph Council says, "smil-
ing once again, but she'll
go to her church first."

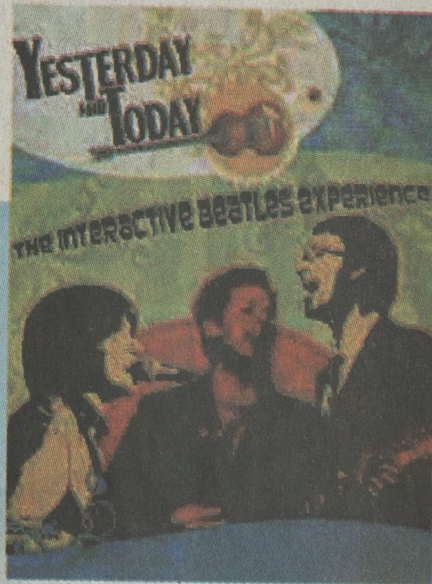
Wednesday, February 24, 2010

THE TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTER SERIES AT MATHIS AUDITORIUM

YESTERDAY and TODAY!

BEATLES INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

THURSDAY EVENING
MARCH 4, 2010
7:30 PM AT MATHIS



Rock to the music of the Beatles in an all-new interactive concert experience where the audience creates the playlist for the night. Through laughter, tears, and personal stories, Yesterday and Today will connect the audience and performers in a way that no other show can. There's no denying that everyone has a Beatles song attached to at least one event in his or her life. Join us March 4th at Mathis Auditorium!

FOR TICKETS CALL 247-ARTS (2787).

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579106slv

YESTERDAY AND TODAY



TICKET GIVE-A-WAY!

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES and The Turner Center for the Arts are giving away tickets to see
"Yesterday and Today - A Beatles Interactive Experience"

Thursday, March 4, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Mathis Auditorium

Just tell us your favorite Beatles song and why in 50 words or less. 5 entrees will be selected to win 2 tickets to the performance.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE () _____

MY FAVORITE BEATLES SONG IS: _____

Entrees must be received by 5:00 p.m. Tues., March 2nd. Send entry to THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES - Attn: Beatles tickets, 201 N. Troup St. Valdosta, GA 31601

578885mdv

Arts center hosts authors Poling and Smith

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts area writers Morris Smith and Dean Poling Monday evening.

The authors will read from their new books: Poling's novel, "Waiting for Willie," and Morris' latest story collection, "Above Ground: Cemetery Stories."

• "Above Ground: Cemetery Stories" is a collection of 13 mostly humorous stories. "They are all set in graveyards, ranging from an above-ground, moss-laden New Orleans' cemetery with chipped angels in front of decaying mausoleums, to a prim, manicured one in Delaware where relatives of a buried loved one are left with a tantalizing question," Smith notes.

Morris Smith is known for her exquisite story collections. Her past published story collections include "Spencer Road" and



"Zambian Text: Stories from Ngambe Mission."

These books are short-story collections with each story in each volume being strong enough to stand alone. In both books, a reader could freely read a story here or there, like with most short-story collections, and still come away with some nugget of insight or a laugh. But it is advisable to read Morris Smith's short-story collections from cover to cover,



straight through, as one would read a novel.

Speaking of novels, she also published the entertaining novel, "Better Than Jail," last year.

"Above Ground: Cemetery Stories" has been in the works for the past few years and has just returned from the presses this month.

• "Waiting for Willie" is Poling's first novel.

"Waiting for Willie" is the tale of Jesse Parker, a young boy haunted by the

SHOWTIME

Morris Smith and Dean Poling read from their respective books and sign copies.

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Admission: Free and open to the public.

dead father he barely remembers. Jesse's mother rarely mentions her late husband. Jesse's maternal grandmother has only bad things to say about the man.

An old stack of Willie Nelson tapes are among the few things adding color to Jesse's faded memories of "Daddy."

