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Quilts of August

Exhibit has a warm welcome

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Walking into the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild show at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, a visitor almost wishes it were winter.

Large, thick, all-embracing quilts hang from the walls of the Sallie & Harmon Boyette, Margaret Mittiga and Josette's galleries. Despite the heat outside, the quilts tempt a visitor to curl up under one and take a long winter's nap.

Almost. It's not winter. The temperatures outside push into the 90s. As much as the quilts beckon, a viewer will avoid the temptation to snuggle because it's just too hot.

Which may be why the arts center presents such an array of wonderful quilts in August. The heat will keep people from wrapping themselves in the quilts.

While the quilts are indeed functional, they are presented at the arts center solely for their form. On a

bed, a quilt is both art and blanket. On a gallery wall, a quilt is intended as art.

Visitors will find designs that fit the immediate expectations of quilts. Plaid works, kaleidoscopic designs, patchwork pieces of different materials, pied colors of a rainbow squared.

There are quilts that tell stories. Quilts that collect pieces of fabric representing different family members, even different generations of a family tree. Heirloom quilts that stitch together the ties that bind.

The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild also provides unexpected quilts.

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild presents a show every other year at the arts center. It is regularly one of the center's more popular exhibitions, attracting many folks who do not normally visit the arts center.

The Guild organized as a non-profit organization in 1986. Its purpose "to preserve and promote the art of quilting," according to the organization.

GALLERY

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild's bi-annual exhibit shows in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery, Margaret Mittiga Gallery and Josette's Gallery; along with artist Linda Wunder's "East Meets West," Price Campbell Foundation Gallery and the Margaret Mittiga Gallery; "Classical Conversations of Valdosta Student Exhibit" will be on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery; East African Artifacts and Fine European Porcelain will be on display respectively in the Tillman Gallery and the Howard Gallery.

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

Run dates: The shows run from July 31 through Sept. 13.

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: Visit turnercenter.org or call (229) 247-2787.



Withlacoochee Quilters Guild presents several quilts at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



Withlacoochee Quilters Guild presents several quilts at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Arts & Entertainment

AUGUST 2017



• Withlacoochee Quilters Guild exhibit

Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery, Margaret Mittiga Gallery & Josette's Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The bi-annual members exhibition of quilts. **Run dates:** July 31 through Sept. 13. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.



• “East Meets West”

Price Campbell Foundation Gallery & Margaret Mittiga Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The art of Linda Wunder. **Run dates:** July 31 through Sept. 13. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• “Classical Conversations of Valdosta Student Exhibit”

Roberta George Children’s Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. **Run dates:** July 31 through Sept. 13. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• East African Art and European Fine Porcelain exhibits

Tillman Gallery and Howard Gallery respectively, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. **Run dates:** July 31 through Sept. 13. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• Skillet in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Rock group performs. **Run date:** Aug. 5. **More information:** Visit www.wildadventures.com.



Artist Linda Wunder
at *The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts*



Skillet
at *Wild Adventures, Aug. 5*

• “Death Trap”

The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St. Theatre Guild Valdosta presents a mystery within a mystery. A failing playwright sees potential in a student play called “Deathtrap.” The playwright says he plans to kill the student and claim the play for himself. A joke, he claims. He invites the student to his home to discuss the play ... This is the set-up of the 1978 Ira Levin script “Deathtrap,” which mirrors the play within the play in terms of title, the one setting and the number of characters. **Run dates:** Aug. 3-5, 10-12. **More information:** Visit www.theatreguildvaldosta.com.



A look at a past exhibit by the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The biannual quilt shows returns Monday to the center. FILE PHOTO | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Arts center opens new exhibits

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA - Quilts and paintings lead a series of new exhibits opening Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild opens its biannual members' exhibit with numerous quilts made by regional quilters. The show returns every two years to the arts center and regularly brings new visitors to the center.

The quilt exhibit will be on display in the Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery, Margaret Mittiga Gallery and Josette's Gallery, according to information from the arts center.

Artist Linda Wunder presents the exhibit "East Meets West." It features paintings by the Jekyll Island artist.

"East Meets West" will

be on exhibit in the Price Campbell Foundation Gallery and the Margaret Mittiga Gallery.

"Classical Conversations of Valdosta Student Exhibit" will be on display in the Roberta George Children's Gallery.

East African Artifacts and Fine European Porcelain will be on display respectively in the Tillman Gallery and the Howard Gallery.

The new art exhibits open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 31, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

The shows run from July 31 through Sept. 13.

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: Visit turnercenter.org or call (229) 247-2787.

Coming Sunday, August 6th The Arts

**A Look At The Visual & Performance
Art Seasons Throughout The Region**



The SunLight Project is a team of journalists from throughout Georgia and North Florida who are committed to gathering facts, asking tough questions and reporting the news in accurate and fair ways.

Regular in-depth reports from The SunLight Project will go beyond headlines as reporters collect data, conduct interviews and prepare comprehensive reports on things that matter to our community.

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The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents

American Soundtrack

Volume V: A Musical Celebration

July 29, 7:30pm

James H. Rainwater Conference Center

Presenting Sponsor: Hanover Advisors

Reserved seating concert & heavy hors d'oeuvre buffet
with full cash bar at 6:30pm

\$60/person; \$110/couple

Non-reserved general seating concert at 7:30pm

\$25/person

ANNETTE HOWELL
**TURNER
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS**

For tickets & information, contact The Turner Center for the Arts
527 North Patterson Street, Valdosta / www.turnercenter.org / 229-247-2787



Arts center requests \$70K from Lowndes County

BY THOMAS LYNN

tom.lynn@gafnews.com

expand its facilities and to offer more programs.

