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Turner Center Binder 12 2015-2022

Turner Center for the Arts

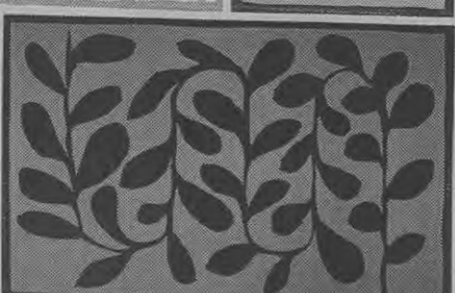
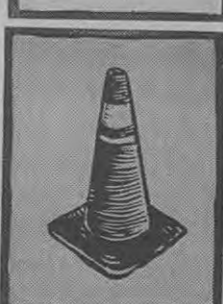
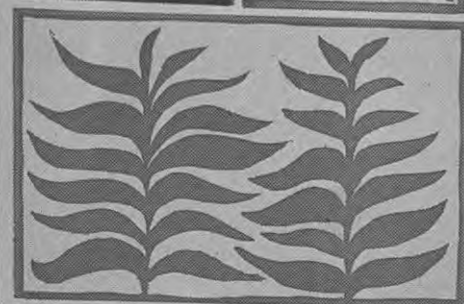
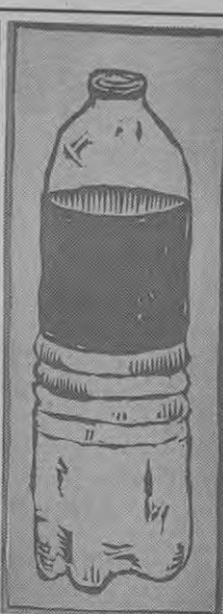
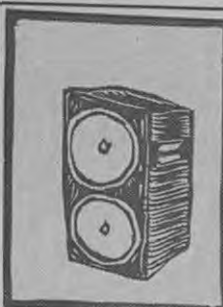
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'Black Vine' by artist Andrew Kozlowski.



**○ TURNER CENTER WINTER CAMP
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In this two-day camp, students will create gifts to give for the holidays! Students will create 3 art projects including collaging on canvas, painting wooden door hangers and creating ornaments! Students will even design their own wrapping paper and cards!

All will go home wrapped and ready to go under the tree just in time for Christmas!

Monday, December 20, 11am-2pm

Tuesday, December 21, 11am -2pm

Turner Center For The Arts, Valdosta

*Tickets: Available by phone (229-247-2787) or in person at the
Turner Center for The Arts.*



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harlee Webb, Turner Center art education administrator, Evelyn Soshnik, Julia Soshnik, Sementha Mathews, Turner Center executive director, stand by the Javelia Co. box in the Art Park.

Javelia Co. comes to Art Park

VALDOSTA – Javelia Co. is a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that created the Page-Turners & Paints Pantry, which can be found in the Art Park, 605 N. Patterson St.

The Page-Turners & Paints Pantry is the brain-child of Julia and Evelyn Soshnik who attend Valwood School, arts center representatives said in a statement. Julia is 12 and Evelyn is 10.

The Page-Turners & Paints Pantry was built by Clint Smith, physical plant director at Valwood School, and is kept well-stocked with children's books and art supplies.

The Pantry is restocked every seven to 10 days or when supplies get really low, center representatives said.

"We both love to read and express ourselves through art," Julia said. "We want to share that joy with children in our

community who don't have easy access to those materials."

Javelia Co., a combination of the sisters' names, was created so monetary donations, which will fund future purchases of books and supplies for the Page-Turners & Paints Pantry, can be accepted and are tax deductible for the donors.

"In addition," Evelyn said, "there is a donation box inside the Turner Center for anyone who wishes to give new or gently used books or art supplies to the Pantry. We are so thankful for everyone's generosity."

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation, mail to Javelia Co., 703 Pine Point Circle, Valdosta, GA 31602. To learn more about the Page-Turners & Paints Pantry, visit 'Instagram @PageTurnersAndPaintsPantry' or visit the Pantry in the northeast corner of the Turner Center Art Park.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Page-Turners & Paints Pantry at the Turner Center Art Park.



Lena Bosch lived a life of service. She was not only a leader in the arts community, having been a founding member of the Annette Howell Center for the Arts, but in other aspects of the community as well. She served as president of the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce. But her service extended across the state as well as the first female to serve as the president of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association. She was also a torch carrier for the 1996 Olympics.

Community leaders remember her fondly for her devotion to service and her friendship. "I was privileged to work with Lena years ago in the chamber. She was always a classy lady and very talented in so many ways. If you were around her very long, you would notice her faith and she was not ashamed to share it with others. I'll cherish her memory," stated Glenn Copeland.