Compounding Jesse and his mother's troubles is the "water bandit," an unknown person who nightly floods their yard. Following a failed attempt to un-

mask the water bandit, Jesse stumbles upon The Mill, a bar which Daddy often referred to as his "second home."

At The Mill, Jesse meets several of his late father's friends: Skydivers, musicians, bartenders, cooks, drinkers, dreamers, and desperadoes. They share stories of Norse gods, jumping from airplanes, barroom brawls, and other tales of Daddy.

The Mill folks view Jesse's afternoon visits as a boy wanting to learn more about his dead father. To Jesse, any one of The Mill's irregular characters could be the water bandit. As he charts his boyhood investigation into The Mill, Jesse learns that Willie Nelson is coming to town. And the countdown begins.

Can Jesse solve the case of the water bandit before Willie's arrival and summer's end? And how much will Jesse learn of his fa-

ther's life and death before his mother discovers his secret trips to The Mill?

"Waiting for Willie" is a novel about seekers and dreamers. It is peopled with extraordinary characters trapped in the joys and sorrows of ordinary lives. It is about travelers seeking refuge from an odyssey of grief, loners discovering family in the mythos of a bar, and searchers finding meaning in their daily routines.

This is the story of how one life can affect numerous people and how each individual views that life from a different perspective.

Poling is The Valdosta Daily Times assistant managing editor. His first book, "Cowboy Boots and Pony Tales," was a collection of his columns from The Times.

Snake Nation Press published both "Above Ground" and "Waiting for Willie."

PHOTOSCAPE



JONATHAN M. CHICK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Checking in for afternoon tea

Sara Sullivan checks in Clara Orr at the Ladies' Afternoon Tea on Saturday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The event is part of the city of Valdosta's sesquicentennial celebration.



JONATHAN M. CHICK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Amy Brown, textile curator for the Lowndes County Historical Society, talks with Charlie Oliver about the hats that were on display at the Ladies Afternoon Tea at the Turner Center for the Arts Saturday.

Afternoon tea honors the women of Valdosta

BY JOHNNA PINHOLSTER
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — An elegant afternoon interspersed with fits of laughter and reflection filled the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Saturday.

Reflections on the Generations: A Ladies' Afternoon Tea is just one of many events planned this year in honor of Valdosta's sesquicentennial celebration.

The women who have shaped Valdosta's past and are molding Valdosta's future were honored at the event.

Robin Fretti, first lady of Valdosta, opened the ceremony. She was joined by her two daughters as a representation of the future of the community.

"We are here to celebrate the many contributions women have made in building our community," Fretti said. "Women in our city lead with passion."

The women in the community are doctors, lawyers, nurses, judges, educators, councilwomen and commissioners, she said.

They also play the role of mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and



JONATHAN M. CHICK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Dr. Lucy Greene speaks to the crowd at an afternoon tea at the Turner Center for the Arts Saturday. The Tea Party is part of Valdosta's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

TEA | 4A

TEA

FROM PAGE ONE

wives, Fretti said.

Dr. Shirley Hardin, Valdosta State University's academic director of African-American studies and a professor of English, then shared inspiring poems representing the different generations of women in the Valdosta community.

Hardin brought a portrait of her grandmother "Little Mama," a woman who lived to be 102 and was always willing to share wisdom with her grandchildren, she said.

"Us black women something special," she would say," Hardin said. "Us something special."

Hardin shared "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes and "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou.

Her mother, Hardin said, always refers to herself as a "nice girl."

"I was a nice girl, Shirley, when your daddy and I got married he didn't know if he was getting a man or woman, I was a

nice girl," Hardin recounted,

The women who came before pushed hard for the rights and freedoms that women now enjoy, Hardin said.

They pushed for opportunities they never dreamed could be possible, she said.

They battered down doors and iron-starched white shirts, Hardin said.

Roberta George then shared a poem she had specially written for the gathering.

"It's difficult to write a poem on demand," George said.