It is the first time the arts center has requested money from a government entity. While developing the budget, staff discovered resources were falling

behind the demand for what the center has to offer, said Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director.

For the arts center to increase its public outreach and maintain current programming, it needs

more funding and space, she said. The 17,000-square-foot center houses six galleries, two classrooms, a meeting room, a gift shop showcasing local and regional artists' works and a state-of-the-art kitchen for

culinary classes.

At the end of February, the center will have an opportunity to expand into a nearby building, Oliver said. The tenant of the first floor of 601 N. Patterson St. will be vacating and the

center would have to renovate to adapt it for use.

"We are already utilizing every space in this building and looking for new space for a studio or

See Arts on 9A

VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is requesting \$70,000 from the Lowndes County Commission to

ARTS: More info available online at www.turnercenter.org

classroom," Oliver said. "This is to offer people the kind of artistic expressions that they need to enhance their lives."

The request has been received by the county and has been added to the county's budget, said Paige Dukes, Lowndes County clerk.

"This has not been a contentious request, only a very polite and professional ask, followed by the commission's efforts to fulfill the request to the extent funds are available," Dukes said.

A public hearing on the budget will be held June 20 at 6 p.m. in the commission chambers.

As a result of the public hearing, adjustments could be made to the proposed budget, which would include the \$70,000.

Oliver emphasized the importance art plays in a community because of how it elicits a response from the viewer.

When people see good art, it sparks something inside, she said. Whether that something is spirituality, creativity or

something completely different, it only comes after a person witnesses something powerful.

"And that's what art is. It's powerful," Oliver said. "It's not always beautiful. Art doesn't have to be beautiful. It's powerful and evocative and forces a response."

More information is available about the arts center online at www.turnercenter.org or by phone at (229) 247-2787. The Turner Center is located at 527 N. Patterson St.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roy Fricks, Debi Davis, Meredith Nuckols, Darby Buruff, Cheryl Oliver and Bill Shenton at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' 'American Soundtrack, Vol. V' is Saturday at the Rainwater Conference Center. It begins at 7:30 p.m.

American Soundtrack: Volume V this Saturday

BY THOMAS LYNN

tom.lynn@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Around seven years ago, a happy accident happened at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

While preparing a patriotic tribute to the arts center, the scheduled band got sick and canceled two days before the event. Cheryl Oliver, executive director, said they already sold tickets and made all the arrangements for bands to play, so she started calling people she knew were good performers.

She called Ed Barr, a local conductor with his own orchestra.

"I talked to Ed about our situation, and we put together a show in a day and a half," Oliver said. "It was made up of local people. People you recognized. It turned out to be a wonderful show and everybody just loved it."

Now, seven years after their original band had to cancel on them, the center's American Soundtrack is holding its fifth volume Saturday at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. A buffet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person and \$110 for a couple.

The first American Soundtrack focused on American music in the 40s, Barr said. After that event, however, he and Oliver knew the event needed to grow to include as much of the various styles of American music as possible.

"That's what it has grown into, and That's what it is now," Barr said. "And each time, we try to get as much different types

of music as we can."

The best part about the show to Barr, he said, is all of the local talent that participates. Accountants, architects, business people and elected officials all turn up and perform. After shows, people tell him they never knew a particular person could play music, and Barr loves that, he said.

"That's what makes it fun for me," Barr said. "It's a wide variety, a showcase of local talent and a great opportunity to support the arts center."

Barr will be performing with his 20-piece orchestra at the beginning and end of the event, as well as accompanying other performers throughout. Special guests will be Karla Heath-Sands and Kenneth Trimmins.

Heath-Sands is an anchor for the WALB-TV morning show "Today in Georgia." She will sing during "American Soundtrack V."

Trimmins is a trumpet player, a Georgia native and Valdosta State University music graduate. He also earned a master's degree in trumpet performance from Mercer University. He works from Atlanta, performing, composing and teaching. He performs jazz and classical music.

Trimmins made a notable appearance on NBC's "Tonight Show" with Jay Leno in the fall of 2002. Performing with the Air Force Reserve Band out of Georgia's Robins Air Force Base, Trimmins performed a signature trick that underscores his true talent. He played two trumpets simultaneously during the "Tonight

MORE INFO

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can call 229-247-2787, visit 527 N. Patterson St., or buy online at <http://turnercenter.org/american-soundtrack/>

Show's" all-military Thanksgiving Eve 2002 broadcast.

He played as part of the Air Force Reserve Band for several years and has played professionally for

numerous years.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can call 229-247-2787, visit 527 N. Patterson St., or buy online at <http://turnercenter.org/american-soundtrack/>



Valdosta city leaders pose for a photo in front of the the new heart sculpture.

DERREK VAUGHN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

UNVEILING: City urges residents to snap a pic, then post photo online at #IHeartValdosta

the local Public Art Advisory

Committee for a year and the group decided City Hall would be the perfect place for it.

City leaders gathered with members of PAAC to unveil the eye-grabbing

piece Thursday before the Valdosta City Council meeting.

Valdosta Mayor John Gayle said the large heart perfectly represents what Valdosta is all about.

"The symbolism of the materials used in the

making of this piece is remarkable. We view our city and community as a strong foundation for people of all walks of life to build their families, careers and memories here. Our love for each other is indestructible, just as the materials

that make up this piece of art," Gayle said in a statement.