The inaugural Lena Bosch Lifetime Achievement Award was established to recognize Bosch's lifetime of contributions to the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission (LVAC), the Turner Center, and the overall arts community. It will recognize individuals who



"have exhibited outstanding, creative, innovative, and visionary leadership in the growth and advancement of the arts in our community through involvement with the Turner Center."

"Lena was a lifelong friend of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and to countless people in our community," said LVAC President Bruce Smith. "It is

an honor to remember her life in this way and to celebrate the dedication of others with an award that bears her name."

A six-member awards committee will accept and judge the nominations based solely on the content provided on the award applications. The committee's selection is also subject to approval by the LVAC Board of Directors, before being officially announced to the community.

"My mother lived her entire life serving others," said her son, Bart Bosch. "She loved the arts, and she loved people. I cannot remember a time during my life when my mother was not serving the Turner Center, fundraising, or expanding opportunities for others to appreciate the arts. This award continues her legacy through the contributions of those who receive the award."

The award announcement will be made at Spring Into Art Gala opening on April 11, 2022. The name of the initial award recipient (and future recipients) will be displayed on a plaque that bears Bosch's bronze image, located in the Price-Campbell Gallery in the Turner Center's main facility. Recipients will also receive a commemorative award. | VM

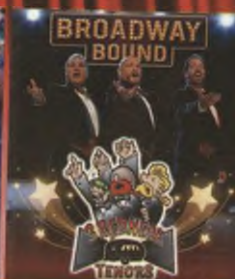
21
22
SEASON

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

PRESENTER SERIES



JANUARY 27, 2022



FEBRUARY 17, 2022



MARCH 15, 2022

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Regular Season Pass - \$155
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For tickets & information, contact the Turner Center for the Arts at 229.247.2787
All performances begin at 7:30 PM, Mathis City Auditorium

Arts & Education

6A

Sunday, November 14, 2021

www.valdostadailytimes.com

Turner Center opens RAC exhibit, hosts book signing

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — The opening of the Third Annual Regional Artists Community exhibit Monday included a book debut from one late author and his family.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosted the reception, which showcased works from several artists and featured a book signing for "Running with Patience the Race Set Before Thee: How Faith, Family and Football Shaped the Life of Rusty Griffin."

Learning Who Rusty Was

The late Rusty Griffin, who never wrote a book, was in the middle of writing his first autobiography when he died two years ago due to cardiac arrest, Barbara Griffin, his widow, said. His writing partner was author Harold Fickett of Atlanta.

"Running with Patience" became a biography following Rusty Griffin's passing.

"The silver lining in that was that he (Fickett) was able to say some things in the book that Rusty wouldn't have said about himself," Barbara Griffin said.

Rusty Griffin was a businessman and owner of an agricultural crop protection chemical company. He was an athlete who played for former Valdosta High coach Wright Bazemore, Barbara Griffin said.

He was married to his wife for a little more than 52 years before he died. They are both Valdosta natives.

Barbara Griffin completed some editing for his book, she said.

While working on the book, she said she found herself thinking of memories shared with her late husband. She said the experience was therapeutic.

"I have a slideshow that goes in my head all the time," she said. "We were so blessed. God was so good to us. I (did) relive a lot of that. At first it was real hard because I'd start working on it and I'd just turned into a puddle, but as the time (went) on, I realized this is something I needed to finish."

"Running with Patience" is available in the Turner Center's gift shop.

Celebrating Regional Artists

While Barbara Griffin was signing books, reception guests were wandering through the Price-Campbell Foundation and



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Barbara Griffin holds a signing for her late husband's book, "Running with Patience the Race Set Before Thee: How Faith, Family and Football Shaped the Life of Rusty Griffin," Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. An art reception was simultaneously held for the center's newest exhibits.

Margaret Mittiga galleries viewing works from area sketchers, painters and photographers.

The Regional Artists Community exhibit is a collective with art from 35 artists.

Annette Crosby, a local abstract painter, had two mixed-media pieces on display. She painted from a landscape for one of them, which she's never done. Crosby normally does mark making.

"I'm always trying new things," she said. "One of them is acrylic inks and the other is a lot of pencils and markers and paint."

She's been a RAC member for three years and said the group exhibit is an opportunity for artists to show their work.

Sherry Wetherington and Pat Otto, who describe themselves as "art buddies" and have their works side by side in the showcase, unknowingly had the same muse.

Using colored pencils, Otto drew birds and Wetherington painted birds via mixed media.

Both are RAC veterans.