Women do a lot of work in the shadows, she said, taking care of sick children, picking up after everyone and like her grandmother, harvesting crops to ensure her children could eat in the winter months.

"There is a huge number of women that preceded us that lived here that we will never now,"

George said. "This poem is dedicated to all the women we will never know."

The poem is called "Shadows" and reflects on

the women that walk before, the women here now and the women of the future that will look back and wonder about those that came before.

"Look around you ladies, we are old now as they were once old," George read. "The few we know and the lonely neighbor down the street go before us, we take their places ladies."

She went on to say, "Think of their children of which you are one."

Lucy Greene, Dale Crane and Emily Anderson then shared with the audience the variety of women who have helped shape Valdosta.

Greene said while doing research on the women of Valdosta they found certain characteristics that seem to permeate all of the women.

They were creativity, courage, vision, devotion, compassion and dedication.

Nikki Forman closed out the afternoon with a song from Roger and Hammerstein's musical "Flower Drum Song" entitled "I Enjoy Being a Girl."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hair who?

Who is this? A character from 'Hairspray,' Broadway's Big Fat Musical Comedy Hit? Or a well-known local decked out in 'Hairspray' disguise on Halloween? (Hint: It's the latter!) The first caller to correctly identify this person wins a free Hairspray T-shirt! For a chance to win (and purchase tickets to 'Hairspray'), call the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, (229) 247-2787, ext. 221; or e-mail coliver@turnercenter.org. Don't miss 'Hairspray,' showing 7 p.m. Thursday, Mathis City Auditorium. Pre-show dinner tickets also available.

8--THE BERRIEN PRESS--NASHVILLE, GEORGIA--FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Hairspray Debuts In Valdosta

Hairspray, Broadway's Big Fat Musical Comedy Hit, will make its big debut in Valdosta, February 11, 7:00 p.m. at Mathis City Auditorium as the third production in the 2010 Turner Center for the Arts' Presenter Series. The Broadway hit won 8 Tony Awards and was Grammy nominated for Best Musical Show Album. It inspired the major motion picture Hairspray that featured John Travolta. Filled with deliriously tuneful songs, it is high with laughter and romance. Valdosta will get the chance to experience it on stage in living color!

Hairspray takes place in 1962 and Baltimore's Tracy Turnbald is a big girl with big hair and a big heart. Her one and only passion is

to dance. Through the local TV dance program she wins a spot and is transformed overnight from an outsider to a teen celebrity. Turnblad speaks out for her beliefs, especially integration, and prevails over her treatment of being overweight. Will the plus-size trendsetter in dance and fashion overcome the already reigning princess, win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin, and integrate a television show without denting her 'do? Find out by going to see Hairspray at Mathis Auditorium. Start your evening with the pre-show dinner, which will be catered by Covington's. It will be a night filled with fun and laughter! Tickets can be purchased by phone (229) 247-2787 or at the Turner Center for the

Arts (527 North Patterson St., Valdosta). For information about the show you can visit the website www.hairsprayontour.com or the Turner Center website www.turnercenter.org.

BHS Financial Aid Night Feb. 23

The Berrien High School Guidance Department will host the annual Financial Aid Night at Berrien High School on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in the Commons Area. Berrien High School seniors and parents are invited to attend this presentation where they will receive valuable information on financial aid, scholarships and grants for post secondary education.

Camp Assumes Squadron Command

Air National Guard Lt. Col. Charles H. Camp has assumed command of the 108th Air Refueling Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Ill.

The commander is a member of the Illinois National Guard based at Camp Lincoln, Springfield. The lieutenant colonel has served in the military for 20 years.

He is the son of Charles H. and Jeane Camp of Ray City.

Lt. Col. Camp graduated in 1985 from Lowndes County High School, Valdosta, Ga., and received a bachelor's degree in 1989 from Valdosta State University.