The city is encouraging residents to stop by to check out the new sculpture, snap a pic with it, then post the photo online using #IHeartValdosta.

Saturday, July 22, 2017



The city encourages residents to stop by to check out the new sculpture, snap a pic with it, then post the photo online using #IHeartValdosta.

DERREK VAUGHN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Hearty Unveiling

City installs new sculpture

V VIDEO ONLINE

valdostadailytimes.com;
see 'NEW SCULPTURE'

BY JOHN STEPHEN

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VALDOSTA — Valdosta City Hall just got a lot more heart in the form of a new art installation at the corner of Lee Street and East Central Avenue.

The sculpture, an aluminum diamond-plated heart made of interconnected metal bands, was created by Washington, D.C., artist Mathew Duffy.

"Low-poly Heart" is on loan to

See Unveiling on 9A



DERREK VAUGHN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

City leaders gather with members of Public Art Advisory Committee to unveil the new sculpture at the corner of City Hall.



Untitled image by Joshua C. Lynch. A past first-place winner in the Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

Will of the People

People's Choice photo winners named Monday

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — The Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest has become an annual treasure at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Monday, July 17, the winners of the ninth annual contest are scheduled to be announced.

Mostly non-traditional artists and amateur photographers share images that delve

into the personality of the city.

They find different views of familiar landmarks.

They discover unknown or under-appreciated scenes from the city.

They highlight new faces of the people populating the city.

For a month, visitors to the Annette Howell Turner Center of the Arts could vote on favorite images in five categories.

The 2017 categories are:

— It's a Generational Thing (People living life). Sponsored by Jack Oliver Real Estate.

— For Weather or Worse (seasons and weather). Sponsored by Georgia Power.

— BeClaws, I Love You (for animal lovers). Sponsored by Lowndes County Animal Services.

— Standing the Test of Time (local architecture). Sponsored by BFB Gladwin Architects.

— Stomping Grounds (favorite places). Sponsored by

Valdosta Main Street.

The contest also awards a \$200 cash prize for Best of Show.

All photos must be taken within the Valdosta city limits.

Participating photographers do not have to live in Valdosta but the photos must be within Valdosta.

After the winners are announced, the show remains on exhibit through July 26 in the arts center's Tillman Gallery.

GALLERY

Winners of the Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest will be announced during a public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, July 17, Tillman Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Admission: Free. The exhibit remains on display through July 26. Regular 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 scheduled receptions. More information: Call (229) 247-2787.

Music revue spotlights special guests

BY DEAN POLING

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VALDOSTA — Two special guests are included in the line-up for the latest "American Soundtrack" production later in the month.

Karla Heath-Sands and Kenneth Trimmins are scheduled to participate in the musical revue sponsored by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, according to organizers.

Heath-Sands is an anchor for the WALB-TV morning show "Today in Georgia." She will sing during "American Soundtrack V."

Trimmins is a trumpet player, a Georgia native and Valdosta State University music graduate. He also earned a master's degree in trumpet performance from Mercer University.

He works from Atlanta, performing, composing and teaching. He performs jazz and classical music.

Trimmins made a notable appearance on NBC's "Tonight Show" with Jay Leno in the fall of 2002. Performing with the Air Force Reserve Band out of Georgia's Robins Air Force Base, Trimmins performed a signature trick that underscores his true talent. He played two trumpets simultaneously during the "Tonight Show's" all-military Thanksgiving Eve 2002 broadcast.

He played as part of the Air Force Reserve Band for several years, and has played professionally for numerous years.

They will join other singers and musicians for "American Soundtrack Volume V" July 29 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

The arts center has presented four previous "American Soundtrack" shows. Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director,



ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS | SUBMITTED PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Kenneth Trimmins and Karla Heath-Sands are featured performers scheduled for 'American Soundtrack Volume V.'

and fellow organizers Ed Barr, leader of the Ed Barr Orchestra, and Jeani Synyard said the show features diverse songs performed by area talents.

"Volume V" includes songs from classic standards to pop to rock to country, from past decades to now, they said.

The Ed Barr Orchestra's instrumentation backs area singers.

Other "American Soundtrack Vol. V" performers include Cole Wildes; Campbell Mutert; Rob Evans; Joe Smothers; Synyard; Chris Falcon; the Four Lads with Charlie Clark, Bobby Godwin, Philip Barr; David Hutcherson; Dexter Sharper; Craig Ward; Tania Myers; Robert Plummer; Drew Hill & The Gospel Starlights; 2River Station with Jolyn Smith, Kerri Kent; Michael "Bo" Griner; Jerry Newman; The Oohsanahhs Vocal Ensemble; The Moody Air Force Base Honor Guard, Barr said.



SARAH WARRENDER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

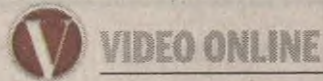
Kara Hope Hanson won Best In Show at the Ninth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

People choose photo winners

BY DESIREE CARVER
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VALDOSTA — Valdosta announced the winners of its Ninth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest Monday at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The night opened with a performance by Nya, Kaden and Brooklyn Johnson, an acappella trio televised on Steve Harvey's "Little Big Shots" last month.



valdostadailytimes.com;
see 'PEOPLE PHOTO WINNERS'

"These events recognize so much talent in our community," Valdosta Mayor John Gayle said.

Entries included 111 photographs, 29 of which were from youths.

"It's been our goal over the

years to get more youth involved," Valdosta Public Information Office Sementha Mathews said.

Five categories were included in the 2017 competition. The categories are "It's a Generational Thing," "For Weather or Worse," "BeClaws I Love You," "Standing the Test of Time" and "Stomping Grounds."

