

Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

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“Cirque” by Jeff Green —

From the carpet, looking up, is the visual perspective that you have in this picture. There is a stark contrast from the pure geometry in the lobby of the Arts Center and the materials, “steel, wood and found objects” that make-up this piece by Jeff Green. Looking at “Cirque” you can almost see the artist shaping the steel with his hands — finding a place for all of the bits and steel springs that are laid out before him.



Long time friend of the arts, Jeann Wisenbaker, made a gift to the Arts Council recently from which we were able to purchase “Cirque” for the

Mesquite Arts Center. Jeff says, “This piece represents part of an old circus train, neglected toys, and beauty in decay.” Mrs. Wisenbaker found it “whimsical with its steel curlicues and odd pairings of material.”



The Arts Center is a study in contrasts and Jeff’s art-work certainly brings attention to that notion. From a hospital, circa 1960 to Arts Center 2006; from healing the body to healing the spirit.

Arts disciplines juxtaposed one with the other in a building such as this makes for more than the notion of “community arts.” Even though theatre, dancer and musician “types” don’t necessarily claim a proprietary influence one over the other, they often walk through the same doors. And, when they look around, they see extraordinary images — just as the patrons who come to a concert or a play see the same “art” as they go into the Concert Hall or Black Box Theatre.

Visual artists’ weren’t excluded in the preceding paragraph on purpose. But of all the arts, the visual artists do tend to bring us together. Although tenuous, an image or a textural element can be the tiny thread of inspiration for those who play instruments, act on a stage or dance. It can be just as fascinating for the casual viewer.

From our **State Arts Advocacy Captain**

This past summer I was elected to an indefinable role of State Advocacy Captain representing Texans for the Arts at the national level. And during this time I have become aware of a disturbing trend of apathy by the local arts community and arts supporters.

It is true that people and groups differ on which art issues they see as important, It is also true that they have common issues such as the need for increased funding of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Generally, these groups want a good environment for charitable giving. And, equally important, are funding issues regarding arts education.

From my time in this position it has become obvious that our government is not “a government for the people by the people,” it is a government for those who participate by those who participate. And it was painfully obvious during this last session of the Texas Legislature that the arts community has never participated in this process.

Most artists and arts administrators do not realize that the hometown point of view counts the most with politicians. It is the local voice that gets the message across. What constituents say inevitably becomes a part of the congressional report — and that counts!

Advocacy should not be an option, it is a job requirement. The leaders of arts organizations should be at the forefront of building public understanding and legislative support for the arts. Board members, with impressive credentials, as well as their personal knowledge about the needs of the community, are powerful tools in persuading politicians of the need to support the arts. We all have a stake in the process or you are out of the picture. Power goes to those who participate!

All you need to do is sign up to receive email alerts. Then, when the call goes out, send your representative, senator and congressman a preformatted letter signed by you, their constituent. Make your voice heard. It is easy – sign up today by going to: <http://www.texansforthearts.com>. Follow the links to the legislative action center and sign up for the advocacy alerts.

Christina Rivas Flores



Join the growing number of arts advocates from across the State of Texas by signing up at www.texansforthearts.com.

"On Golden Pond," a Wind Ensemble & Artist Receptions

All in a day at the Mesquite Arts Center

Set-build was nearly complete as Mesquite Community Theatre prepared for their last week of rehearsals. Cast and crew were busy polishing entrances, lines, light cues and exits keeping the rhythm of the well-known play running smoothly. "On Golden Pond" by Ernest Thompson will be in production from February 24th through March 11th. Call the box office at 972-216-8126 for tickets and reservations.

MCT "FREE Readers Theatre production of "The Diaries of Adam & Eve" by mark Twain will be March 6th & 7th at 7:30 p.m.

Performance dates for The Housekeeper by James Prideaux will be March 31st through April 15th.

All performances are in the Black Box Theatre at the Mesquite Arts Center.



The Texas A&M University-Commerce Wind Ensemble is in concert on March 2nd at 7:30p. The free performance in the Concert Hall will feature the music of composers Carolyn Bremer, Frank Ticheli and Malcolm Arnold, among others.

There are about 50 students in the Wind Ensemble and they are the top performing musicians in the Instrumental Division. "The Wind Ensemble is our flagship instrumental ensemble," said Jeff Gershman, the conductor of the ensemble.

The Wind Ensemble was one of nine university bands in the country performing in February 2005 at the Biennial Conference of the College Band Directors National Association that was held in New York, NY.

Bands were selected to perform at the New York conference based on their submitting a performance tape. Judging was based solely on quality of the musical performance without the judges knowing which colleges and universities the bands represented

MISD concluded their 3rd Biennial Art Exhibit at the Mesquite Arts Center on February 27th. Each of the divisions, elementary, middle school and high school were represented by outstanding artists.

The ever-changing art exhibits at the Arts Center are free, with a sampling of Texas Area Artists work in March, Jackie MacLelland and seven other women artists in April and artist Dick Clintsman in May. Nibbles and spirits, artist talks and an excellent time can be had by attending the artist receptions — just check the calendar for more information.



Tote Bags & More

Treat yourself to a gift. On sale at the Arts Center are stylish tote bags (\$12) and mugs (\$7) that highlight the work of the community arts in Mesquite. Nineteen arts organizations, including the Grants Review Committee and the Public Art Committee are listed on the merchandise.

For information please call 972-216-6444



Mesquite Arts Center – TOTE Bags & MUGS

Courtyard COLORS

MARCH

2 Texas A&M Univ. Commerce Wind Ensemble 7:30p, free.

6&7 MCT presents a staged reading of the Diaries of Adam and Eve by Mark Twain – 7:30p, free!

4-4/1 Texas Area Artist Exhibit in the Main Gallery, free

11 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra presents Not Just for Kids– for tickets call 972-216-8127.

13 The Monthly Pain-In begins at 10a.

31-4/15 MCT presents The Housekeeper. For tickets & reservations call 972-216-8126.

31 Art@Lunch TOUR begins at 11:30a – tour the Dallas Arboretum

APRIL

15 Symphonic Band Concert

21 Art@Lunch with Jackie MacLelland, artist.

28,29,30 Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas Concert

For information on these events please call the Mesquite Arts Council during business hours at 972-216-6444 or 972-216-8122 for recorded information

“The Arts in Mesquite. You Bet!” www.mesquiteartscenter.org

First State Bank 

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