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# Outside the Frame

## Coming Attractions

### Presenter Series Shows: Coming October 4:



**"In the Mood"**

**Thursday, October 28, 8 p.m.**  
**Mathis Auditorium**

Pat Drew  
 Cathryn Miles  
 Linda Butler's Art Studio Students  
 African Art Collection

Opening Reception\*  
 Monday, October 4, 5-7 p.m.

**Coming October 18:**  
 Southern Artists' League

Opening Reception\*  
 Monday, October 18, 5-7 p.m.

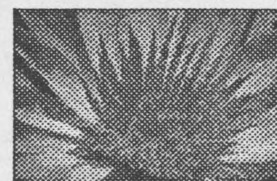
**Coming November 8:**  
 Saint Johns Catholic School



Cathryn Miles,  
 "River Bank"



Pat Drew, from  
 "The Families"  
 Collection



Southern Artists'  
 League, "Waterlily"

\*All Opening Receptions are free of charge.

## Pat Drew Creates the Perfect American Family

Pat Drew's "The American Family Quilt" will be exhibited in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery beginning Monday, October 4, with an opening reception at 5 p.m. at the Turner Center for the Arts.

Pat Drew, an Atlanta native, received her BFA from Wesleyan College in Art Education in 1956 and an MVA in Art Education, with a concentration in ceramics, from Georgia State University in 1973. She taught art for forty-one years in secondary education, then began to focus her concentration on painting and drawing.

Drew has studied painting for the past five years, attending workshops at various schools in Georgia, New Mexico, Tennessee, Alaska, and Italy. She conceived of the process featured in the body of work entitled "The American Family Quilt" while studying at Georgia State.

"The American Family Quilt" is a body of work about families. Her research for "The American Family Quilt" includes family archives, The Library of Congress, Ellis Island, Americans All, and the Georgia Archives. Her artwork comes from using copies of photographs to create a paper quilt, laminated on a canvas, and painted with transparent paint. Drew then uses an enlarged image of a single photograph to obtain a transparent photo-transfer. This image is laminated on top of the quilt using transparent paint in layers.



Pat Drew, from  
 "The Families" Collection

Family dynamics have always been puzzling to Drew. From an early age, she wondered about family cohesiveness, how families differed, what she had to learn from them, and why they mattered to her. Each side of her family, the Drews and the Clyatts, had its own personality and gifts to give. Both sides of her family made quilts.

"In many ways families are like quilts, each piece fitting into the other to form the whole, multi-faceted design," Drew said. "My paintings incorporate many layers of transparent paint, transfers of photographic images and quilt pieces, fitting together to form a cohesive composition."

"I have combined the format of quilts and the perceptions of families in my paintings," Drew said. "While working on the Drew and Clyatt family paintings, I realized that our country is made up of a lot of family groups, which seem to merge into the rich fabric that we call America."

"I hope viewers will be intrigued by my process, find relationships pertinent to their personal situations, and they will want to return again and again," Drew said.

Drew resides in Marietta, Georgia, and is now a retired art educator, consultant, and painter.



# SAL Exhibits Works in Annual Event

The Southern Artists' League Annual Juried Competition & Exhibition will be October 18 through December 2 in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery. The opening reception will be Monday, October 18 at 5 p.m. at the Turner Center for the Arts. Prizes over \$1,500 will be awarded in multiple categories to the Southern Artists' League artists. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

The competition and exhibition include regional artists, photographers, and craftsmen. Artists within a 250-mile radius will showcase their works.

SAL memberships include participation in juried and non-juried exhibitions, peer support, art field trips, discounts, Sunday afternoon life drawing sessions, informative monthly programs, art movie nights, and the sharing of information.

The Southern Artists' League was founded in 1989 to serve as a forum for the creative expression of various types of artists in Georgia and Florida.

SAL is supported by the Georgia Council for the Arts GrassRoots Grants Program, the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, the Price-Campbell Foundation, and contributions from members and other supporters.

Contact the SAL at [southernartistsleague@yahoo.com](mailto:southernartistsleague@yahoo.com) or visit [www.geocities.com/southernartistleague](http://www.geocities.com/southernartistleague) for more information.

Southern Artists' League  
P.O. Box 2562  
Valdosta, GA 31604-2562



SAL, "Apples"

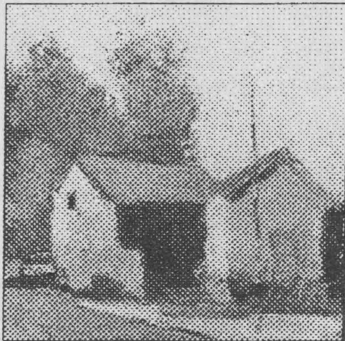
## Table of Contents

Coming Attractions.....	1
Pat Drew.....	1
Southern Artists' League.....	2
Cathryn Miles.....	2
Francine Reed.....	3
Classes.....	3
Presenter Series Update.....	4
"Alice in Wonderland".....	4
Community Art News.....	5
Poker Classic Winners.....	5
Calendar.....	6

## SAL Contacts

- President - Georgia Roswell
- Vice-President - Amy Lansburg
- Secretary/Treasurer - Claire Hall
- Program Chairman - Stephanie Kiyak
- Refreshments - Sylvia Warrick
- WebNanny - Haley Rosenberg

# Escape With the Landscapes of Cathryn Miles



Cathryn Miles, "Two Houses"

The landscapes of Cathryn Miles will be displayed in the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Gallery beginning Monday, October 4 through December 2. The opening reception will be at 5 p.m. at the Turner Center for the Arts.

The talented landscape artist was born in Kingsport, Tennessee. She received her BFA at the Atlanta College of Art in Georgia and an MFA at the University of Houston in Texas.

Miles has exhibited her landscapes in such places as Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois, Alabama, Massachusetts, Mexico, and Finland.

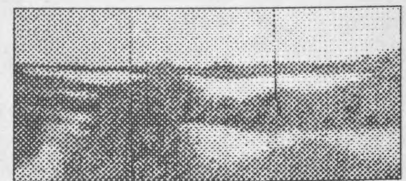
"Although my paintings are grounded in tradition, they are not portraits of places, but my response to the natural world," Miles said.

Her historical artistic influences come from Arthur Wesley Dow, Maynard Dixon, Richard Deibenkorn, and Mark Rothko.

She experiments with color in her work and has developed a process of layering the paint and allowing areas of the under layers to show through. The compositions and color schemes are developed

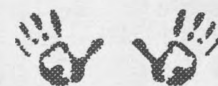
in her studio from a combination of outdoor sketches and an intuitive sense of design.

Miles has more of a desire to make each piece an object of beauty and meditation. By focusing on everyday scenes, rather than the picturesque or monumental, her intent is to convey a sense of both mystery and tranquility.



Cathryn Miles, "Pond" (a triptych)

## Roberta George Children's Gallery



**October 4**  
Linda Butler's  
Art Studio Students  
**November 8**  
Saint Johns Catholic School

### Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Staff:

Paula Brown, Executive Director  
Elaine Kent, Assistant Director  
Rebecca Henderson, Newsletter Editor

#### Hours of Operation:

Closed Monday  
Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.  
229-247-2787 Fax: 229-247-8978

Sharon Lodge, Business Manager  
Leonard Hancock, Facilities Manager

"Outside the Frame" is published bi-monthly by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.  
[www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

# Community Art News

## Valdosta Junior Service League

The thirty-first annual Valdosta Junior Service League Arts and Crafts Show will be November 20-21 at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta.

The event will be held Saturday, November 20, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday, November 21, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tickets for the Arts and Crafts Show are Adults \$7, Children \$1, and children under 3 are admitted free. Tickets for the Early Bird, Saturday from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m., are \$12 in advance.

The indoor show features over 110 booths filled with a variety of original artwork. Many of the featured items include handcrafted children's toys, stained glass, various holiday decorations, and hand-painted furniture.

Homemade cakes will be available at the League's Cake Booth. The League will also feature a raffle for items at this year's show, and "Southern Treasures," their newest cookbook, will be available. Be sure to visit the concession area for great food.