Each had a first place, honorable mention and honorable youth mention with Gayle and a sponsor representative presenting each.

In "It's a Generational Thing," Darla Dunning won first place, Susan Davis won honorable mention and Ivana Easley received youth honorable mention.

Jay Blanton took first place in "For Weather or Worse," with Ellen Grace Colson and Amy Vincent taking honorable mention and youth honorable mention.

Ellen Grace won first place in "BeClaws; I Love You;" Marvin

See People on 8A

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

www.valdostadailytimes.com



SARAH WARRENDER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

The Johnson family sang two songs to open the Ninth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

PEOPLE: Entries included 111 photographs, 29 of which were from youths

Smith won honorable mention and Shelby Wilson youth honorable mention.

In "Standing the Test of Time," Nicholai Courtenay won first place, Jay

Blanton won honorable mention and Noah Warren won youth honorable mention.

Marvin Smith won first place in "Stomping Grounds," Colten Gibbs

won honorable mention and Kingston Courtenay won youth honorable mention.

The 2017 Best in Show designation went to Kara Hope Hanson for

her entry, "Balancing the Scales of History and Progress" and Youth Best in Show went to Ashlein Easley's "Dressing Up for Some Fall Festival Fun."

Animal Magnetism

Artist brings canvases to fierce life

BY DEAN POLING
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VALDOSTA — Brandon Blane McMillan brings animals to graphic life.

The artist fills his canvas with paint strokes that not only depict realistic images of animals but there is a frenetic quality that animates them. As if the energy of the brushstrokes is the beating of a heart or the inhalation and exhalation of breathing.

His animal portraits are still life filled with life.

McMillan's works are on display in an exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

A Valdosta artist, he grew up on a tobacco farm, according to his website, www.brandonblanemcmillan.com.

"Dividing his time between the joys and rigors of fatherhood, farming and his family's restaurant, he works from a small studio creating mixed media representations that seamlessly meld the divide between hyperrealism and abstraction," according to an artist biography.

"His bold imagery is a manifestation of a life spent amongst windy spaces, falling barns, and pastureland where he captures the slow ruination of nostalgia and heritage. His work is not so much about the image itself as it is an illuminant into the rhythmic memories of the landscape. His work often displays an animalistic ferocity yet maintains subtle renderings of stories heard long ago, sublimating nostalgia for those lost places, producing work that defies the finite while attaining depth by layering."

McMillan's work defines animal magnetism.



'Kept,' artist Brandon Blane McMillan.



'CandyLand study,' artist Brandon Blane McMillan.

GALLERY

Brandon McMillan's work is on exhibit at the Boyette and Mittiga galleries; along with Anda Chance, Price-Campbell Foundation and Mittiga galleries; Ron Thomson's "Vessels of Light," Josette's Gallery; the annual City of Valdosta People's Choice Photography Contest, Tillman Gallery; Art Explorations students, Roberta George Children's Gallery; permanent fine European porcelain collection, Howard Gallery.

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

Run dates: The shows run through July 26.

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

Admission: Free.

More information: Visit www.turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787.



'Sparklers,' artist Brandon Blane McMillan.

Take a Chance

Artist pencils in fine art

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Anda Chance does amazing things with colored pencils.

In this age when many adults use colored pencils as stress relief in coloring books, the wizardry of Chance's works can be more fully appreciated.

Chance is not working in coloring books. She is creating textured, rhythmic designs. She is finding ways to connect the numerous colors in the pencil box into art unified in tones.

Her works are on exhibit in the Price-Campbell and Mittiga galleries of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

The McAlpin, Fla., artist works and teaches from her studio, according to her website.

She majored in art and art education at Arkansas Technical University. She "earned a degree in education at Florida Southern College," according to her website. She is a Florida certified art teacher and taught art for 16 years in the Florida public school system."

GALLERY

Anda Chance's work is on display at Price-Campbell Foundation and Mittiga galleries; along with Ron Thomson's "Vessels of Light," Josette's Gallery; Brandon McMillan, Boyette and Mittiga galleries; the annual City of Valdosta People's Choice Photography Contest, Tillman Gallery; Art Explorations students, Roberta George Children's Gallery; permanent fine European porcelain collection, Howard Gallery.

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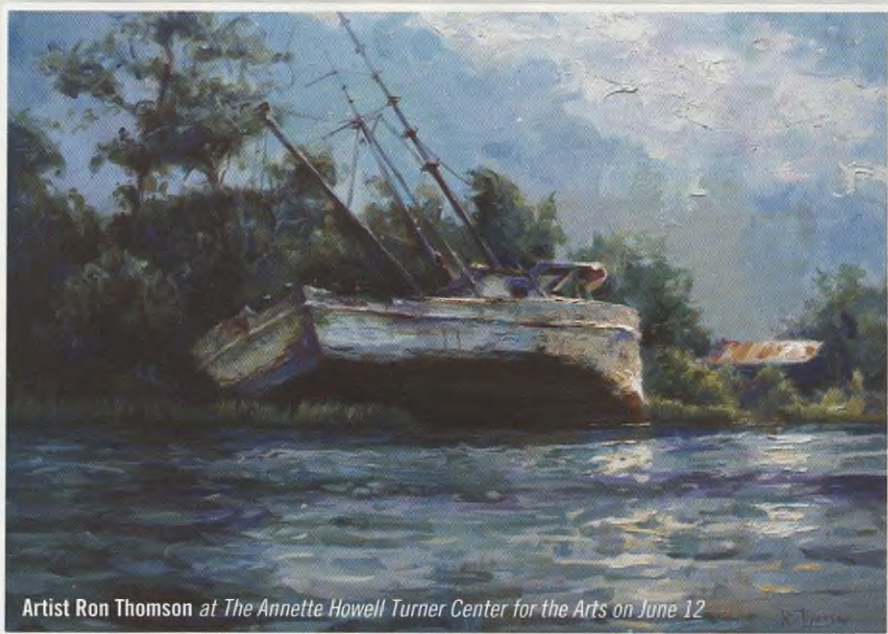
More information: Visit www.turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787.