"Artists are the most fun people in the world," Otto said. "I love hanging around artists and just looking at their paintings, understanding why they paint what they paint, and to me, it's better than Disneyland."



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Sherry Wetherington and Pat Otto are two of several artists participating in the Regional Artists Community group exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The 'art buddies' both found inspiration in birds for their entries.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Annette Crosby, abstract artist of mixed media piece 'Free and Easy,' showcases her work in the Regional Artists Community group exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. She has two paintings in the show.

MORE INFO

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday. Visit turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787, for more information.

RAC provides exposure and is diverse in the featured works, Wetherington said.

"It brings a lot of different things," she said. "It brings so many different paintings. It brings so many artists. ... There's a lot of great artists here tonight."

Jo-Ann Adams found inspiration in color for her two entries, which were acrylic paintings with

flowers as subjects.

As a two-time RAC participant, she urges people to support the local arts.

"I love the art center and I don't think we have enough of the arts here in Valdosta," Adams said. "I think it's a needed thing, especially for classes and things for kids so they can grow up appreciating art and become artists."



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jo-Ann Adams, painter in the Regional Artists Community, is inspired by flowers for 'Fancy Nancy.' She has two paintings in the RAC exhibit, which opened Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The RAC exhibit will be open to the public through Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday.

Visit turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787, for more information.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Trevor Dunn, a clay artist, brings his work for the first time to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. His collection, 'If the River was Fire,' which features 42 pieces, opened in the Josette's Gallery Monday evening.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Harry Ally, a veteran artist at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, returns to the center Monday to premiere his show, 'Harry and Suzanne Ally, the Artist and the Muse.' His work is in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery.

Two Sides of One Canvas

Turner Center welcomes artists Harry Ally, Trevor Dunn

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — Two new exhibits opened Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, showcasing an arts center newcomer and an artist who is well established at the center and in venues across the nation.

Matrimony and Masterpieces

Harry Ally has come home.

The 50-year art veteran unveiled "Harry and Suzanne Ally, The Artist and the Muse" during a reception at the Turner Center.

Ally has 40 pieces in the show while his wife, Suzanne, who he affectionally called "Suzy," has six small pieces.

Their work hangs in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery at the arts center.

Ally called the collection his "personal diary," offering viewers a glimpse of who he is as a person.

He currently lives in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, with his wife but made a visit to the Turner Center Monday for opening night.

Ally is a retired professor from Valdosta State University, where he taught for 27 years.

He is now professor emeritus at VSU, according to the Turner Center.

He has participated in Turner's DrawProject. He said he's also been featured in the center's Spring Into Art exhibition.

For him, opening the

show Monday evening felt "good; it's like a homecoming," he said.

Ally is a Texas Christian University graduate, earning a bachelor's in fine arts. He graduated from the University of North Texas with a master's in fine arts.

His work has been featured in a number of national and international shows and he said he's received a few awards in juried exhibitions.

His career began in oil painting before venturing into tar, Georgia red clay, fabrics, sticks, stones, acrylics and texture paint.

"Recently, drawing has become really important, especially charcoal," Ally said. "Just love everything about charcoal: the rich deep blacks, the gradations, how it smears, how it can be erased (and) manipulated. ... It's amazing stuff and it's so forgiving."

He finds inspiration in his wife, Suzanne. He said she influences his artistry.

"She is not only my muse but she's been the mad scientist behind the scene. She experiments with materials and develops new techniques in painting, which I have adopted in my work. I'd probably still be painting solely with oils without her," Ally said.

"My entire graduate thesis exhibition was based on images of her. Suzanne also has a BFA degree from TCU and was awarded the prestigious Nordan Fine Arts scholarship in painting as an undergraduate."

The couple contrast one another in their artistry; Ally painting as a "compul-

sion" with "blinders on" and his wife blending art and life as she is a "renaissance woman," Ally said.

Other impacts are sculptors Stephen De Staebler and Manuel Neri.

He likes classical Greek and Roman sculptures with missing limbs and the original surface whiteness, as well as the small prehistoric Venus of Willendorf sculpture.

Ally's favorite contemporary artist is Anselm Kiefer.

In the past, he's been represented by Lowe Gallery in Atlanta and Santa Monica, the Soren Christensen in New Orleans, Stricoff Fine Arts in New York City and the Craighead Green Gallery in Dallas.

Mason Fine Art Gallery in Atlanta currently represents Ally.

New Guy in Town

The exhibition name, "If the River was Fire," is fitting for clay artist Trevor Dunn, who has 42 pieces scattered throughout Josette's Gallery at the arts center.

