

HARLINGEN ART FORUM

Issue: March 2008

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

RIOFEST!

The 26th Annual RioFest is on the Horizon. The Casa De Amistad is getting ready for the big show and HAF members are an integral part of the celebrations.

Member volunteers are needed to assist in the hanging of the children's art and other activities prior to the show.

Jan LeBleu will be asking for additional volunteers to assist with all the various show set up tasks, so please be sure and talk with her and volunteer as much as you are able.

Also HAF will once again have a booth at the show, so if you would like to display your art please be sure and sign up at D'Arte Centre as soon as possible. Exhibiting members are asked to assist with running the booth during the show so be sure and pick a time that you will have available to help.

If nothing else, attend the show, great art from many great sources and great family friendly entertainment.

Beachcombers

The 49th Annual Beachcombers fine art show is well into the planning stages.

Elizabeth Sullivan won our contest for the 2008 Beachcombers Mascot with this wonderful picture of Seahorses.



Beachcombers Sand Pit

Get your application in for your own booth at the 49th Annual Beachcombers! Registration closes June 1st so hurry up if you are planning on applying.

So far the hall is filling rapidly and it appears may be reluctantly be turning some applicants away.

The Harlingen Art Forum booth has openings, so if you'd like to show but don't need your own booth be sure and register to be part of the HAF booth.

Volunteers will be needed soon for completion of the successfully applicant packet mailings and to

assist with recruitment of show sponsors.

HAF News of Interest

There are 112 members of the Harlingen Art Forum as of March 15th 2008

Over 75 of those artists display more than 400 works at D'Arte Centre

**HARLINGEN ART FORUM
MEETING IS MONDAY March
24th**

6 PM AT D'ARTE CENTRE

The Harlingen Art Forum meeting on Monday Mar 24th will feature an informative discussion on Marketing Your Art.

Also, members just returned from the Mexico trip will be describing the wonders they saw and the wonderful time the rest of us missed.

From IMAGES OF HARLINGEN

D'Arte Center in Downtown Harlingen Creates a Nexus of Activity for Artists

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Artist Marta Vargas paints a canna lily during a class at D'Arte Centre. Photo by Jeff Adkins

Article by Eileen Mattei

At D'Arte Centre, a thriving cooperative artists' gallery on Jackson Street, landscapes, portraits, and still lifes share exhibition space with mosaics, pop art, ceramics, and wood and metal sculptures. Operated by the Harlingen Art Forum, D'Arte Centre is an integral part of the city's cultural scene.

Valley artists organized the Harlingen Art Forum in 1959 to promote an appreciation of the visual arts and to encourage artists through studio classes and exhibitions of their work. The Art Forum's first Beachcombers Art Show in 1961, held in airy beach cabañas on South Padre Island, established a tradition of presenting fine art by outstanding regional artists.

Now every summer, the popular juried show draws more than 100

artists and large crowds of patrons to the South Padre Island Convention Center. With profits from the Beachcomber show, the Art Forum funds three scholarships for Cameron County art students.

After so many years with no place to call home, the opening of D'Arte Centre in 2004 enabled the Art Forum to further evolve. Operating the gallery full-time has presented the 120 members with year-round opportunities to interact with the community and for the community to discover the talent in their midst.

Gallery director Celeste De Luna and the HAF Board develop monthly exhibits and host opening receptions to celebrate spotlighted artists.

"We tie exhibits to the community's interests, like our natural wonders," De Luna says.

Themes such as Monarch Migration and Birders' Choice stimulate enthusiastic participation by artists and appeal to the patrons.

The downtown location is convenient for customers to stroll into the gallery and discover the variety of works for sale. Staffed by member-volunteers who often paint or sketch between assisting customers, D'Arte Centre radiates a casual - come see what I'm working on' welcome.

Classes in watercolors, acrylics, oils, ceramics, jewelry and multimedia bring in both award-winning and beginning artists, along

with university professors and retired art teachers.

Education holds a constant place in D'Arte's calendar of events. The long-running, popular summer art program for children introduces kids to drawing, painting, print-making and stained glass through its various workshops.

Since artists so often toil in solitude, D'Arte Centre began a monthly studio night where members experiment with different types of media or work on a piece in the company of fellow artists, creating art and sharing ideas.

"It lets artists feel they are not alone, and it provides opportunities to learn," De Luna says.

In addition, Harlingen Art Forum contributes to city beautification by supplying artwork for Harlingen Cultural Arts Center, and for years, HAF has been a mainstay of RioFest, an annual art-in-the-park event.

Please send any info about HAF members to

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