Work (detail) by artist Anda Chance.

Arts & Entertainment

JUNE 2017



Artist Ron Thomson at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts on June 12

• The 30th Annual Spring Into Art

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The largest and most inclusive art exhibit in the region. Show runs through June 7. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and most Mondays. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• Peach State Summer Theatre

Sawyer Theatre, Valdosta State University Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. The first show opens in early June, then the subsequent two shows open later in June, all three shows play in rotating repertory through mid-July. **More information:** Visit www.valdosta.edu/psst.

• “Shrek”

is a live, musical version of the beloved animated DreamsWorks movie. The show

should be suitable for all audiences. It features a song or two from the movie soundtrack but mostly incorporates songs written and composed specifically for the stage version.

• “Forever Plaid”

is playwright Stuart Ross’ love letter to the harmony groups, such as the Four Aces, etc., of the late 1950s and early 1960s. The conceit here is the Plaids, a fictional singing group, die in a car wreck on the way to see the Beatles’ American debut on “The Ed Sullivan Show.” The group gets the chance for one last show in the afterlife. Performers sing memorable hits from the late 1950s and early 1960s.

• “My Fair Lady”

is the successful combination of George Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion” wrapped in a Lerner-Loewe Broadway musical. Professor Henry Higgins believes he can transform anyone into a lady. His social experiment introduces him to Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl, who ends up stealing Higgins’ heart.

• Kirk Franklin in concert

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Gospel star returns to the park. **Run date:** June 3. **More information:** Visit www.wildadventures.com.



Huey Lewis and the News at Wild Adventures on June 16



Artist Anda Chance at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts on June 12

• **Big & Rich in concert**

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Country music duo returns to the park. **Run date:** June 10. **More information:** Visit www.wildadventures.com.

• **Huey Lewis and the News in concert**

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Rockers play hits. **Run date:** June 17. **More information:** Visit www.wildadventures.com.

• **MercyMe in concert**

Wild Adventures Theme Park, Old Clyattville Road. Contemporary Christian group returns to the park. **Run date:** June 24. **More information:** Visit www.wildadventures.com.

• **Valdosta artist Brandon McMillan**

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Several new art exhibits open. **Run dates:** Opens June 12, with a 5-7 p.m. reception, through early August. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• **McAlpin, Fla., artist Anda Chance**

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Several new art exhibits open. **Run dates:** Opens June 12, with a 5-7 p.m. reception, through early August. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• **Thomasville artist Ron Thompson**

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Several new art exhibits open. **Run dates:** Opens June 12, with a 5-7 p.m. reception, through early August. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org.

• **City of Valdosta People's Choice Photography Contest**

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Several new art exhibits open. **Run dates:** Opens June 12, with a 5-7 p.m. reception, through early August. **Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturday. **Admission:** Free. **More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit turnercenter.org. **VS**



Artist Brandon McMillan at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts on June 12

Vessels of Light

Arts Center exhibits Thomson paintings

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – Ron Thomson seeks the light, the dark, the contrast within the world.

His canvases portray jazz singers finding the music within the glare of a stage spotlight, a boat nearly capsized in the rushes, a bottle glimmering with rhythm in a still life.

His works are part of the latest series of exhibits at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. "Vessels of Light" is on display in Josette's Gallery.

"This selection of paintings are vessels that carry the story that light tells as it illuminates our world," Thomson said in an artis-

tic statement.

"I have been personally inspired to share this story as a way of sharing moments I feel are meaningful. As we hurtle through space and our lives, I believe simple moments of beauty and wonder are profound gifts. As I create these images, I try to slow that inertia and distill it into a medium that we may pause in front of. These paintings are my way of suggesting that our lives are filled with many such moments and that our lives are enriched by the acknowledgment of that beauty."

Thomson's canvases make a convincing argument for the proposition of his artistic statement.



PAINTING BY ARTIST RON THOMSON.

GALLERY

Ron Thomson's "Vessels of Light" is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery; along with works by Brandon McMillan, Boyette and Mittiga galleries; Anda Chance, Price-Campbell Foundation and Mittiga galleries; the annual City of Valdosta People's Choice Photography Contest, Tillman Gallery; Art Explorations students, Roberta George Children's Gallery; permanent fine European porcelain collection, Howard Gallery.

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

Run dates: The shows run through July 26.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday (with exception of opening receptions).

Admission: Free.

More information: Visit www.turnercenter.org, or call (229) 247-2787.

American

Soundtrack Vol. V

Performers lined up for annual show

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

SHOWTIME

VALDOSTA — Singers and musicians have their music cued for "American Soundtrack Volume V" late next month.

Presented by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the song revue plays at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

The arts center has presented four previous "American Soundtrack" shows. Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director, and fellow organizers Ed Barr, leader of the Ed Barr Orchestra, and Jeani Synyard said the show features diverse songs performed by area talents.

"Volume V" includes songs from classic standards to pop to rock to country, from past decades to now, they said.