"The name of the exhibition takes from the process of firing the work with wood," he said. "The flow of the flame and the deposition of ash contribute to the development of the surfaces. A visual sense of history is recorded on the pieces and tells a story of (their) placement in the kiln."

Dunn is a first-timer at the Turner Center and said he is excited to have a solo show at the center.

See Artists, page 7C



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

'Transition Tube' and 'Uplift-Reliquary for Mezcal Cantaro,' both iron-rich stoneware wood-fired and cooled in reduction are both showcased in artist Trevor Dunn's 'If the River was Fire' exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

PRESENTER: Turner Center for the Arts to host 3 tour shows for its Presenter Series

'tenor genre.' Written by opera veteran Matthew Lord with music arranged by award-winning composer Craig Bohmler, these boys have seen it all, sing it all and make us laugh till we double over, reminding us that in life, it's not just the destination, it's the journey."

"The Greatest Piano Men," March 15

A tribute show featuring musicians performing as some combination of Elton John, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, etc. Center synopsis: "With three pianos, multi-media and back-up singers, 'The Greatest Piano Men' is a live rock & roll celebration of the greatest piano icons in music. A high-energy musical journey that takes

you through the '50s and '60s hits of Piano Men like Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles to the '70s and '80s hits of maestros Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Billy Joel."

All shows start 7:30 p.m.; all play at Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Patrons can purchase discounted early season tickets as of Friday, Oct. 1, through Nov. 30 for \$120, for three shows. Early season tickets mean buyers get three shows for the price of two.

Starting Dec. 1 through Jan. 26, season tickets will be \$155, according to the arts center.

Individual show tickets are \$60 each and will be available starting Jan. 1.

An optional pre-show dinner will be offered 6 p.m. prior to each show at

Mathis City Auditorium, with advanced reservations required, according to organizers.

The Valdosta Daily Times is a long-time Presenter Series sponsor. The Times is joined by Astro Exterminating, Stifel Investment Services, Synovus, Dr. Edward Fricker family, WALB, Talk 92.1 Jerry & Dedra Hughes, Coleman-Talley Attorneys, Sisterology in sponsoring the 2021-22 season.

Community partners are Covinton's, Cowart Electric & Industrial Contractors, Fairway Outdoor Advertising, Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Turner's Fine Furniture, United Rentals, Valdosta Magazine.

More information: Visit the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

FREE



Music in the Art Park

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 | 7-9 pm
Turner Center Art Park

FEATURING



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Bring your kids, pets, blankets and chairs for some musical entertainment in the Turner Center Art Park! Vendor on site is Rico's Taco Truck.

229.247.2787 | turnercenter.org
605 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta 31601

Creeksiders play Art Park

BY HEATHER ROBERTS

Valdosta State University Intern

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will host The Creeksiders for a live Music in the Art Park concert 7-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, in the Art Park, 605 N. Patterson St.

The live concert is sponsored by Patrick Parker and is free to the public.

Community members are invited to bring their blankets and lawn chairs

MORE INFO

Patrons who need special assistance may contact the Center to make arrangements. For more information, call (229) 247-2787 or visit turnercenter.org.

to this family-friendly and pet-friendly event to relax in the park and enjoy the music. Rico's Taco Truck will be the food and beverage vendor on site.

The Music in the Art Park concerts take place on the second Friday of each month, March through No-

vember, feature local musicians and are always free to the public.

Patrons who need special assistance may contact the Center to make arrangements. For more information, call (229) 247-2787 or visit turnercenter.org.



Mark Your Calendar Last Call Event

Drop in after work to see the current exhibit before the show ends Wednesday, September 15, and stay for Artist Talk with exhibiting artist **Julie Barnes Smith**. Grab a glass of wine or a beer and stroll seven galleries, enjoying art in over 8,000 square feet. *Free admission and open to the public.*

Monday, September 13 | 5-7 pm

Turner Center for the Arts Galleries
527 N. Patterson Street | Valdosta, GA



229.247.2787
turnercenter.org



In the Galleries:
September 20-November 3, 2021

Amy Bennion
Your Glass

Travis D. Simmons
Momus

Erin Kendrick
The Things We Bring

Author Trent Busch
Book Signing

Erin Kendrick

Please join us for an opening reception
Monday, September 20, 5-7 p.m.
This event is open and free to the public.

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Sunday, September 26, 2021

1C



REBECCA GALLAGHER | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amy Bennion is an artist currently featured in a solo exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



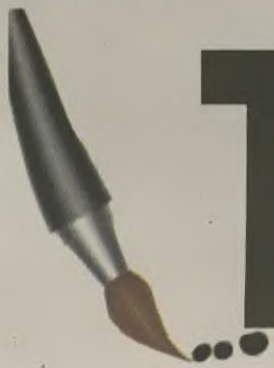
AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Travis D. Simmons brings his paintings to the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. His work will hang in the gallery through Wednesday, Nov. 3.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Erin Kendrick of Jacksonville, Fla., is showing 'The Things We Bring' at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Kendrick attended the gallery opening Monday.