Friday, February 5, 2010 **9A**

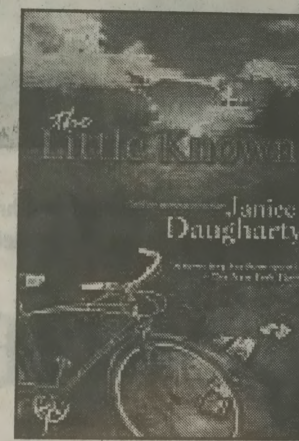
Author Janice Daugharty signs new book

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts a book signing this weekend for nationally known South Georgia author Janice Daugharty.

She will be signing her new book, "The Little Known," the story of a 12-year-old boy who discovers a bank robber's loot in 1960s Valdosta. The youngster tries changing the lives of people in his Statenville community with the money, but no one ever seems to use the money in the way the youngster intended.

The book signing is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.



QUICK INFO

When: Saturday, Feb. 6 from 1-3 p.m.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

For more on Daugharty and "The Little Known," see the cover story in the new February issue of Valdosta Scene magazine.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Proud to serve TitleTown USA!

hairspray

Making 'Hairspray'
stick - 3A

Saturday, February 6, 2010 9A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAIRSPRAY

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series is preparing for the arrival of the musical 'Hairspray,' 7 p.m. Thursday, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Admission: \$45. Reservations, more information: Call (229) 247-2787. PICTURED: Gail Hobgood, left, and Nancy Warren, right, of the Presenter Series committee, with Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, standing, prepare the hair of Suzanne Kirkland, Presenter Series intern.



HAIRSPRAY ON TOUR

Jerry O'Boyle and Danielle Arci as Edna and Tracy Turnblad in 'Hairspray,' playing next week as part of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series.

The actor with the trick to making 'Hairspray' stick

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Playing Edna Turnblad in the touring musical production of "Hairspray" has been a source of endless wonders for actor Jerry O'Boyle.

He has seen audiences who might not accept a drag performance of a man playing a woman in other venues in their towns embrace his portrayal of Edna.

He has seen audiences not realize a man is playing the show's famed mother role until several minutes into the performance.

And he's seen perceptions change from town to town and show to show.

He looks forward to seeing Valdosta's reaction to his and his cast mates' performances next week when the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series hosts "Hairspray" at Mathis City Auditorium.

"It's so rewarding," O'Boyle says during a recent phone interview with The Valdosta Daily Times. "Not only playing this wonderful character with such a physical presence, but I feel very responsible to the idea of this character."

Since the character of Edna was first introduced she has been played by men. First, Divine had the role in the non-musical yet very musically influenced Roger Waters' 1980s movie "Hairspray." Harvey Fierstein made the role of Edna his own when Waters' movie was adapted into a live Broadway musical. John Travolta played Edna in the movie adaptation of the Broadway musical.

The trick to playing

SHOWTIME

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series presents "Hairspray."

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11.

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

Ticket: \$45.

Pre-show dinner (optional): Starts 5:30 p.m., Feb. 11,

at Mathis. Catered by Covington's. Menu: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, corn pudding, broccoli with butter and red peppers, yeast rolls with butter, spinach salad, assorted desserts, iced tea, coffee.

Add \$15 to ticket price per dinner.

Reservations, more information: Call 247-2787.

Edna is delicate. The character is not a man pretending to be a woman. Instead, it's a man playing a woman's role. The character of Edna Turnblad is very much a woman. She just happens to be traditionally played by a man.

While the "Hairspray" production coming to Valdosta began several weeks ago, O'Boyle has been playing Edna Turnblad regularly since June 2006, performing across the U.S., Canada, and in Tokyo and Beijing. The trick for him isn't just playing Edna as a woman but as a character who is not weighed down by the past performances of Divine, Fierstein, or Travolta.

"I told producers early on, I'm not interested in doing Harvey Fierstein as Edna," O'Boyle says. "As unique as Harvey was, I wanted to bring my own interpretation to the character."