The Ed Barr Orchestra's instrumentation backs area singers.

"American Soundtrack Vol. V" performers include Cole Wildes; Campbell Mutert; Rob Evans; Joe Smothers; Synyard; Chris Falcon; the Four Lads with Charlie Clark, Bobby Godwin, Philip Barr, David Hutcherson; Dexter Sharper; Karla Heath-Sands; Kenneth Trimmings; Craig Ward; Tania Myers; Robert Plummer; Drew Hill & The Gospel Starlights; 2River Station with Jolyn Smith, Kerri Kent; Michael "Bo" Griner; Jerry

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents "American Soundtrack Volume V."

When: 7:30 p.m., July 29.

Where: James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive.

Tickets: \$60, per person; \$110, couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served; cash bar at 6:30 p.m. \$25, non-reserved, general seating concert, 7:30 p.m.

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

Newman; The Oohsanahs Vocal Ensemble; The Moody Air Force Base Honor Guard, Barr said.

Inclusion in the show is based primarily on invitations from organizers, they said. There are no formal auditions, though organizers have held auditions for some interested performers in the past.

Following the show, the Ed Barr Orchestra continues playing so people can dance. This year, each of the show's two segments will feature a song inviting audiences to dance if they wish.

Oliver, Barr and Synyard see "American Soundtrack" continuing to be an annual production. They are already weighing songs they would like to include in future Volumes 6, 7, 8.

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

East African Artifacts Permanent Exhibit

by Roberta George

Every place has its hidden places, its treasures that are not apparent to the casual observer. The ordinary-looking box, but when you open it, you find an explosion of unexpected pleasures.

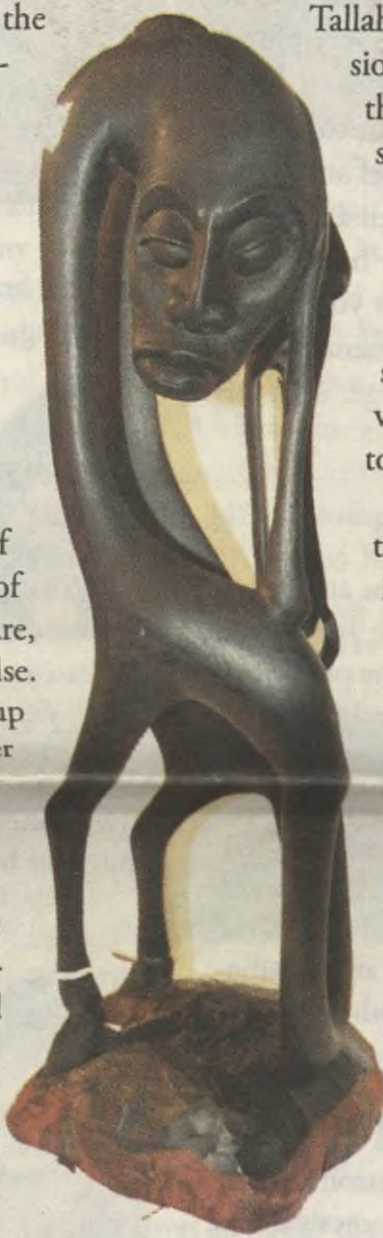
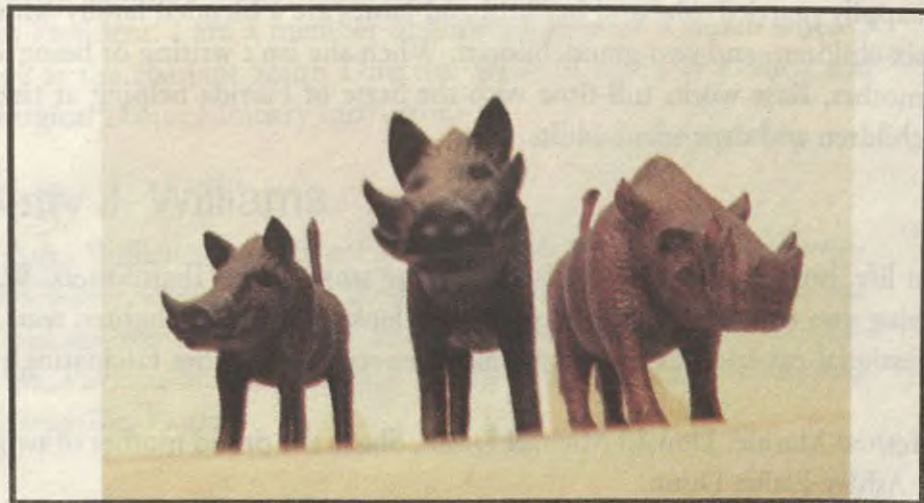
Such a place is the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, attractive on the outside but unbelievably interesting on the inside. In some ways its name gives away its purpose, for Annette Turner was a beauty, both in appearance and in her soul, generous and kind. I bless you, dear friend, wherever you are. Loyce and many others truly honor and remember you with this gift of the Center to us, the residents of south Georgia.

But like all good things, sometimes it takes a little investigation; one has to explore to find all the ins and outs of a place. If you're not alert, you can walk right by the Jerry Tillman's Gallery where a collection of African Art resides. It's tucked back in the right-hand side of the Price-Campbell Gallery, two small rooms and halls of ironwood sculpture, ivory sculpture, cured skins, furniture, musical instruments, pictures, and who knows what else. Every time, Bill Shenton, the wonderful curator, puts up the show, I find things I don't remember or have never seen.

As always, there's a story in those rooms.