Talented Trio

Turner Center for the Arts showcases three new artists

BY AMANDA M. USHER
amanda.usher@gafnews.com

through Wednesday, Nov. 3.

'The Things We Bring'

Erin Kendrick traveled from Jacksonville, Fla., for her first solo show at the Turner Center. Though she's juried at the arts center, she said she's never had her own exhibit.

"It's great to have a show and be recognized in a place outside of Jacksonville," she said.

The painter has been involved with art since a

young child, having done regional shows and a couple of international shows.

According to a biography provided by the Turner Center, Kendrick is a 1999 Florida State University graduate and received her master's from Georgia State University in 2003.

She is the director of education and the lead visual art instructor at Jacksonville Arts and Music School, her bio stated.

"She was named the Cultural Council of Great-

er Jacksonville's 2019 Art Educator of the Year. In 2018, she was voted best visual artist, best art exhibition and best arts educator in Folio Weekly's Best of Jax 2018 poll," her bio reads.

"She has won several grants including the Jackie Cornelius Art Residency grant (Douglas Anderson School of the Arts), the Lift Every Student Artist-in-Residence grant and the Community First Foundation Art Ventures Indi-

vidual Artist grant."

Kendrick works with fluid acrylics and ink. She paints on flat surfaces only, not using an easel, layering colors, she said.

"It's almost like painting in puddles of color," she said.

Before, she would piece together images to create faces. Kendrick now paints models she photographs.

Her work, seen in "The Things We Bring," at the Turner Center is colorful and conveys the emotion of

Black women and girls.

Kendrick spent five years preparing her collection, which includes 30 pieces.

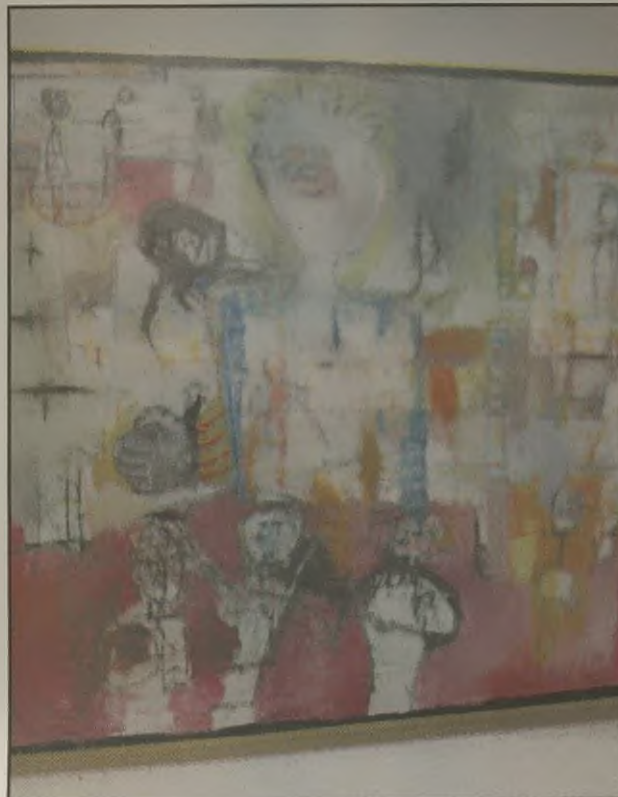
"I typically paint stories about Black women," she said. "I recently started a body of work about Black girlhood, and in this show, you can really see the evolution of the work and the stories that I've been telling since 2016."

