

PRESS RELEASE:

June 4, 2009

For immediate release:

Through August 8, 2009

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

**MIXED BAG AT CAC --
An Invitational Exhibition of Fine Crafts by West Georgia Artisans**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to present its summer show, “Mixed Bag,” a lively display of ceramics, turned wood and handmade furniture, quilts and other textiles, stained and slumped glass, jewelry, and embellished gourds by thirteen local artists and artisans. The exhibition opened on June 4 and is on view through August 7, 2009. Hosted by the Historical Society Chapter of Douglas County, the Arts Council’s annual Ice Cream Social serves as a special reception for the show and will be held on Sunday, July 12th, from 2 until 5 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Many of the participating artists will be familiar to local arts patrons from previous exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center, and six of them are members of the Douglas County Arts Guild. All but one of the participating artists live and work in West Georgia. The sole exception is furniture-maker Atlanta-based Robert Brou whose extraordinary wooden chairs and tables were a highlight of the 2008 National Juried Exhibition at the Cultural Arts Center in November; in this exhibit he again presents beautifully crafted designs based on natural forms like his charming “Porcini Mushroom Stool.” Douglas County resident Steve Pritchard presents six of his elegant turned wood pieces, which encompass the diversity of this rising art star’s range in varied geometric designs including “Making a Break for It,” a tiny red vessel with a delicately etched humorous message, the commanding presence of his square black platter, “Remembrance,” and a lovely large maple vessel with a contrasting dark worked rim. Another DC Arts Guild member Jane Ballou illustrates her prowess in a series of embellished gourds, all decorated with leather dyes in soft geometric patterns and demonstrating her recent growth as a local artist to watch. Yet another Art Guild member is jeweler Lee Anne Messerschmidt who is represented with delicately wrought necklaces, bracelets, and earrings made of hand-twisted silver and copper, along with semi-precious stones and lovely hand-rolled leaf patterned pendants. Messerschmidt is wonderfully innovative, exploring odd materials and interesting techniques in her art work. Her charms, like the new fishing series and the tiny cartoon portraits illustrate her off-beat and often humorous explorations of unusual materials to unique effect. The stained glass artists are also DC Arts Guild members: Mack Porter displays a dazzling “Dancer” with swirling curves and brilliant tones, a colorful floral bouquet and another nostalgic female figure in blue as well as more balanced and beautiful geometric designs, while Robert Henkiel offers two outstanding Art Deco-inspired table lamps as well as three of his whimsical “Sea Fairy” window series.

The ceramics on display are a wonderful presentation of the diversity of craftsmanship in our area. David Collins who is on the fine arts faculty of the University of West Georgia and who participated in the most recent National Juried Exhibition at CAC presents a fresh look at a traditional form with six non-functional contemporary teapots offering a lively social commentary in his contemporary art. Nadiha Rahman Huque's ceramics are better known in Atlanta where she works at the Callanwolde Arts Center than in her hometown of Douglasville, but one hopes the dozen pieces on display in the current exhibit including wonderful hand-built and embellished platters, vases, mugs and vessels can remedy that situation. Douglas County-based potter Mercy Lang is represented with gleaming gold luster-laden porcelain forms – a cruciform platter, jewel-toned cup, cut-away grail, and ornate bulbous vase.

Textiles created by one of CAC's teaching artists Terumi Todd often incorporate multiple techniques and mixed media drawing not only on contemporary aesthetics but also her cultural background as a native Japanese, while Olga Lee who moved to Douglas County from New Orleans after Katrina references her African American heritage in her color-filled strip-weaving quilted hangings. Quilter Marge Frost's five large pieced pieces are among the highlights of the exhibition. Her "100... and Counting" quilt commemorates her father-in-law's birthday in the long standing tradition of autograph quilts with signed personal messages to the centennial celebrant in each red, white and blue square further decorated with family memorabilia and fabrics. Her other beautifully conceived and realized quilts, like "Vines around the Courthouse Steps," "Summer Day Sampler," and "Red Makes all the Difference," are also reinterpretations of tradition patterns.

"This is a wonderful show for people interested in what is happening with crafts in our area," comments Laura C. Lieberman, Executive Director of the Cultural Arts Council. "And it introduces some great artists working in our community as well as showing us what more established local artists are doing today. It is inspiring and exciting to see such much lively craftsmanship in so many different artistic mediums. I don't think that we realize what fine work is being created right here."

The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 west (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Cultural Arts Council and its exhibitions at the Cultural Arts Center are supported by its members, sponsors, the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta's Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. For directions and more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org.

PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134
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CALENDAR LISTINGS: EXHIBITS

TITLE: MIXED BAG
Contemporary Crafts by West Georgia Artisans

PLACE: The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County
8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

DATES: June 4 – August 7, 2009

RECEPTION: Sunday, July 12th, 2 – 5 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS: Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787

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