Jerry Tillman was, as he described himself, "just a good ole Lowndes County boy." His family's farm existed at the corner of Oak Street and North Side--I don't know how many acres--but all that's left is the magnificent magnolia tree that Dr. Wallace has kept and honored with a night light.

I met Jerry when I was a new Director of the Arts Center, some 25+ years ago. Why he came in, I don't know or can't remember, but he told me, "I have a bunch of African stuff, from when I was in Africa and Tunisia with the Seabee's in World War II. Some I bought, but most of it was given to me in appreciation for what we did for them during the War." He went on to tell me that he was giving his collection to a University up in Wisconsin and that their people were coming down in the fall to pack it all up.



What did I know? Next to nothing about the Seabees or African Art. "Please," I asked, "please, just let our school children see the stuff before it's shipped off." I was thinking of the African Art I'd seen in Tallahassee and Albany, which hadn't made much of an impression, but I wanted to at least be able to say our small place, the yellow brick building, Lowndes County Arts Commission on Patterson Street, had had an African exhibit.

Jerry, bless him, brought in some of the Ironwood and ivory sculpture, a thumb piano, an elephant's foot made into a stool, some skins and mounted heads of African animals, some pictures, and who knows what else. Jerry said, "Oh, I have a lot more than this, lots more." I was very impressed. And the school children and teachers were, too.

At the Center's invitation, they came, a few at first, and then, many, many more. Jerry stood in the hall--no room in that two-walled gallery--and talked about his adventures with the Seabees--a short lecture on World War II--and African Art. Every time, the talks were different, but always interesting. I had calls from teachers, could they bring other classes, classes on history, classes on art. Jerry came every day and was in his element.

The last day of the exhibit, Jerry asked, "Roberta, why am I giving all this stuff to Wisconsin?" (I still had no idea how much "stuff" there was.). I thought it was a done deal. Big University up in Wisconsin certainly had more to offer a collector than did a small Arts Center in Valdosta, Georgia.

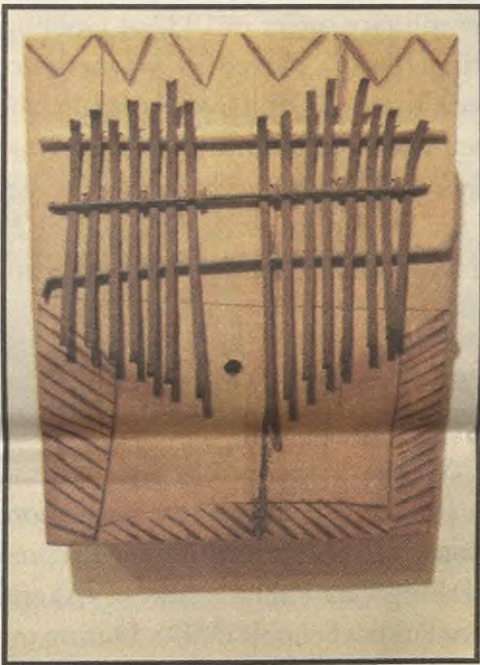
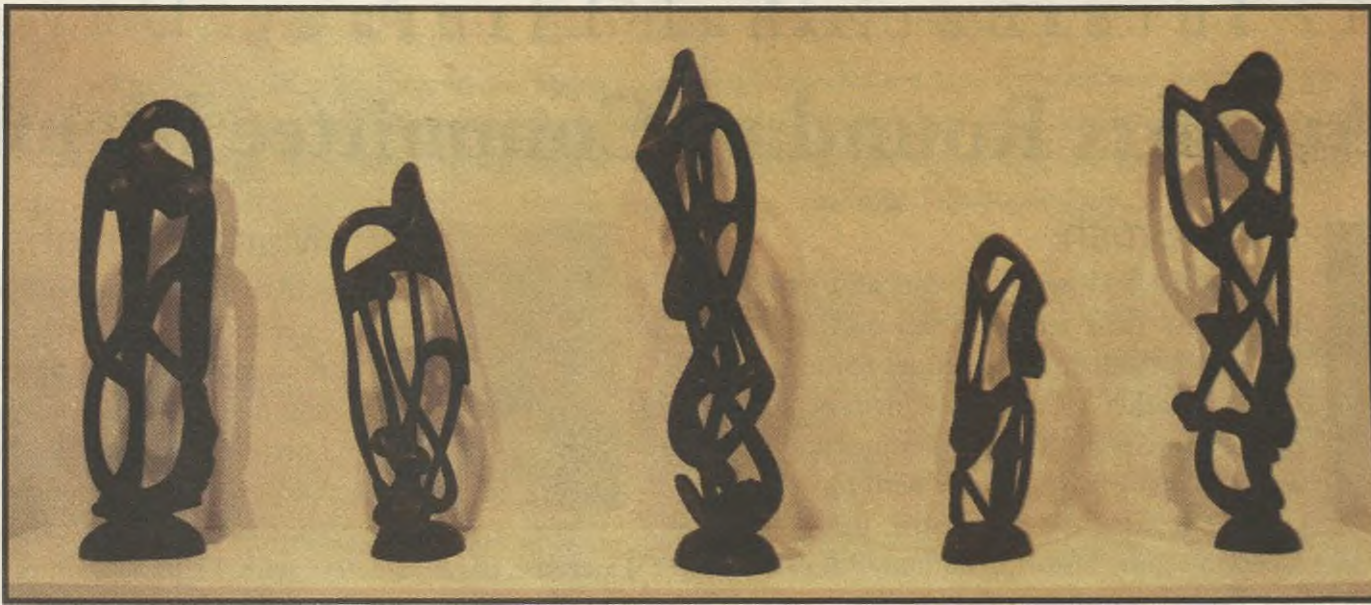
"I'm a Lowndes County boy, born and bred here, and whatever I have should stay in the place that made me what I am today."