The Arts and Crafts Show is one of the major fundraisers of the Valdosta Junior Service League, a non-profit organization consisting of local volunteers. All proceeds go directly to support the community and the Turner Center. The Junior Service League supports and implements many community projects in the Valdosta area. Tickets will be available in November at locations in Valdosta (including the Turner Center), Adel, Hahira, Homerville, Quitman, Lakeland, and Tifton.

## Valdosta Choral Guild

Valdosta Choral Guild rehearsals are each Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Valdosta's First Baptist Church Sanctuary on Central Avenue. Concerts will be December 12 and 13. Call President Susan Butenschon at 229-559-0437 for more information.

## Children's Theatre



Come join The Little Actors' for a family fairy-tale mystery dinner Saturday, October 23, at the Valdosta State University Student Center, Magnolia Room. The show begins at 6 p.m. Mayor John Fretti, also known as Sherlock Holmes, will help solve who stole King Henry. Come dressed as your favorite character and enjoy this interactive production. (Costume is optional)

Tickets are \$15 and include the show and dinner. Seating is limited. Order your tickets by mailing a check along with your name, address, phone number, and the number of tickets needed to P.O. BOX 3601, Valdosta, GA 31604.

For more information visit [www.littleactors.org](http://www.littleactors.org)

## Theatre Guild Valdosta

229-24-STAGE 229-247-8243



*The Cemetery Club*  
October 15-16, 21-24, 28-30  
Tickets: \$12

Watch for these upcoming shows:  
*A Modern Christmas Carol* (Children's Christmas Show)  
*Of Mice and Men*  
*Monster in the Closet* (Children's Spring Show)  
*Lend Me A Tenor*  
Dates will be posted soon.

## Snake Nation Press, Inc.

Remember Open-Mic nights, every first Saturday at the Turner Center for the Arts, co-hosted by the Turner Center for the Arts. No charge for admission.

October 2, 7 p.m. November 6, 7 p.m.

Visit [www.snakenationpress.org](http://www.snakenationpress.org) for more information.

# Congratulations to the Poker Classic Winners!

The Deep South Poker Classic on Saturday, August 14 was a fantastic success. More than one hundred people participated to try their luck for the charity poker event. Six winners won \$25,000 in prizes!



Board Member and Chair of the Board Jim Ingram deals to participants in the Poker Classic. Twinkie Smith (far right) was the Deep South Poker Classic winner.

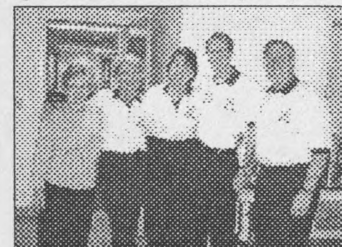
The Turner Center's new fundraiser, the "Texas Hold 'em Style" Deep South Poker Classic, was a tremendous success. Thanks to Bill Sineath and his committee for making the Poker Classic a great event.



Participants concentrate on the game. Are they bluffing?

And the winners are...

- 1st-\$10,000 Rupertia "Twinkie" Smith
- 2nd-\$5,000 Kim Carpenter
- 3rd-\$3,000 Robert F. Smith
- 4th-\$2,600 Tommy H. DeLoach
- 5th-\$2,300 Tommy Parkerson
- 6th-\$2,100 Thompson Kurrie, Jr.



Turner Center Board Members smile about the Poker Classic! Bill Sineath (second from right) organized the event.

Above photographs courtesy of Barbara Passmore



# Calendar of Events



**Saturday, October 2**

Open-Mic Night, 7 p.m.

**Monday, October 4**

Opening Reception for Pat Drew, Cathryn Miles, Linda Butler's Art Studio Students, 5-7 p.m.

**Saturday, October 9**

Francine Reed Concert, 8 p.m.

**Friday, October 15**

"Alice in Wonderland," Mathis Auditorium, 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

**Monday, October 18**

Opening Reception for Southern Artist League, 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, October 21**

Movie Night, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, October 28**

"In the Mood," Mathis Auditorium;

pre-performance dinner at 6:30 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

**Saturday, November 6**

Open-Mic Night, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, November 18**

Movie Night, 7 p.m.

The Turner Center proudly  
recognizes  
October as  
Hispanic Heritage Month  
and  
November as  
Native American Month

## Outside the Frame



527 North Patterson Street  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER  
**Center for The Arts**  
CELEBRATING THE ART IN LIFE

www.turnercenter.org  
229.247.ARTS

### Hours of Operation:

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Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

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and  
Present



## Art Exhibition & Sale

April 12 - May 12, 2004

Prizes co-sponsored by The Price-Campbell Foundation

### Spring Into Art Sponsors

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Zant's Flower Shop



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Artist	Title	Medium	Price
357. Trish Vevera	<i>Crossover</i>	Oil	\$ 350
358. Margaret N. Vollrath (Columbus, GA)	<i>Spring Morning</i>	Clay	199
359. Margaret N. Vollrath	<i>Night Jewel</i>	Clay (Raku fired)	129
360. Claudia M. Walden (Hahira, GA)	<i>Solitaire</i>	Oil	2,000
361. Claudia M. Walden	<i>So Sweet</i>	Oil	1,750
362. Sylvia S. Warrick (Valdosta)	<i>Bunny Love</i>	Colored Pencil	350
363. Sylvia S. Warrick	<i>Girls Do Gossip</i>	Watercolor	375
364. Amanda Webb (Valdosta)	<i>Grenade</i>	Oil on Canvas	2,500
365. Amanda Webb	<i>Biloxi Bayou</i>	Photography	225
366. Lynn Weisbach (Roswell, GA)	<i>City Impressions</i>	Water Media	425
367. Ellen West (Gainesville, FL)	<i>Mirror, mirror on the wall, tell me the numbers to win it all!</i>	Mixed Media	350
368. Ellen West	<i>Mother of Pearl</i>	Mixed Media	100
369. Deanna Wheeler (Pinetta, FL)	<i>Trinity</i>	Oil	350
370. Deanna Wheeler	<i>The Gathering</i>	Oil	400
371. Lucille White (Valdosta)	<i>Tulips</i>	Oil	650
372. Lucille White	<i>Bouquet</i>	Oil	600
373. Grady D. Whitfield (Valdosta)	<i>One on the Kooky Nest</i>	Watercolor	350
374. Grady D. Whitfield	<i>Malvin Grading Pecan</i>	Photography	200
375. Natalie Wilhite (Valdosta)	<i>Stomp</i>	Bronze	5,000
376. Natalie Wilhite	<i>Self Removal</i>	Silver Gelatin Print	150
377. Doug Wolfe (Leesburg, GA)	<i>The Collector</i>	Photography	300
378. Doug Wolfe	<i>Withstanding</i>	Photography	300
379. Ronald M. Zaccari (Valdosta)	<i>Irresolute Flight</i>	Bronze	5,000

The exhibition will be juried by:

**Dr. Thomas J. Mew, III:** Professor of Art and Director of the Moon Gallery of Art, Berry College, Mount Berry, Georgia  
**Ms. Gloria Mani:** Artist, Art Restorer and Owner of Highland Hall Restoration of Fine Arts, Columbus, Georgia

(Prizes will be awarded on Monday, May 17, 2004, 5-7pm, at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts )

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Reception: 6-9p.m., April 12, 2004 at  
**The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts**  
527 North Patterson Street; Valdosta, Georgia 31601

**\$5000 in Prizes are Awarded as Follows:**

Two Dimensional:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$ 800
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$ 600
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 400
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 200

Three Dimensional:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$ 800
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$ 600
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$ 400
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	\$ 200

Ten Honorable Mentions \$ 100

Prizes co-sponsored by The Price-Campbell Foundation





# The Act of Painting

Artist Jim Touchton comes home for a retrospective exhibit that is as colorful as the artist himself

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

**A** brochure suggests that artist Jim Touchton paints the whirlwind. The remark headlines an interview accompanied by prints of Touchton's swirling, color-explosive paintings of flowers, gardens, skylines, parrots, in a brochure by New York's prestigious Fischbach Gallery, which has displayed the artist's canvases for several years. Yet, one thing becomes apparent upon meeting the artist and spending a frenetic hour with him.