Kendrick added her

See Trio, page 7C



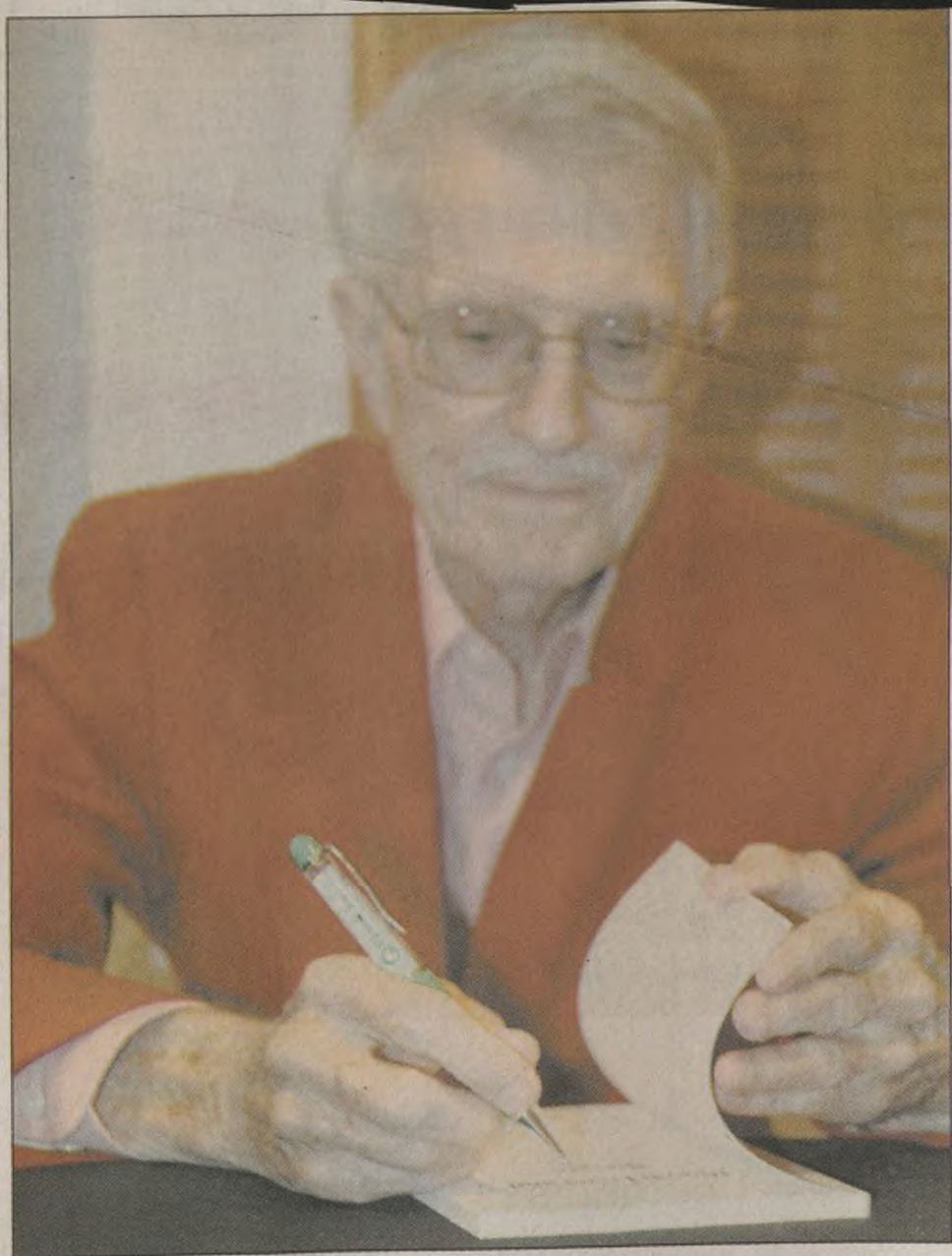
'Send them' by Amy Bennion



'Hugin and Munin' by Travis D. Simmons

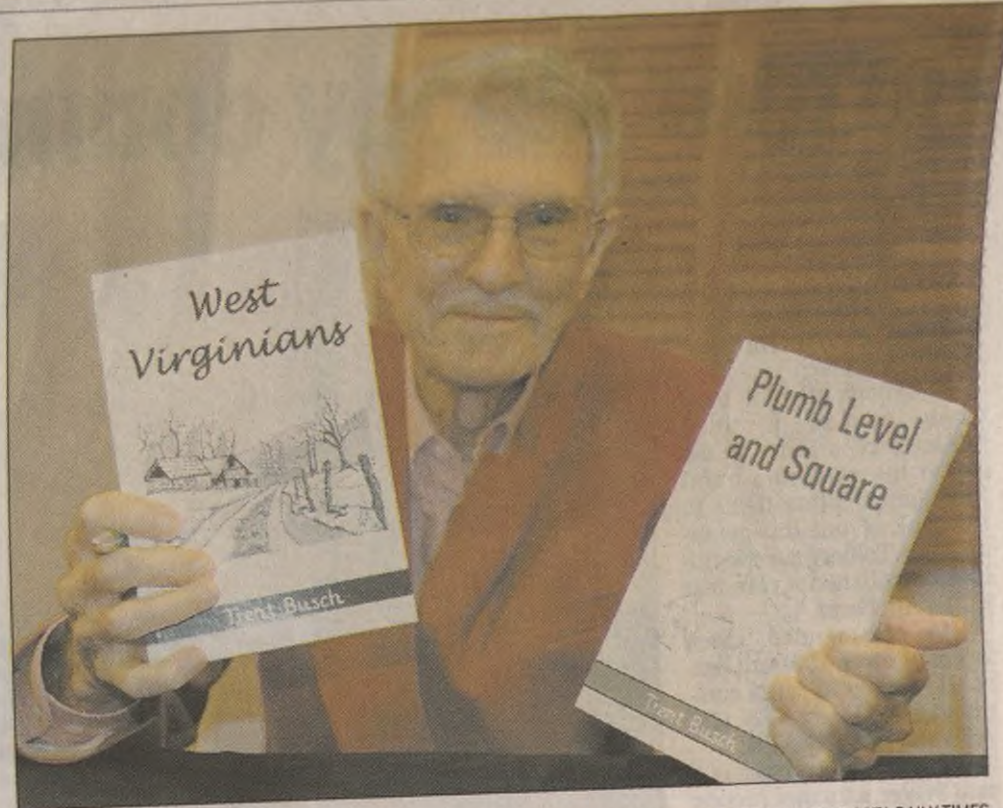


'Sechita' by Erin Kendrick



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Trent Busch is a poet who held a book signing Monday during an art reception at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



Cory Hansen, vice president of finance at Second Harvest of South Georgia, receives a \$2,200 donation check Monday from Julie Smith and Bill Shenton, both of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The funding came from the Turner Center's Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Writer Trent Busch holds a book signing for his poetry collections during a gallery opening Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Turner Center donates to Second Harvest

Center holds book signing for poet

BY AMANDA M. USHER
amanda.usher@gafnews.com

MORE INSIDE

See related content in Sunday Life on page 1C.

VALDOSTA — Thousands of meals will be provided to residents in the community thanks to the local arts center's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.

During a gallery opening Monday, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts donated \$2,200 to Second Harvest of South Georgia.

For the bi-annual fundraiser, 220 bowls were made this year; 10 of which were crafted by Valwood School students, according to center staff. The others were made by pottery instructor Julie Smith and her students.

Cory Hansen, Second Harvest vice president of finance, said the funding will supply slightly more than 17,000 meals.

"I love it when the community helps the community and this is a tremendous help to us when we can distribute," he said. "For every dollar we get, we can provide 8.7 meals to families in need, so this goes a long way to getting food to hungry families."

The concept of Empty Bowls began at a universi-

ty and is now a nonprofit organization, Bill Shenton, center art curator, has said in the past.

It initially included a photography display that highlighted hunger.

Hansen said Empty Bowls is a "consistent source of donation" that factors into Second Harvest being able to continue its efforts.

With one organization assisting another, he said people are able to notice the good that can be done in the community.

