

26th annual Art in Gadsden show opens at Arts Center

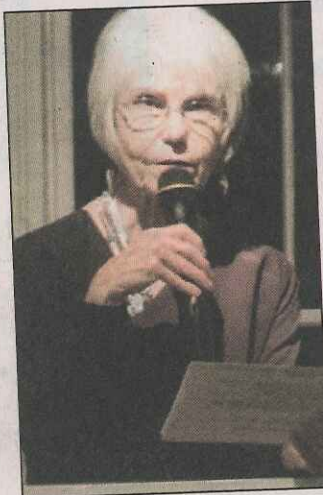
The Gadsden Arts Center hosted the opening of the 26th Art in Gadsden exhibition Friday night. Art in Gadsden is an annual tradition that inspired community members to found the Gadsden Arts Center.

Ljiljana Obradovic-Edminston juried the show. She was born in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, but was also educated in Maine and Florida.

Sue Stelzmann's "Blow Your House Down" won Best in Show. Her perspective appears childlike in her artwork but also comments on serious issues as a reflection of present conflicts.

First place in this competition went to Robert DeWitt Smith's "1911 Downtown Tallahassee." This piece was chosen for its representation of small town America.

MANDEM won second place with their mixed media piece, "The Trials of St. Sebastien," which draws on a



Former Gadsden Arts Center director Zoe Golloway emceed the 26th Anniversary of the Art in Gadsden show at the Gadsden Arts Center Friday afternoon. She said about the artists who presented pieces in the show: "Their choices are relevant and topical. It's an amazing show; it gets better each year."

background in classical mythology, gender studies, and critical theory to reimagine



Tyler Carroll's Best of Show student poster.

ine religious themes from classical art history.

Exploration of our imagination in addition to our environments, beliefs, and ourselves can happen under whimsical and optimistic circumstances too, as Joe Kotzman does with his third place watercolor, "Guarding the Dauphin."

While this competition took place, students contended in the 26th Art in Gadsden Student Poster Competition.

Best in Show for the Student Poster Competition was Tyler Carroll, fifth grade, of Robert F. Munroe Day School, who represented the theme of balance in his work

through the symmetry of dogs and flowers.

Cheleshia Johnson, in the 7th grade at Havana Middle School, achieved 1st place with her black-and-white sketch, reflecting outside of the box figures shown on the inside.

Second place was awarded to second-grader Meagan Clark from the Robert F. Munroe Day School.

Tyffany Swizard, another 7th grader at Havana Middle School, won third place.

Honorable Mention was also given to Lawre Bradley May, who is in the third grade at Robert F. Munroe Day School.



Sue Stelzmann's Best of Show - "Blow Your House Down."