**Jim Touchton is the whirlwind.**

A few hours before his arrival at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, where an exhibit of his paintings opens today, Center Director Paula Brown received a dispatch on United Nations letterhead from Ada Samuelsson, a Swedish diplomat who has been a friend of Touchton's for a few years. "I could stand in front of Jim's painting for hours and be mesmerized by the variety and range of emotions it brings to me," Samuelsson writes, "everything from Peace, Tranquility, Retrospection, Hope to Happiness, Joy and Pure Visual Feast is found in each stroke of his brush."

A few hours later, with the center still abuzz with excitement from the letter, Jim Touchton arrives on the heels of Tropical Storm Bonnie and a day ahead of Hurricane Charley. His arrival is marked by a rain of words and a free-wheeling spirit.

In conversation, Touchton's eyebrows rise. His eyes flash wide then thin to slits. His arms and hands often sweep outward before growing calm. He pounces like a big cat through the arts center's Boyette Gallery, where he's hanging his show; he circles several canvases on the floor then leaps to another painting across the room.

He is dynamic, in constant motion. Even when he is momentarily still, he bristles, flexes and coils as if ready to strike out on some new idea. He supplies stories from his life and thoughts on art in a machine-gun staccato of words.

Names of artists, artists he's known as mentors and friends, pour from his lips. Irene Dodd, one of South Georgia's great artists and a former Valdosta State art professor, whom Touchton has known since his youth and he says inspired him to become a painter when he once housesat for the Dodd family and found the smell of paints on canvas intoxicating, whom Touchton approached in his 20s, having never had an art class, saying he wanted to become an artist and Irene Dodd accepted him into art studies at Valdosta State. Lamar Dodd, the late masterful painter and Irene's father, who was one of the primary forces behind Georgia's connection with the arts during the last half of the last century, who served as Touchton's instructor at the University of Georgia. Elaine and William De Kooning, yes, those De Koonings, the famed artist couple, with William towering as a giant of 20th century art, with whom Jim Touchton maintained a friendship for many years, with Elaine De Kooning taking the youthful Touchton under her wing, whom often referred to herself as "mother" when writing him, the De Koonings with whom Touchton lived and traveled on numerous occasions.

They are only a few of the artists who reflect Touchton's meteoric rise from Lowndes County to the galleries of New York. Touchton speaks of his boyhood, growing up in Hahira, as the only child of the late Jerry and Ruby Touchton, then after the death of his mother, step-mother Joyce, with oil-painted portraits of young Jim, the sole heir, hanging on the walls, of parental plans for young Jim to become a doctor, a lawyer, a professional, though when he became an artist and an artist of some renown, Jerry Touchton spoke of his son's chosen career, talents, and accomplishments with beaming pride. Jim Touchton recalls taking childhood trips to visit family, such as Aunt and Uncle Myrtle and Roy Dasher in Puerto Rico, and Aunt Irma Simmons in Miami, aunts who are like surrogate mothers to Touchton, with both aunts expected to attend tonight's Valdosta opening, aunts who lived in exotic climes filled with colors as bright as Touchton's native South Georgia, colors and experiences that painted his childhood and have lingered within him throughout his 52 years to find their way into the vivid hues of his paintings. Three decades later, Touchton still seems incredulous, recounting a trip to Europe as a young man in the company of great and famous artists who would point at segments of a Monet painting and make comparisons to Touchton's work. His conversation swirls with locales that are mirrored in the paint and canvas surrounding him. Painting flowers he grew while living for nearly 20 years in Manhattan, of painting the sea and monolithic architecture he finds near his home in the Hamptons (yes, those Hamptons, which have been a favorite New York State hang-out for artists, such as Jackson Pollock, the rich, the famous, for years). Early abstract works — which may or may not be included in the Valdosta show, Touchton remained uncertain last week — inspired by the roadside fatalities of armadillos he'd see driving back and forth between New York and his native Georgia.

And he often returns to the subject of Georgia, South Georgia, Lowndes County, Valdosta, Hahira, his native home, where he graduated from Lowndes High School, where fell in love with the colors of the South, where he has so often returned through the years to find inspiration and visit family and friends, such as Lena Bosch, who greeted him at the arts center last week. Where he has often returned to show his work and support the local arts.

His words, his conversational style, at least speaking to a reporter on a rainy afternoon while taking a break from hanging a show, flow from the literal to the figurative. He mentions a quote from another artist: "If a painting is the first thing you think about when you wake up in the morning, then you're a painter." But Touchton continues that he dreams of painting in his sleep, "so I don't need to think about it first thing in the morning. I've already been dreaming of painting all night, whatever that means." He free-forms from expansive expressions to detailed subtleties, how painting parrots with their colorful feathers and plumage is similar to painting the wind-rippled petals of flowers; how he might incorporate photo references, scenes in front of him as well as his imagination into composing a painting; how he covers all of the canvas at once, ever moving, ever pushing the paint, his face inches from a subject while transcribing what his eyes see to the brush in his fingers and then onto canvas; of how he will stand, kneel, crouch, bend, rise, and then demonstrates these moves by a finished painting in the Boyette Gallery, looking like a surfer dude in the white T-shirt and shorts he's worn to hang the show.



Dean Poling/The Valdosta Daily Times

**JIM TOUCHTON** pauses for a moment for a few photographs while preparing for his exhibit opening this evening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. His style has been described as 'painting the whirlwind.' Upon meeting Touchton, however, it takes little time to realize that he is the whirlwind. A few examples of his works are featured on this page.

When he paints, Touchton says, he does not think; he may plan prior to placing paint to canvas, but painting, for him, is action, not thinking. Painting is response and reflex. Painting is a verb, not a noun. He may have a plan when he starts, but he's more anxious to discover what the paints might unfold. Happy accidents. Painting is the act of starting, he says. He admits, however, that he doesn't even need paints, or brushes to paint; his eyes and mind are always painting, visualizing the things he sees in his everyday life in terms of how they would be painted.

And this is the paradox of the man. He is generous in conversation, possibly open to a fault, willing to answer any question, but he remains an artist, an observer, slightly removed from the situation while simultaneously engaged in what is happening then influencing what happens next.

His conversational style sparkles with life, verve and color. Jim Touchton has a sense of fun in everything he discusses. Given his energy, one could imagine that he's as excited about this conversation as he's been with any conversation in his life. He seems as engaged about a conversation with a reporter from his hometown newspaper as he has likely been when he met people such as Dustin Hoffman whom he encountered upon returning to the De Koonings' home one afternoon several years ago when the actor served as the narrator for a documentary on the famous couple's lives, or Susan Sontag who attended a party given in Elaine De Kooning's honor at Touchton's Manhattan home, and the names go on and on.

Descriptions of Touchton's conversational style could easily fit



## GALLERY

Artist Jim Touchton's exhibit opens with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. today, Boyette Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. The exhibit is scheduled to continue through Oct. 1. The reception also marks the opening of other new exhibits by plein-air painter Linda Blondheim, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Gallery; Sheila Giddens' ceramics, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; teacher Jo-Ann Adams' Valdosta High School art students, Roberta George Children's Gallery. (See upcoming Living pages of The Valdosta Daily Times for more on these other exhibits.) Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: Call 247-2787.

his paintings. Both are bold, colorful, lyrical whether expressed in words or brushstrokes. Both are expressionistic. Both have the impact of spontaneous immediacy, weaving the abstract into the illustrative. As Touchton has done in conversation, his exhibit is retrospective, telling the story of his artistic life of the past 30 years. He can look at one canvas of flowers with skyline bristling in the background and know that he painted it nearly a quarter of a century ago while living in his Manhattan apartment. Small paintings gathered on the floor are works he completed a few days earlier with something called Egyptian ink and a piece of bamboo that he found while shopping at a TJ Maxx. And the abstract armadillos from his school days are in storage nearby; he can physically gather them for the show as easily as he can recall the stories of painting them.

All of which leads one to realize the Fischbach Gallery was right. Jim Touchton does paint the whirlwind, but his exhibit represents the whirlwind of his life, with the ability to connect to those dreamy moments people encounter in the whirlwinds and whirlpools and shining wisps of their own lives.



# A Thousand Cranes: Arts Commission hosts a poetic children's play

By Dean Poling

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — Ten years after the dropping of the atomic bomb, Sadako Sasaki, a 12-year-old girl living in Hiroshima, Japan, is diagnosed with radiation sickness — leukemia. She pins hopes of recovery on the ancient Japanese tale of 1,000 cranes: If she folds 1,000 paper, origami cranes, according to the legend, her wish will be granted and her health will be restored.

