

RACA exhibit to showcase carpet as art

By Severo Avila
Staff

You might expect to find the fruit of an artist's labors hanging in a gallery somewhere or displayed in a collector's hallway.

But artistry, creativity and imagination aren't restricted to those venues. They might actually be under your very feet.

Eighteen carpet designers will display their work and their art in an exhibition beginning Monday. The show will feature not only the artists' personal work but some of their professional designs as well.

"We all work as textile designers. Most of us are in the carpet industry,"

said Elizabeth Bonner. "So we'll be displaying the artwork we do on our own time as well as some of the things we do commercially."

As a day job, Bonner creates custom carpet designs for high-end hotels and casinos. But in her spare time she's a potter.

The show, "Common Thread: An Exhibit of Textile Art from Northwest Georgia," consists of 45 pieces of art including woven tapestries, silk paintings, photography, pots and even furniture in addition to their textile work.

Bonner said the exhibit is intended to have two effects. First, it showcases the creations of local artists who have a common link — the

textile industry.

But it also opens the public's eyes to a type of art they might never have had a chance to appreciate before.

"I think it's an interesting exhibit for students to see that you can get a job with an art degree," she said. "We do interesting things with our skills. These are highly-patterned carpets and rugs. There are very elaborate designs."

"Common Thread: An Exhibit of Textile Art from Northwest Georgia" will be on display Monday through May 11 at Rome Area Council for the Arts, 248 Broad St.

An opening reception will be held April 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the gallery.

Also on April 19, another textile-themed event takes place at RACA

At a Glance:

What: "Common Thread: An Exhibit of Textile Art from Northwest Georgia"

Where: RACA, 248 Broad St.

When: Monday to May 11, opening reception April 19, 6 to 8 p.m.

19 when Virginia Gardner will be on hand to sign copies of her new book, "The Modernist Textile: Europe and America, 1890-1940."

Cosponsored by the Berry College fine arts department, the book signing will coincide with the reception for the exhibit.

Youth orchestra to present spring concert

Submitted by Julia Knight

The Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra will present its 2007 spring concert Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Ford Auditorium at Berry College. The concert, which will last about an hour, will open with the Junior Youth Orchestra, celebrating their 10th anniversary.

The program will include Beethoven's "Prometheus Overture," a duet from Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," the first movement of Bruch's "Violin Concerto," a medley of tunes called "Sophisticated Ladies" by Duke Ellington, and a symphony by Jirovec.

The orchestra showcases the finalists in the concerto competition, held in February. The contest was open to all Berry music students and members of the Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra.

Brittany Stephens, violinist, is the winner of the high school division. She will perform the first movement of the "Concerto for Violin" by Bruch. Brittany is a junior

at Cedartown High School and has been a member of the Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra since its beginning five years ago. She has been chosen as a member of the All-State Honor Orchestra almost every year since she became eligible in the sixth grade. Last year, she attended the Suwannee Summer Music Festival as the scholarship winner chosen by the Music Club of Cedartown.

Kylee Carmin and Jessica Haws won the college division. They will sing a duet from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro."

Kylee is a junior at Berry College majoring in music education. She has played violin since elementary school but discovered her "voice" after arriving at Berry. She plays the violin in the Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra.

Jessica Haws is also a music major at Berry College. She has been performing since age 3 and has had voice lessons for 16 years. Jessica has performed in Scotland and the British Isles and has

sung the lead role in many productions. Kylee and Jessica are performing in the upcoming production of "Oklahoma!" at Berry.

The Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra's tour stopped at Calhoun High School this year. The orchestra showcased the talents of the runners up in the concerto competition. Casey Jones of Cartersville and a senior at Berry College played the adagio movement of Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto," and John Alford played the first movement of Neruda's "Trumpet Concerto." The orchestra played an afternoon concert for students from Calhoun High and Middle schools and Sonorville High School at Calhoun High School and an evening concert for the community.

The orchestra is made up of students from Berry College and outstanding high school students from Bartow, Gordon, Floyd and Polk counties. The orchestra was founded in 2003 as a joint venture between the Rome Symphony Orchestra and



Berry College. The conductor is Norman Bernal, music director of South Gwinnett High School and conductor of Da Salo Solisti Chamber Orchestra.

OHSO rehearses weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at Berry College. The Junior Youth Orchestra is for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Students who may be interested in auditioning for the OHSO may contact Marie Griffith at 706-378-0677 or email mgriffith@berry.edu.

Contributed photos

TOP: The Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra rehearses weekly.



Brittany Stephens

Want to be included in this publication?

E-mail

news@rometownnews.com for stories and photos or adv@rometownnews.com for advertising



Beginning Friday April 13, we will be offering sandwiches on our freshly milled, made from scratch whole grain bread.

606 Broad St. /706.235.1662 Mon. - Fri. 7am - 5:30 pm

VINTAGE CLOTHING SALE

Pillow Case Skirts, Screen Print Tee Shirts & Other

Assortment Of Clothing Available!!

FRIDAY, APRIL 20 & SATURDAY, APRIL 21

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

In The Courtyard @ Schroeder's

406 Broad Street

Call 706-234-9589 For More Information