During the arts reception, which showcased three new solo exhibits, writer Trent Busch also held a book signing for two of his poetry collections.

He is professor emeritus at Valdosta State University, having taught American literature and modern poetry at the college for 30 years.

Busch said his poetry is personal.

"I feel poetry is another form of art that ties us in to being human, and poetry is, to me, the all-time art

in writing," he said. "It's the one that's the hardest to do and it's the one that gets us to (the) center of things and makes us deal with what we are and who we are. ... Poetry, to me, is the supreme art."

The subject of "Plumb Level and Square" is Busch's workshop, where he spent about 30 years building furniture, including furniture for his granddaughter.

Busch said he was in the business for the enjoyment more than the money.

"The poems come out of that relationship," he said.

"West Virginians" is Busch's third body of work and reflects his home state.

"All of the poems in the book have to do with the people that live in West Virginia, the mountain culture and the culture that I experienced since I grew up there," he said.

"The poems, of course, entail my love for that state as my home-place."

Busch's writing is on Amazon.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES
Bill Shenton, art curator at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and Julie Smith, center pottery instructor, presents a donation check to Cory Hansen, vice president of finance at Second Harvest of South Georgia. The Turner Center raised \$2,200 through its annual Empty Bowls fundraiser.



ARToberfest 2021
celebrates the
talent of local and
regional artists and
their contributions
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4th Annual ARToberfest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021 | 10 AM - 4 PM

FREE ADMISSION

More than 20 Fine Arts Vendors
Artists Demos • Live Music • Food Trucks
Kids Interactive Art Activities
South Georgia Classic Car Club Show
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TRIO: The Turner Center for the Arts welcomes three new artists, Amy Bennion, Erin Kendrick and Travis D. Simmons



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Travis D. Simmons tells about his piece, 'Too Much!' during a gallery opening Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Simmons has 100 pieces featured in a solo show at the center.

pieces are representative of the way Black women authentically move.