Sadako Sasaki was able to fold 640 cranes before her death. This is a true story.

In the hands of playwright Kathryn Schultz Miller, it is also a poetic piece of theater, developed for children but just as meaningful — maybe more so — for adults. This week, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission sponsors two performances of GMT Productions' "A Thousand Cranes."

"A Thousand Cranes" is part of LVAC's on-going series of children's theater, which is open as a field trip to classrooms throughout the region. A few months ago, LVAC, which is the driving force of numerous area arts events through the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, hosted a musical telling of the journeys of Lewis & Clark, Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and a theatrical adaptation of Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth." Each production provides a cultural opportunity for regional youngsters to experience live theater as well as educational materials to explore additional studies on subjects in class.

For example, the Lewis &



Contributed photo

**GMT THEATRE'S** 'A Thousand Cranes' plays this week as part of LVAC's children series.

Clark show was a cultural opportunity but could also serve as a springboard for studies in the early exploration of the North American continent as well as the eventual westward expansion of the United States. "Julius Caesar" may have been an introduction to Shakespeare for dozens of area children as well as a segue into studies on ancient Rome. "Journey to the Center of the Earth" explored an early work in the science-fiction genre, a classic, as well as the eventual blurring of the lines of what is science fiction and what is science fact.

With "A Thousand Cranes," students can better understand the long-term effects of a specific bombing — the American dropping of atomic bombs at

the end of World War II — as well as the ramifications of war on civilians and how even a child can make a difference in the world. Sadako Sasaki's story has touched hearts for generations. Though she was unable to finish her 1,000 cranes, children throughout the world finished the task for her and created a symbol of peace in the complex and elegant structures of the origami crane.

There are numerous versions of her story. Kathryn Schultz Miller tells the tale in a beautiful style, combining the strength and mysticism of ancient ancestors with the faith and power of children and the future. A few years ago, Valdosta State University Theatre presented "A Thousand Cranes" as

its annual children's production. It was a moving production. This week's show is presented by GMT Productions, a professional, Georgia-based theater company, which has been part of LVAC's children's theater series for the past several years. "A Thousand Cranes" is a wonderful introduction to theater, evoking inspirational thought in poetic language, plotting and visuals.

*"A Thousand Cranes" is scheduled to play 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. The show is intended for classroom participation, with inexpensive group rates available. More information: Call 247-2787.*



Coming  
Thursday ...

**ROSIE AWARDS: Theatre Guild honors its  
best from the 2003-04 season.**



Monday, July 5, 2004 9A

**CONTACT US:** Features Editor Dean Poling and Lifestyles Editor Elizabeth Butler would like to hear your comments about The Valdosta Daily Times "Living" section. They also welcome story ideas. Call Dean at 244-3400, ext. 258, or e-mail him at dean.poling@gafnews.com; Call Elizabeth at 244-3400, ext. 256, or e-mail her at elizabeth.butler@gafnews.com



Untitled, wood,  
artist Bob Fincher.



'Red Dawn,' wood, artist Bob Fincher.

## In the Woods

Artist defies  
conventional  
uses of wood

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

**VALDOSTA**  
Say the words "vase" and "urn" and the mind's eye conjures images of graceful vessels fired from ceramic, clay, glass or some other crystal-fragile material. Say those words while visiting artist Bob Fincher's exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and the eye is met by graceful images of smooth, rounded curves; deep stains of color and hue; balanced symmetry.

But Fincher's work is not the stuff of glass, ceramic, porcelain or things that shatter from a fall. Fincher constructs his pieces from wood.

Art is often described as a thing of illusion, and Fincher's art creates the illusion that his wooden pieces are made of more fragile components. Fincher's pieces also create the illusion that they are functional urns, when they are actually non-functional, meant, as the artist notes, to be "enjoyed for the pure shape, feel, and beauty of the hollow form."

Fincher is an Atlanta native, who has lived in Florida for the past 35 years, making Tallahassee his home. A Florida State University graduate, whose fields of interest also include science, history, and playing guitar and banjo, he spent much of his artistic career painting before turning to wood. He constructs his wood pieces with a lathe, reducing the wood to the shape he desires. "Wood," Fincher notes in an artistic statement, "is relished for itself. It needs no other supplements."

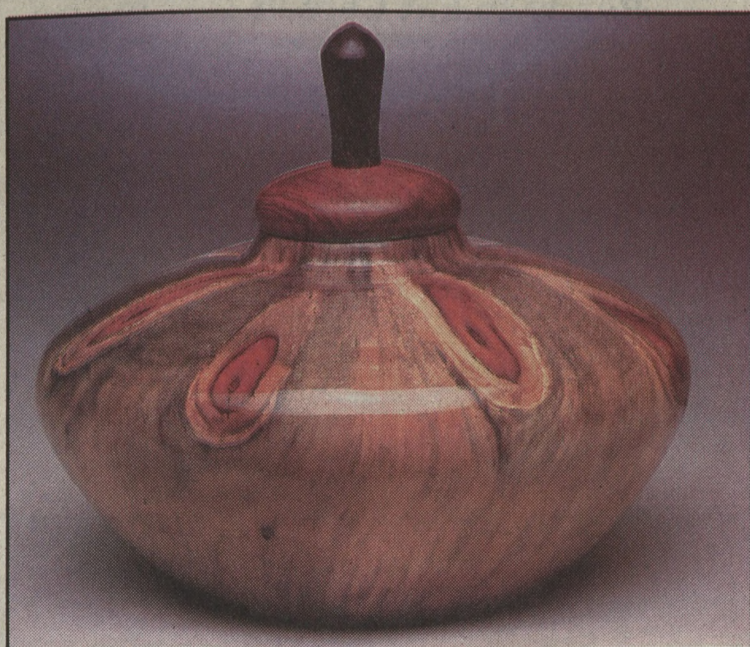
He also strives to be environmentally conscious in creating his works. He obtains the exotic and imported hardwoods from timber merchants whom, Fincher says, are part of reforestation programs and, "as I do, have a strong social and humanitarian obligation to the earth and its resources."

Bob Fincher's exhibit is a thing of beauty, displaying the soul of the tree, as he says, while defying perceptions of what is and isn't a vase.

Artist Bob Fincher's exhibit is on display for the next few weeks, Boyette Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: Call 247-2787. **NOTE:** The gallery is closed today as part of the Fourth of July long weekend.



Untitled, wood,  
artist Bob Fincher.



Untitled, wood, artist Bob Fincher.



## SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



Contributed photo

Nancy Warren and Robert Harrison of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Presenter Series are singing in the rain, and they want to know if you will, too, come Monday evening when LVAC hosts a touring, professional production of the musical 'Singin' In The Rain.' The show bases its live choreography on the steps created by Gene Kelly for the 1952 film of the same name. 'Singin' In The Rain' plays 8 p.m. Monday, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Tickets: \$35, adults; \$10, students, military personnel and military families. More information, reservations: Call 247-2787.

## SPRING INTO ART RAFFLE



Thea Thompson/The Valdosta Daily Times

As part of the coming Spring Into Art show, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is holding a raffle giving entrants an opportunity to win a photograph by Adann-Kennn Alexandar, who is an artist, the center's curator, and this newspaper's movie critic. Alexandar is pictured with Dale Crane, left, chairman of the Spring Into Art committee, and Mary Gooding, chairman of the center's Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission. The annual Spring Into Art is the city's largest exhibit featuring local and regional artists. It opens with an evening reception, 6-9 p.m., April 12. Reception tickets: \$45. The exhibit follows for several weeks, with admission free as part of the center regular gallery hours.





An example of artist Irene Dodd's work.

## A Virtual Art Trip to Italy

### Artist shares love for Italy

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

#### VALDOSTA

Artist Irene Dodd's love of Italy has long been a staple of her paintings. A few years ago, when she presented a mesmerizing one-woman show in Valdosta State University's Art Gallery, several of her paintings captured scenes of Italy's streets, architecture and countryside. Even in a recent phone conversation, Dodd's voice sparkles in re-telling adventures from her trips to Italy. Her love for the country is evident throughout pages of writings and sketches of a journal she kept as an 11-year-old girl on her first trip to Italy in the 1950s. Her paintings of Italy depict a marvelous land of intricate designs sparkling in the bold colors of buildings, streets and flowers as well as muted by hushed tones of dream-like memories.