Even with years of experience, it is still a process transforming Jerry O'Boyle into Edna Turnblad. It takes him and two assistants about 45 minutes to prepare him for the role.

"To create that illusion, it takes a village," O'Boyle says.

In addition to loving the character, O'Boyle loves the message of "Hairspray." The show is

set in the big-hair days of the 1960s, when an overweight, teenaged girl, Edna's daughter Tracy Turnblad, defies conventions concerning looks and race on a TV rock 'n' roll dance show.

"It is a unique story that people can relate to because it is an underdog story that addresses so many issues in a fun and uncompromising way," O'Boyle says.

Actress Danielle Arci enjoys these same qualities about the show. Arci plays the teenaged Tracy Turnblad. She has been a fan of the original "Hairspray" movie since a kid. She has dreamed of playing Tracy since seeing the musical version on Broadway.

She doesn't base her Tracy on other actresses' performances, but by "bringing myself to the role. The director told me to stick to what you know."

"Hairspray" is Arci's first national tour, having recently attended the Academy of Performing Arts in New Jersey.

Asked if she could see herself breaking tradition to play the role of Edna a couple of decades from now, Arci says it would be a great role for a woman but seems to

work so well with a man playing the character.

"It's amazing watching Jerry play Edna, watching the audience not realize that a man is playing a woman," she says, adding it brings an extra dimension to the show.

O'Boyle says he believes someday a production will cast an actress to play Edna for the shock value of having a woman play a woman's role traditionally played by a man, he laughs.

Though he loves the acceptance which audiences give the character, his biggest moment is when he realizes the audience has completely forgotten that he is a man playing a woman's role, when audiences accept Edna as Edna.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

THE TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTER SERIES AT MATHIS AUDITORIUM

hairspray

• BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT •

Thurs Feb 11, 2010 - 7:00PM

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

FOR TICKETS CALL 247-ARTS!

COMING!

YESTERDAY & TODAY BEATLES INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Thurs March 4, 2010 - 7:30pm

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'Venus of the Luna Moth,' artist Benjamin Shamback.

Duality in Contrast

Arts center hosts the works of Benjamin J. Shamback

BY DEAN POLING
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Benjamin J. Shamback is an artist interested in the perception of color.

Study his still-life paintings, you'll find images where colors meet each other with few exchanges of value. In these color encounters, Shamback strives to jar the viewer's senses without an overwhelming clash of contrasts.

"I have made an effort in each painting to establish passages of color where the lightness or darkness (known as 'value') of adjacent colors don't change, but the colors we see there do," Shamback explains in an artist's statement. "So, there might be a light yellow wall, with a light pink flower in front of it. This limited value passage will, in a subtle way, seem richer and may even vibrate a bit compared to other color combinations."

The distances of these images vary from where our brains compile the image, he continues. "The time lag between the two kinds of information creates a subtle flicker in the image."

Viewers can let their brains compile Shamback's images during his exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Shamback studied illustration in Connecticut before studying painting in St. Louis during the 1990s. His work has been featured in more than 100 regional and national exhibits. He is represented by LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans and Hidell Brooks Gallery in Charlotte, N.C.

As an artist, he enjoys another contrasting nature of canvas: "The dichotomy between the painting's function as an object to be looked at as well as a window to be looked through."

He enjoys juxtaposing delicate items, such as shells, flowers, glass, against the hard metal supporting these items.

"My hope is that the visual tension created between their physical presence, their delicate realism and their calculated coloring will make for a compelling aesthetic experience."

GALLERY

Artist Ben Shamback's works is on display along with the drawproject 2010, artist Maggie Evans, and Pine Grove Elementary School art students.

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

Run dates: These shows run through Feb. 24.

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



'Glasses on Red,' artist Benjamin Shamback.



LEFT: 'Self-Portrait,' artist Benjamin Shamback.

BOTTOM: 'Lilies on Green,' artist Benjamin Shamback.