So Jerry changed his mind; apparently there was no contract with Wisconsin. And later, we scheduled a much larger exhibit, with more work to be in the main gallery. And even later, after Jerry's death, we found out how much work there really was. Lena Bosch and Bill Sineath stored all of it in their Perimeter storage place.

So now you know some of the history of that Gallery, but there's much more, many more stories, of what's in the Jerry Tillman gallery. Come see the exhibit of Grace Halter's paper weights and the acrylic portraits of dogs and the art of Patsy Smith, a beloved Valdosta arts teacher, and Jerry's collection.



Truly, we live in a beautiful place.



The Jerry Tillman Gallery is a collection of Tunisian-African Art within the Price-Campbell Gallery



Mr. Tillman and the Wooden Flute

In 2001 Adann-Kennn Alexxander and I were staff members at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission when we hung Mr. J. Tillman's North African Artifacts for public viewing. We were approached by Mr. D. Miller from the local District Attorney's office to create an after school culture program for young people from the local low-income communities. Mr. Alexxander and I visited Miss Tammy Wright, Recreation Specialist at Hudson-Dockett housing area who had a long history with Lowndes Drug Action Council program, thus the two-person art program began. We all agreed that Miss Wright would bring a group of young people to view the African art collection. Mr. Tillman was invited and spoke about his adventures and career with the U.S. Department of State and the history of each of the African artifacts.

At the end of the cultural program, Mr. Tillman sent his sister out to their pickup truck to get his backpack. He took out a wooden flute and asked me to try and play it. It took me a few minutes of practice to get a whistling sound to come from the two nostrils of the instrument. Mr. Tillman was delighted, called me his friend, and gave me the flute as a gift.



by Grady D. Whitfield, Sr.

Things Made By People



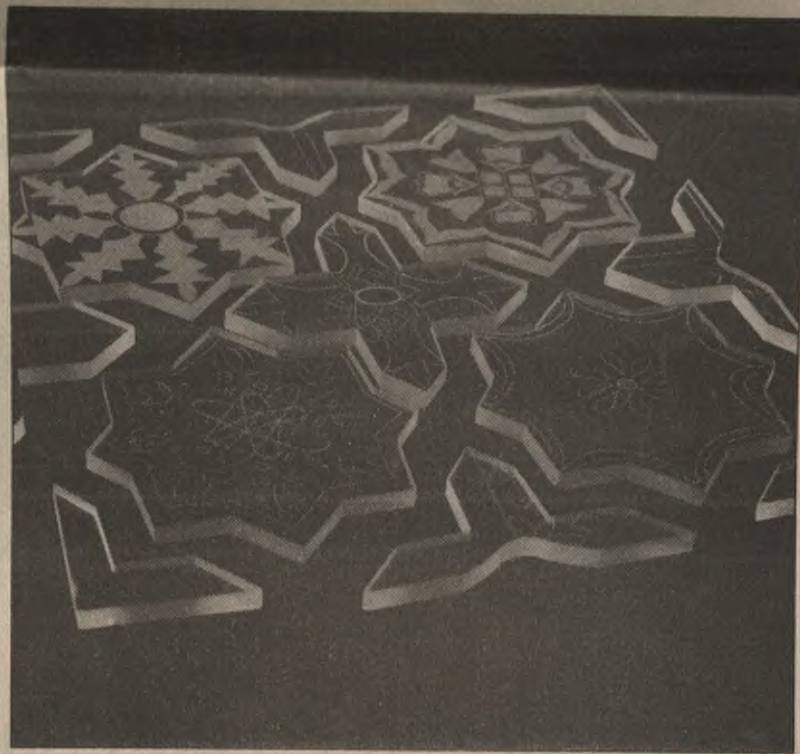
'Hidden,' artist Renee Parham.



'Fragmented,' artist Sasha Kermin.



'Meyers Lemon Color,' artist Sally Querin.



'Putting Things Together,' artist Logann Pearce.

VSU presents fall senior art show

BY DEAN POLING
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VALDOSTA — Fifteen artists present "Things Made By People," the fall senior art exhibit, opening Sunday.

The graduating Valdosta State University art seniors "have either earned a bachelor of fine arts or a bachelor of arts in art," according to show information. "The artists will present works in various media including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, and graphic design."

VSU Art regularly presents two senior art shows

annually — one to end the fall semester, and one to conclude the spring semester. The shows are usually dynamic presentations of the seniors' best work from their time with VSU Art. The shows share both the students' work and talents as well as the nature of VSU's art department.

Graduating artists for the fall senior show are Carolyn Brady, Joel Dion, Kaylyn Eanes, Courtney Gatch, Breyana Jackson, Sasha Kermin, Renee Parham, Logann Pearce, Nigel Pittman, Sally Querin, Lucas Rocheleau, Holly Roddenbery, Alan Sifuentes, Emily Smith, Zakk White.

More information on 8C

Angel Tree Remembrance Celebration — Friday, November 20, 2015 —

Everyone in our community is welcomed to honor their loved one!



Messiah Lutheran Church
500 Baytree Rd. Valdosta
2:00pm-3:00pm

- ◆ Please bring an ornament to honor your loved one on our Angel tree.
- ◆ Light refreshments will be offered.

For all information, call 433-7000