This week, Irene Dodd is the featured guest of the Southern Artists League's "A Virtual Trip to Italy," which opens with a pre-reserved Italian dinner (it's too late to make reservations for the dinner, by the way) followed by a free, public seminar on Dodd's art (which needs no advanced reservations).

Italy is the home of the great masters of painting and art. Italy: The birth place of the Renaissance and home to Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo. Though she has studied these masters during her many trips, the inspiration of Dodd's Italian paintings speak of the country's centuries-old cities and the ever-changing seasons' effects on the environment. She



A Dodd photograph of an Italian scene.

brings the excitement of a traveler and the experiences of someone who has lived amidst her paintings' scenes rather than a scholar studying ancient works inside of a museum. Her art is more about the scenes of Italian life rather than the history of Italian art.

"When I first set foot on Italian soil, I felt Italy was a part of me and vice versa," Dodd notes. "My soul really responds to the people, art, landscapes and cityscapes — and, oh yes, the food. It's not mainly the tourist spots or the sensational edifices. Rather, it's the back streets, Saturday markets, dogs on the outside obediently guarding their masters' stores, Vespas transporting people to work and dates, trattorias known mainly to locals, middle-aged

women sweeping streets with branch brooms and collecting garbage from early morning through the day, siestas taken by all, and the Italian drivers who, devoid of fear, mistake the narrow back streets and alleys for the Daytona 500."

This, however, does not mean that she hasn't learned many lessons, which she applies to her work, from the masters and other painters. After all, Irene Dodd is the daughter of the late Lamar Dodd, one of Georgia's most influential artists of the 20th century and founder of the University of Georgia's successful art program. Lamar Dodd's foundation of the University of Georgia's study-abroad program led to Irene Dodd's first trips to Italy, where she has since returned several times.

Inspired by the artistic and educational life of her father, Irene Dodd is an award-winning painter and is professor emeritus of art at Valdosta State University, where she has taught for more than 35 years. Her paintings have been exhibited in shows throughout the nation and are part of permanent collections at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and numerous other locations throughout Georgia.

During "A Virtual Trip to Italy," Dodd will share her Italian experiences and influences through her paintings, photographs and commentary.

Southern Artists League's presentation of artist Irene Dodd's "A Virtual Art Trip to Italy" is 7:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Admission: Free. More information: Call Georgia Rowsell, (229) 546-5183.



# American Family Quilt

## Artist creates unique paintings for new exhibit

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

### VALDOSTA

Pat Drew is fascinated by the diverse pieces, the multitude of personalities and attitudes, the numerous individuals that construct a family. She sees American families, especially, with their varied backgrounds and traditions that are hybrids from many nations, as being similar to a quilt, with the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

This viewpoint shapes the vision of her work, which bears the impression of a painting, stained glass, collage and, indeed, the patchwork texture of quilts. Her canvases are filled with subtle nuances and peopled with a kaleidoscope of individuals.

Drew, a Marietta-based artist, refers to her works as "The American Family Quilt," and an exhibit of her art is scheduled to open, along with two other shows, today at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"In many ways, families are like quilts, each piece fitting into the other to form the whole, multi-faceted design," Drew says in an artistic statement. "My paintings incorporate many layers of transparent paint, transfers of photographic images and quilt pieces, fitting together to form a cohesive composition."

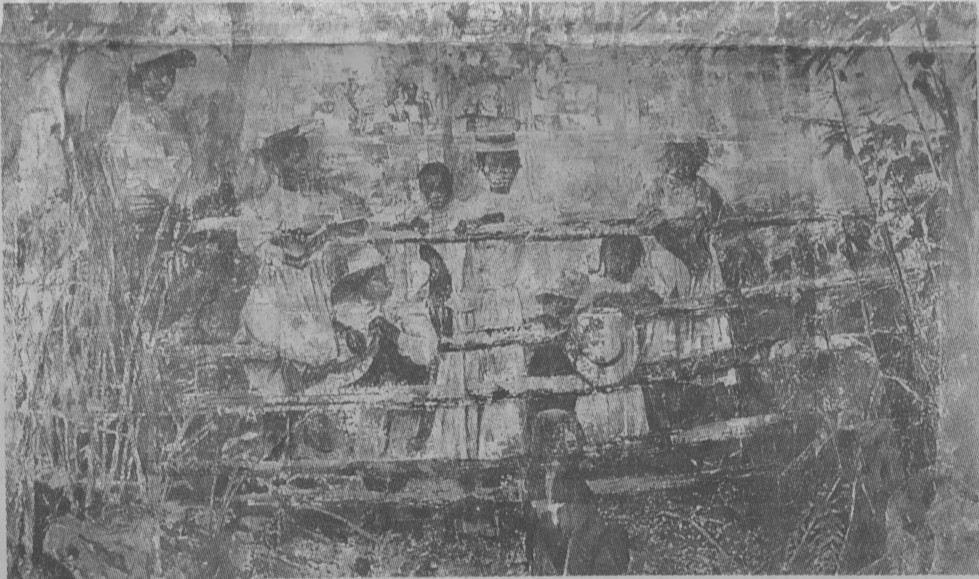
The project started while she worked to create portraits of both sides of her family, the Drews and the Clyatts. "I have combined the format of quilts and the perceptions of families in my paintings," she notes. "While working on the Drew and Clyatt family paintings, I realized that our country is of a lot of family groups, which seem to merge into the rich fabric that we call America."

From advanced slides of her work, Drew's canvases are fascinating in the moods and tones that she apparently creates from textures as much as the imagery. They are compelling in that they attract the eye from a multitude of levels, yet, work thoroughly as independent pieces of art.



Contributed photo

PAT DREW seated in front of one of her works that captures the multiple layers of a family in the multiple textures of her canvases.



Untitled, artist Pat Drew.



'The Dream,' artist Pat Drew.



### GALLERY

Artist Pat Drew's exhibit opens 5-7 p.m. today, with a free, public reception, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Also, opening during this reception at the center are exhibits by landscape artist Cathryn Miles and Linda Butler's Art studio students. Drew and Miles shows run until December; Butler's student show for the next several weeks. An exhibit by the Southern Artists League originally scheduled to open today will now open later this month. Artist Jim Touchton's work remains on exhibit until the SAL opening. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: Call 247-2787.



# 2004-2005 PRESENTER SERIES

## In The Mood

Thursday October 28, 2004

It's once again the "big band era" and this outstanding production plays tribute to all its glory. The music of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and many others makes a memorable tribute to a special time!

## Fiddler On The Roof

Monday December 13, 2004

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, "Fiddler" returns to the touring stage with a heart warming story full of zest and song! The music and dances of Russia's life loving people are brilliantly played out in this unforgettable presentation.

## Stand By Your Man

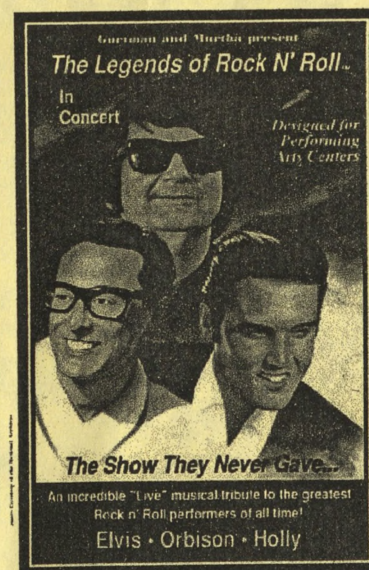
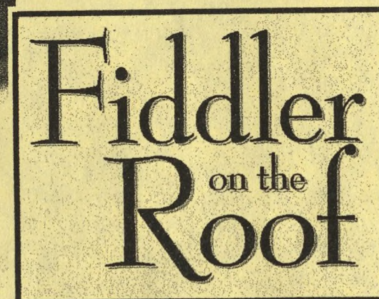
Tuesday March 8, 2005

This much acclaimed musical drama plays tribute to the life and music of famed country star Tammy Wynette. Her music career was on top of the charts while her personal life was spinning out of control. Hear her music and her story played at its best.