"I think I've always been interested in telling stories about Black women that are authentic to us, that speak to us in a very particular way, so you'll see things in my work that are sort of cultural signifiers," she said. "Hair beads come up in my work a lot about Black girlhood."

Her favorite piece in her collection is a painting displaying a brown-skinned girl at the forefront of a pink background. She favors it because she said it depicts the notion that children should be children and not have assumptions or prejudices put on them.

To complement her paintings of children, Kendrick assembled five tables.

Each one dons the same colors as the painting it matches and has hair beads dangling from them, which Kendrick used as a symbol of Black children.

She said the tables are to express that Black girls "can make their own seat at the table."

More info: eriniscreative.co and Erin is Creative on social media.

"It's an awesome opportunity," Simmons said.

Having dabbled in poetry and music, he has been an artist for at least 18 years.

"Most of my life I've been doing something artistic," Simmons said.

His work symbolizes raw expression, emotions and the subconscious rather than people, according to his artist's statement from the arts center.

Bill Shenton, Turner Center curator, said Simmons' subject matter in his art is figurative with various elements weaving throughout the works in "Momus."

"Travis' paintings demonstrate his distinctive expressionist style of combining oil paint and India ink into colorful compositions that are layered and textured with encaustic wax and paper collage application," Shenton said.

The name of Simmons' exhibit is inspired by the Greek.

"Momus is the Greek god of Satire," he said. "He criticized the powers that be and pointed out the weaknesses in the system. I hope that people will come away from my show with something to think about."

More info: [travisdartist](https://www.instagram.com/travisdartist) on Instagram.

"Hanging these pieces can be a long and intricate process and Mr. Shenton and the staff helped to make the experience lovely," she said. "I'm pleased to have my portraits living in such a beautiful space alongside some beautiful work by the other artists."

Bennion is from Salt Lake City, Utah, and has graduated from Brigham Young University, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and University of Utah, according to the arts center.

She is an assistant professor of painting and drawing at the University of North Florida and has been teaching for the last 11 years, according to the center.

She has taught at the University of Utah, Utah Valley University, Westminster College in Salt Lake City and the Early College Program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has been a part of the Museum Education Team of the Art Institute of Chicago and in the Education and Engagement Department at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

Bennion has been featured in galleries throughout Chicago, Salt Lake City and Cincinnati, Ohio.

As for her collection at the Turner Center, she stated her pieces are self-portraits.



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Erin Kendrick reflects on her favorite piece in her exhibit, 'The Things We Bring,' which is currently at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

praying though she labeled her drawings as temporary that are "significant in action but leaving nothing lasting."

Her body of work characterizes hope.

"The slow and small movements push against the trauma of life and death. My purpose is not to transform the chaos of these lives into something palatable, but to see the

chaos clearly, giving it a kind of order," she said in her statement.

More information: turnercenter.org, (229) 247-2787 and 527 N. Patterson St.

'Momus'

While Kendrick utilizes Black culture as her muse, artist Travis D. Simmons said he received inspiration from psychology, philosophy and mythology for his collection at the arts center.

"Momus" features 100 pieces, with the oldest dated painting going back to November 2019.

"I'm using allegories to sort of tell stories," he said.

Simmons has won several times in the center's Spring Into Art exhibition in the last 16 years, he said, but has never had a solo show at the center until now.

The Pavo native, who currently lives in Valdosta, has also been a part of Turner's ARToberfest and the Regional Artists Community.

He said he was both thankful and anxious to see the opening of his new exhibit.

'Your Glass'

The focus of artist Amy Bennion's portraits are her siblings, according to her artist's statement from the arts center.

At the Turner Center, Bennion has large-scale, life-like portraits plastered.

"I investigate our connection to the collective unconscious through a close look at how universal myths play out within each of our individual psyches. For each portrait, my siblings collaborated generously with me through long talks, emails and sharing of notes and sketches in order to discover a deeply specific trait or experience we both share," her statement read.

She called being able to install her work at the Turner Center rewarding.

"The resulting work could be labeled as 'self-portraits' both because of the intense involvement each person had in their pieces and because they exemplify the way in which we are mirror images. By using this discrete group, people who parallel my genetics and experience, I can delve into how all people are connected. Like a fractal, this micro-branch of connections echoes the larger branch of all human connections," Bennion said in her statement.

To create her masterpieces, she said her process includes tearing paper, cutting out words, layering strips of tape and spending days on rendering.

She compared them to meditative and repetitive



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Work by Amy Bennion stretches across a gallery wall at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. Bennion has a featured collection at the center.