



Photos by Tevin Stinson

Hundreds attended the opening night of Spring Extravaganza on Friday, March 11. The exhibit is designed to showcase the talent of students in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System.



Kadence Watson takes a photo with his award-winning painting during the opening night of the Spring Extravaganza art exhibit at the Milton Rhodes Center.

# Art exhibit opens featuring artwork from students

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

Hundreds of students, teachers, parents and other family members filed into the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts last Friday evening for the opening of a special exhibit that features some of the best artwork from students in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School System.

Spring Extravaganza is designed to showcase the talent within the elementary, middle and high schools in the area. The exhibit is filled with creations that are guaranteed to catch your eye. From hand painted underwater scenes, to cityscapes of downtown, and portraits of Santa Claus, the show has something for everyone.

Many students said they felt honored just to have their work displayed in a gallery like the professionals. Jayden Jones, a student at Meadowlark Elementary said when he

got the news that his work was going to be displayed at the gallery, he was elated.

Jones mentioned what he likes most about art is that you have the freedom to think outside the box.

"There's technically no rules when it comes to art," said Jones. "Art is considered anything, and anyone can do it."

WS/FCS Director of Arts and Education Brad Oliver mentioned every school in the district is represented in the exhibit. Oliver said the showcase wouldn't be possible without the partnership with Modern Automotive.

During opening night, winners were announced for the different divisions as well.

Modern Automotive awarded Sawtooth School for Visual Arts scholarships valued at \$250 for each winner, along with a family membership. Runners-up received student memberships to the Sawtooth School as well. Teachers of the three winners received certificates to pur-

chase art supplies.

When he found out he won first place in the elementary school division Kadence Watson from Caleb's Creek struggled to hold back a giant smile. Although he said he enjoys baseball more, Watson said after winning the award he will continue to create art as well.

"I was excited when I found out I won," he said. This is a real honor."

Youth coordinator at the Sawtooth School Nanette Davis congratulated all students, teachers and the WS/FCS Art Administration for their hard work.

"It takes a village," she said. "Tonight is proof of how much hard work and dedication that goes in throughout the school year."

## WSSU gallery director highlights black women at SECCA

BY ASHLEA JONES  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

12x12 is the new salon series launched by the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA). This new juried salon series features twelve artists from across North Carolina, the twelfth state to enter the Union. Each salon exhibition is accompanied by an artist talk.

This first salon exhibition opened on March 1 with Winston-Salem-based photographer Endia Beal. Beal's current body of work, "Am I What You're Looking For?" is a photo installation that features college-age African-American women.

"Through a series of striking portraits, the project explores aspirations and challenges faced by college-age African-American women hoping to enter professional and corporate space," stated Cora Fisher, curator of contemporary art at SECCA.

"Am I What You're Looking for?" is currently on display in the preview gallery of SECCA. During the exhibit's opening, Beal discussed her motivation behind the exhibit and answered questions from the audience. "People don't have these conversations enough. I was very pleased with how it all went down," states Fisher.

Beal is currently the director of the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) and an associate professor of art. She holds a dual baccalaureate degree in Studio Art and Art History from UNC Chapel Hill. She completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in Photography

from Yale University.

"A native of Winston-Salem, an artist, and a teacher pioneering the salon series was very fitting," says Fisher.

As an African-American woman, Beal has her own stories about working in a corporate space; however, this body of work was further inspired by questions from her female students at WSSU.

"Many of my students were coming to me about our transition into the corporate space. They were going on interviews and given the same kind of feedback that I received when I was in the corporate space," says Beal. "Your hair looks very unkempt or messy. You need to pull your hair back or straighten it. You have on too much makeup or those heels are too high. That color is too bright. Do you have any pearls?"

Beal feels that African-American women were being asked to mute themselves in order to gain opportunities and that was problematic.

"I decided to do a project very similar to a mock interview, where I allowed my students to be exactly who they were without having to alter themselves. We all have to alter ourselves in order to gain opportunities, which is unfortunate," says Beal. "But in this space, this artistic space, we are free to be whoever we want to be."

"Am I What You're Looking For?" will be on view in the Preview Gallery of SECCA until April 1.

## THE CHRONICLE

**We need your help choosing the next recipients!**

Nominate local people for one of several awards by using the nomination form below.

**Nominations can also be submitted through letters and emails but not phone calls.** Provide the nominee's name and contact information as well as factors that make the nominee worthy of being honored. Nominees should be Piedmont Triad residents.

**Please print legibly** and be as specific as possible in describing your nominee's accomplishments. Use additional paper if necessary.

Multiple nominations by the same person for same award not necessary.



The Community Service Awards program, now in its 31st year, honors individuals in the following categories:

**Man and Woman of the Year** individuals who have demonstrated outstanding character and serve as role models for others.

**Community Service Award** demonstrates a commitment to community service, community institutions, schools, churches, etc.

**Human Relations Award** is given to a person who has done great work to bring people together across racial, social or class lines.

**Lifetime Achievement Awards** Should be someone who has, over the years, epitomized what "role model" means.

Recipients will receive a commemorative plaque at the 31st Annual Awards Banquet on April 23, 6pm. Winners must be able to attend the banquet. **Nominations must be received by**

**THE CHRONICLE no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2016.**

**BANQUET TICKETS ARE \$30** and includes six month subscription or six month extension for current subscribers.

Deliver completed form to:  
The Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
or email info to [plewis@wschronicle.com](mailto:plewis@wschronicle.com)  
**no later than 5 p.m. on March 25.**

### NOMINATION FORM:

- |                                                     |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man of the Year            | <input type="checkbox"/> Woman of the Year                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Award    | <input type="checkbox"/> Minority Business of the Year Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Relations Award               |

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Phone # (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Activities, memberships, affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain briefly your candidate's service achievements: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone # (Home) \_\_\_\_\_