## Legends Of Rock N' Roll

Tuesday April 5, 2005

Live on stage, the "Legends" return in one great night of music! Here is the show they never gave. Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly and the "King" of Rock N' Roll, Elvis Presley shakin', rattlin', and rollin' through one great hit after another!



ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER  
**Center For The Arts**  
CELEBRATING THE ART IN LIFE

Each Performance At 8:00pm At Mathis Auditorium.

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Season Tickets are \$125.00 and include all four performances.

Please complete the enclosed order form to order your tickets now.



# Focus

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The Fairy Godmothers, Caitlyn Williams, left, and Caine Green, right, fight over whose turn it is to transform Cinderella, Jacquelyn Mangels, center.



The Stepmother and her daughters, Suzanne Reffel, Emily Waller, and Angela Radney, from left, give Cinderella, Jacquelyn Mangels, center, a hard time for not doing her chores.



The Queen and King (Marie DeMersseman and Quay Neach) tell the Prince (Thomas Williams) who he is going to marry.



The cast members of the Little Actors' Theatre of Valdosta Summer Traveling Troupe pose for a group photograph during a dress rehearsal. From left, back row, Ann Brunot, Suzanne Reffel, Angela Radney, Gabby Campiglia, Brandon Chandler, Quay Neach, Marie DeMersseman, Emily Waller, Caitlyn Williams, Caine Green, Abigail Waller and in front, Jacquelyn Mangels as Cinderella and Thomas Williams as the Prince.

# CINDERELLA

## NEW CHILDREN'S THEATER TROUPE OPENS WITH A FAIRY TALE

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — A local children's theater troupe kicks off what it hopes will be a regular series of plays for children featuring children, with a production of "Cinderella."

This particular telling of "Cinderella" was written by Phyllis Childree, a local elementary-school teacher, who is also directing the play and is a founder of the new Little Actors' Theatre of Valdosta.

Childree sees the Little Actors' Theatre as an opportunity to advance area youngsters, teen-agers and families involvement in the performing arts. In addition to this week's "Cinderella," Little Actors' Theatre is planning more productions during the next few months.

If Childree's name sounds familiar to regular theater-goers, it's because she has served as director of several past children's plays through Theatre Guild Valdosta. For Little Actors' Theatre, Childree combines her teaching and theater experience.

Little Actors' Theatre's "Cinderella" features a full cast of local youngsters. They are Jacquelyn Mangels, Thomas Williams, Quay Neach, Marie DeMersseman, Suzanne Reffel, Jill Leonard, Angela Radney, Emily Waller, Caine Green, Caitlyn Williams, Gabby Campiglia, Brandon Chandler, Ann Brunot, Abigail Waller, Kelsey Dauphine.

Little Actors' Theatre's "Cinderella" opened Monday with a private showing at Moody Air Force Base, but continues 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. today, Valdosta-Lowndes County Library, 300 Woodrow Wilson Drive; 2:30 p.m. today, Langdale Place, Northside Drive; 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Hahira Library; 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Quitman Nursing Home.

ALSO: Childree and the Little Actors' Theatre offers a class, running July 19-23, 2-4 p.m. for ages 6-10; 4-6 p.m. for ages 11-15, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Cost for class: \$50. More information: Call 247-2787.



Cinderella and the Prince (Jacquelyn Mangels and Thomas Williams) dance together during a scene from the play.



Ballroom girls Abigail Waller, left, and Ann Brunot, confront each other on who dances with the Prince.



The Cat, Gabby Campiglia, right, and the Mouse, Brandon Chandler, react during dress rehearsal.



weekly series of photos and events from the area this past week. To view more photos and to order reprints, visit the photo galleries at:

[WWW.VALDOSTADAILYTIMES.COM](http://WWW.VALDOSTADAILYTIMES.COM)

PHOTOS BY PAUL LEAVY



Coverage of Visiting (16)  
 Professor Hao Gu's Artist  
 Talk/Partnership with VSU

day, December 10, 2004 11A

**A MUSICAL SALVATION:**  
 John Patterson is  
 honored for his musical  
 commitment to local  
 Salvation Army.

**CONTACT US:** Features Editor Dean Poling and Lifestyles Editor Elizabeth Butler would like to hear your comments about The Valdosta Daily Times "Living" section. They also welcome story ideas. Call Dean at 244-3400, ext. 258, or e-mail him at dean.poling@gafnews.com; Call Elizabeth at 244-3400, ext. 256, or e-mail her at elizabeth.butler@gafnews.com



Contributed photo  
**PAPER CUTTING:** Legendary Chinese folk artist Gao Jing ai, right, shares some of her paper-cutting pieces with Hao Gu. Gao Jing ai passed away last year. Hao Gu is a visiting artist from China at Valdosta State University as part of a cultural-exchange program.

# making the cut

## Visiting Chinese artist shows art of paper cutting

VALDOSTA

**H**ao Gu, a visiting artist from Yangzhou University, China, recently demonstrated the art of paper cutting at a seminar at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Hao Gu is part of an on-going exchange program between Yangzhou University and Valdosta State University. He is teaching in VSU's art department. Last year, several pieces from Yangzhou University's faculty were displayed in a stunning exhibit in the VSU Art Gallery.

Paper cutting is a traditional Chinese folk art custom from a country with 6,000 years of history, says Julie Bowland, a VSU art instructor. It was originally created by farmers and their wives, unschooled in formal art, usually as a means of celebrating certain specific events. For example, dragons and phoenixes represent love and are used as symbols to celebrate weddings. Happiness, love, sex and reproduction are symbolized by various animals depicted in stunningly elaborate graphic patterns of bright red paper. This creative, imaginative and beautiful folk art is used by everyday people in China to decorate windows and walls of their homes.

"All the art works that will be in Thursday's exhibition were cut by Gao Jing ai, one of the greatest Chinese folk artists," says Hao Gu. "Last year, she passed away in extreme poverty in a small remote village. She was born in Shanxi province in 1922. Now, the Chinese have set up a special exhibition room of her art works in the China National Art Museum. She is a so great that some of her art works can be compared with that of western modernist masters."

"Full of interest, full of love, full of imagination, full of inspired ideals, it is her work. During her life time, she did hundreds of thousands of art works, including paper cuttings, paintings, clay sculpture and drawings. When I applied for my bachelor and master's degrees, I went to the remote village where she lived and studied folk art craftsmanship from her. To-day the thing that I can do would be to show her spirit and skill to my American friends."

Here are a few examples of the art of paper cutting.







Artist Annie Greene, yarn painting.

## Painting with Yarn

### Arts Center unravels a vivid artist

By Dean Poling

dean.poling@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA

Georgia artist Annie Greene creates images she has found in her life experiences. Rural families saying grace around a dinner table. African-American farm families taking a break from their toils to cool in a chair upon the front porch. Women wearing bright dresses and hats as they walk to church.

Her canvases are vivid in colors. Greene's compositions are often bold, with contrasts between wide expanses of opaque forms and complex, shaded details.

Greene doesn't use the traditional artist's tools of oils, watercolors, pencils, ink, charcoal, acrylics or pastels. She has no need for paint brushes. Instead, Greene's palettes are spools of yarn, her equivalent to linseed oil is a bottle of glue; her brush is a sharp pair of scissors to cut the pieces of yarn.

Greene, a LaGrange artist, creates yarn paintings.

"A yarn painting is a two-dimensional work of art in which yarn is glued to a paper background with Elmer's Glue," Greene explains in an artistic statement.

She uses a pencil to sketch her designs before applying the yarn and the glue. "Use the glue sparingly," she instructs, "and try to keep the glue off the fingers is one key to success. ... Glue on the fingers will certainly pull the yarn off the paper, for the yarn will stick to the fingers quicker than to the paper."

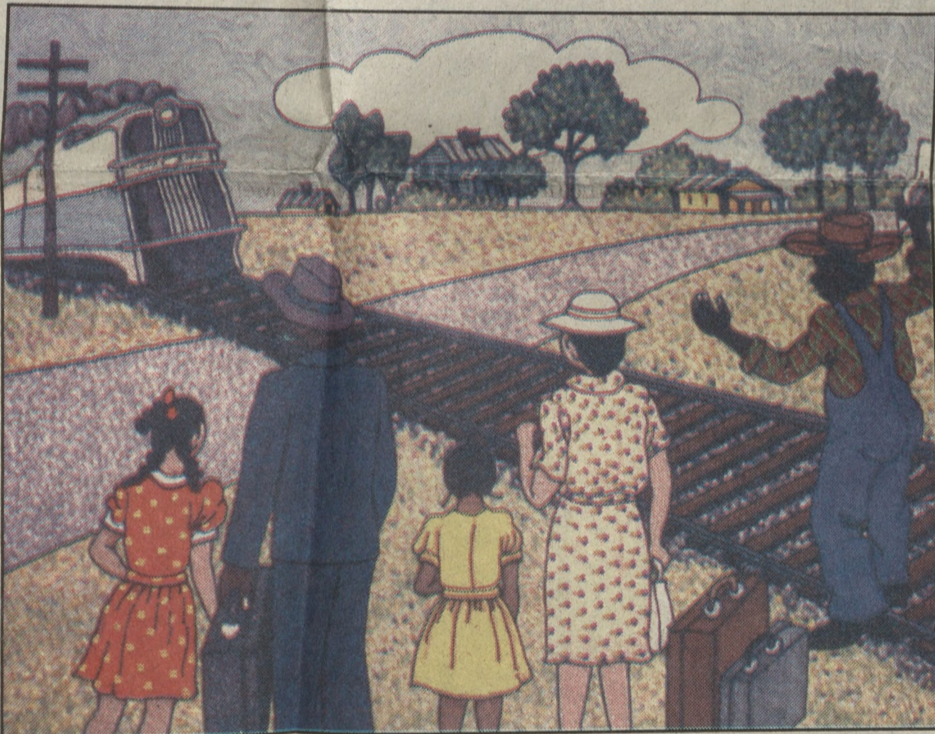
Occasionally, Greene uses paint to enhance the yarn, often applying the paint before the yarn. But mostly, she sticks to crafting her works from yarn.

Though Greene makes the technique sound easy, a visit to her current exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts (see "Gallery" box on this page for more exhibit details) proves that she has become a master of this art form.

She started yarn painting more than 30 years ago, when she discovered the idea in a magazine article. An art teacher, Greene thought it would be an interesting activity for her junior high school students. "Seeing how quietly they worked and how seriously they took the idea is what motivated me to try the art form," she says. "When I entered my work in art exhibits, I got more recognition for the yarns than I did for my oils and acrylics."

Soon, curators and exhibit organizers were asking specifically for Greene's yarn paintings to display. And through the years, she has spun many a wonderful scene through her yarns.

Greene has several series of works within her yarns. One features scenes from the 1940s. Another series of yarn works feature women walking to church. Others include the "African Series," "At Play Series," "Dance Series," "Farm Series," "Destitute Series." The local exhibit focuses on Greene's 1940s farm paintings. Nearly each painting in each series is peopled with African-Americans and a Southern way of life. It isn't surprising that yarn allows for details that are similar to intricate brush strokes, but the yarn also allows her to create effective designs consisting of large swaths of monotone color. To create a yarn painting is a task of love and patience. "This is a very enjoyable and relaxing activity; however, it is time consuming," Greene says. "One can build speed as one continues to work with yarn."



Artist Annie Greene, yarn painting.

### GALLERY

Artist Annie Greene's "Georgia Farm Life in the 1940s: A Farm in Yarn" is on exhibit now through the next several weeks, Pearlman Gallery, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Greene's exhibit is one of several arts center shows on display; others include Best of the Spring Into Art Exhibition; paintings by Georgia artist Anna C. Carlton; artworks by Valwood art teacher Michele Corbitt's students; Asian-travel photographs by Matt King. For more on many of these other exhibits, see upcoming Living pages in The Valdosta Daily Times. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Admission: Free. More information: Call 247-2787.



Artist Annie Greene, yarn painting (detail).



Artist Annie Greene, yarn painting.

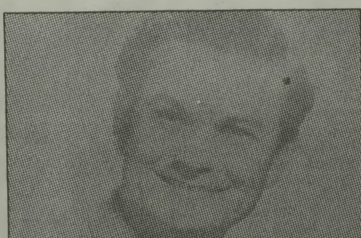
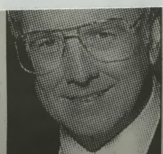


Francine Reed - LVAC  
brought her to Turner Center  
for Blues Concert (17)

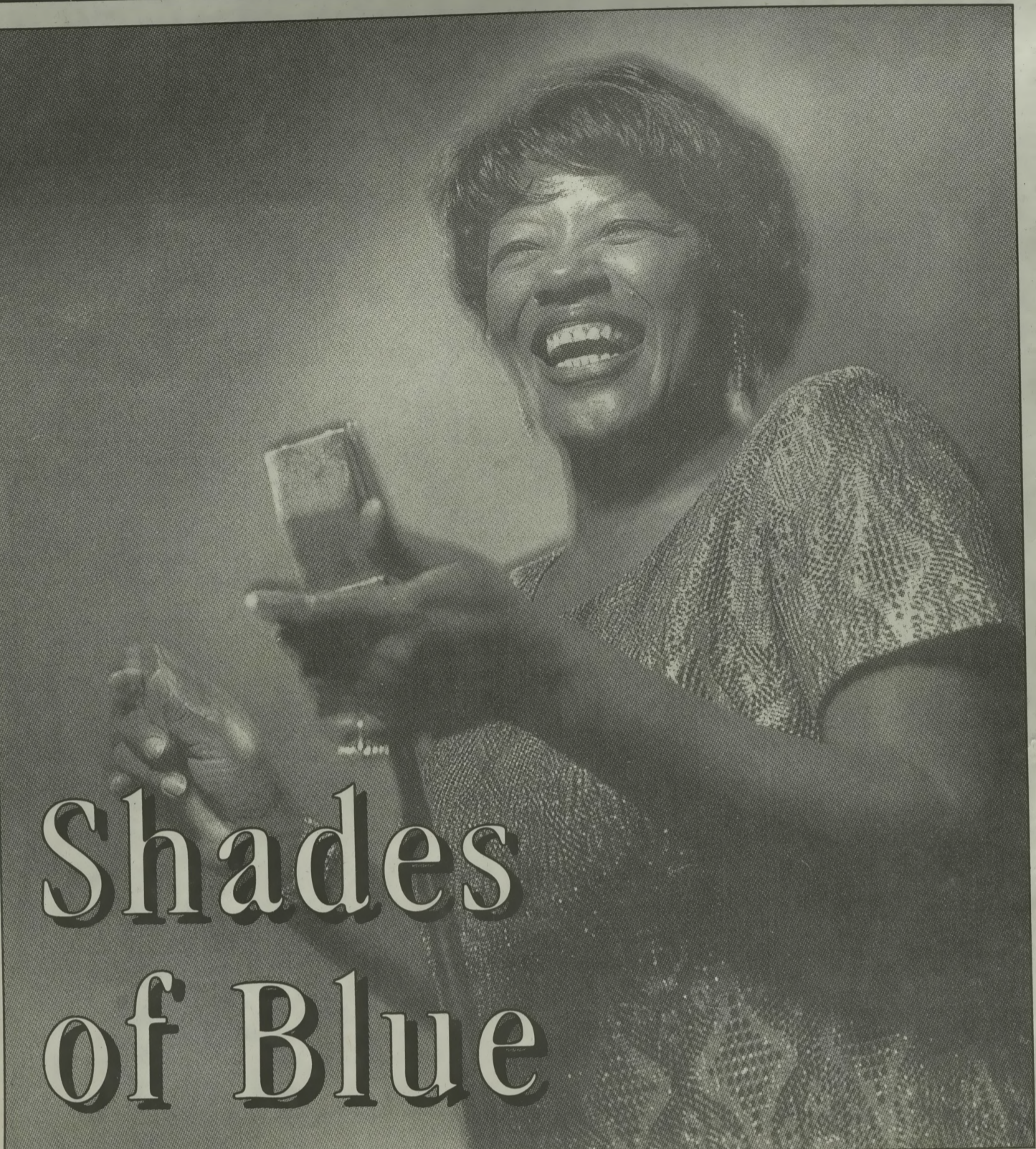
Friday, October 8, 2004 11A

Features Editor Dean Poling and Lifestyles Editor Elizabeth Butler would like to hear your comments about The Valdosta Daily Times "Living" section. They also welcome story ideas. Call Dean at 244-3400, ext. 258, or e-mail him at dean.poling@gafnews.com; Call Elizabeth at 244-3400, ext. 256, or e-mail her at elizabeth.butler@gafnews.com

**FOCUS ON THE FA**  
**Dr. James Dobson discusses**  
**how hard times can build**  
**a teen-agers' character.**



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Contributed photo

FRANCINE REED sings the blues and more this weekend during a concert at Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

## Singer Francine Reed plays this weekend, arts center

By Dean Poling  
dean.poling@gafnews.com

### VALDOSTA

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts moves into a new direction this weekend as it hosts what promises to be a great concert in singer Francine Reed.

For many years, Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, the arts center's parent organization, has sponsored numerous musicals, plays and concerts through its annual Presenter Series of shows, but those productions play in Mathis City Auditorium.

The Francine Reed concert features the renowned blues singer and vocalist in a show in the arts center itself.

Though she has been known to blues lovers for many years, Francine Reed has gained additional attention lately through recordings with more well-known stars. She is probably best known as the regular duet partner and a featured vocalist with Lyle Lovett but, in recent months, she has garnered more of the spotlight through her dazzling two duets on Willie Nelson's recent blues-tinged album, "Milk Cow Blues," which is another in a long line of continuing great recordings from Nelson. Folks who love Willie will enjoy this album just for the sake of him performing, but Francine Reed finds a place all her own on this album. Her duets with Nelson make it part of the reason why this album is another Willie classic. As Nelson has been quoted as saying of Reed, "When I first heard her, I said, 'Now there's a singer.'"

Born in Chicago, Reed has loved singing since childhood. As a youngster, she sang professionally with her family's gospel group, but she didn't pursue singing as a career as an adult until her children were grown.

### SHOWTIME

Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission presents blues diva Francine Reed, 8 p.m. Saturday, with doors opening at 7:30 p.m., Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Tickets: \$20, advance; \$25, at the door. More information, advance tickets: Call 247-2787, or visit the arts center.

"I always say I was born singing," Reed says in a biographical release. "I can still remember my first performance when I was a 3-year-old in my aunt's church. Her name was Helen Francine, for whom I'm named, and I was so small that they had to put me up on the piano. I used to listen to rehearsals with her gospel choir and I'd sing 'I Wanna See Jesus' in front of the congregation. An audience to me could even be just one or two people. My mom would have guests over and point to me and say, 'Sing a song.' And I would just go on and sing, and I'd even make up my own songs. It's a natural God-given talent."

Yet, like her from pursuing a full-time singing career as she raised her children. Occasionally, though, during this time, she took to the stage, performing at clubs and in shows in her new home of Phoenix, Ariz. During these years, she also served as opening act for concerts by Miles Davis, Smokey Robinson, Etta James and The Crusaders.

Francine Reed became a principal part of Lovett's show in 1985, when he was still a struggling, unknown singer/songwriter. As he rose to fame, with eclectic music style and strong lyrics, Reed became an integral part of his show for several years, and she was featured singing with Lovett on several of his albums, in his concerts and television appearances on shows such

as "Late Night with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show," etc.

During this period, she also recorded with several other stars such as the legendary Roy Orbison, Delbert McClinton, and Paul Young. Her voice appeared on movie soundtracks, such as "The Firm," starring Tom Cruise, and several other movies from the 1990s.

In the mid '90s, she decided to pursue a solo career and moved to Atlanta, where she recorded her debut solo album, "I Want You To Love Me," which also featured a duet with Lyle Lovett, in 1995. Her follow-up, "Can't Make It On My Own," featured studio greats such as Al Kooper and Bob Babbitt, as well as a duet with Delbert McClinton. Her third album, "Shades of Blue," collected several blues and jazz tunes.

Critics have noted that Francine Reed's albums have the ability to capture the spirit and allure of her live shows, which should be good news for fans planning to attend this weekend's local concert based solely on hearing her recordings. Such praise means that her live shows are just as good if not better than her CDs, and her recordings are definitely wonderful things.

"It's a mindset for me that I'm still trying to master. If it's a really good song, then it just comes out of me," Reed notes. "At a gig, I try to phrase like a record, which is what the audience comes to hear. I learned that from being on the road with Lyle. Other times I have a tendency to be more improvisational and feed off the musicians and the crowd. Then I can kick it up a notch. But how that comes about, I don't really know. I just open my mouth and sing from the heart. I'm really blessed."

Folks who love jazz and blues vocals should be blessed with Reed's concert this weekend.

### NIGHT MOVES

Here's what's happening tonight, according to items submitted. Schedules subject to change.

**Bayou Bill's North, 1811 Jerry Jones Drive:** Karaoke & DJ spins hits. No cover.  
**The Bistro, 132 N. Ashley St.:** Tania Myers, local musician, plays piano selections. Showtime: 6:30-11 p.m.

**Brooks County Jamboree, Culpepper Street, Quitman:** Local musicians play vintage country music in a family atmosphere of no drinking and no smoking. Showtime: 6-11 p.m. No cover charge.

**Charlie Tripper's, 4479 North Valdosta Road:** Raymond Peace, a Valdosta musician, plays great piano selections. Show starts between 7-7:30 p.m. No cover.

**China Doll Lounge, China Garden, 2535 N. Ashley St.:** Karaoke. No cover charge.

**Club Illusions, 3143-B N. Ashley St.:** DJ spins hits.

**Cole Brothers Circus, lot beside of Waffle House, Highway 84:** Circus presents

two performances. Showtimes: 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15, general admission (ages 13-up); \$10, child (under 13) and senior (over 61); \$17, reserved seat; \$20, VIP seat.

**Giulio's Greek and Italian Restaurant, 105 E. Ann St.:** Bill Smith, a Valdosta musician, plays Celtic/Irish, jazz standards, classical guitar, etc.

**Hannah's Restaurant, Best Western King of the Road, 1403 N. St. Augustine Road:** Steve O'Neil, a Valdosta musician, plays piano selections. Show starts 5 p.m.

**Jessie's Eats & Treats, 111 W. Central Ave.:** David & T, a local duo, play hits from '60s, '70s, '80s. Showtime: 6-9 p.m.

**JP's, 1833 Norman Drive:** DJs spin hits.

**Maria's Lounge, 1828 E. Park Ave.:** Caribbean Night, with salsa, merenge, cumbias, etc. PLUS: Contests, more, runs 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

**"Masterpieces In Motion," Sawyer Theatre, first floor, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood:** VSU

Repertory dancers present this series of dance pieces inspired by famed paintings. Showtime: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$8, adult; \$7,

senior citizen; \$6, non-VSU student, child; \$5, group rates; free, VSU student with valid ID. Reservations: 333-5973.

**Quality Inn Lounge, 1902 W. Hill Ave.:** Karaoke, featuring DJ Adam, starts 8:30 p.m. No cover charge.

**Rascal's Bar & Grill, 4875 U.S. 41 S., Lake Park:** SR6, a Valdosta-based band, plays rock, etc.

**Rock 'N Rodeo, 3472 Bemiss Road:** Live entertainment.

**Rumor's, 3920 U.S. Highway 84 West:** Jared Ashley, a regional musician, plays country, Southern rock, etc.

**The Tavern, U.S. 41, Lake Park:** Live entertainment.

**Voodoo Lounge, 206 E. Hill Ave.:** Female impersonators. PLUS: DJ Ken spins various dance styles throughout the night.

To submit items to Night Moves, fax: 244-2560; or e-mail [Francine.Reed@LVAC.com](mailto:Francine.Reed@LVAC.com) (dean.poling@gafnews.com). There is no charge to run items in Night Moves, and they should be submitted a few days prior to a scheduled event.



Eluster Richardson:

"Capture the Moment"



LVAC

Artist Talk

with Eluster Richardson

(SR)







LVAC  
Artist Talk  
with Annie Greene

26





