

## Downtown KM decorated for fall



photos by LIB STEWART

Suzanne Amos, left, who operates The Amos Agency, receives the first place award in the downtown decorating contest from the Chamber's Shirley Brutko.

Fall in October is bringing innovative decorations to the downtown.

Shirley Brutko, Director of the Kings Mountain Office, Cleveland Chamber, invites downtown businesses to display decorations from now until Thanksgiving to treat visitors and citizens to the

beautiful Fall color and foliage.

Contest prizes were donated by the Southern Arts Society, Battleground Steak House and Artist Shirley Brutko.

Assisting the Chamber office with the contest were Renee Hill, Debbie Mauney and Jewel Reavis.



Mauney Memorial Library took the third place award in the downtown decorating contest.

## 'Gateways to the South' on display at the Depot

New SAS exhibit features southern history, landmarks

The Southern Arts Society Exhibition underway at the KM Arts Council at the Depot through Nov. 9 is generating excitement and adding to the appreciation from the public was a public reception Saturday and presentation of awards. Over 60 artists participated in the tough competition.

Artists interpreted our southern history and well known landmarks in painting, photography and sculpture.

"My selection of the winning works was based on technical merit, creative thought and how the work drew me to discover its aesthetic qualities," said Dr. Mary Lou Hightower, USC Upstate Associate Art Professor.

First Place was awarded to Gary A. Shelley's oil painting, "Fallen Timbers". This work demonstrated a strong technical skill that at first glance made you think that you were viewing a photograph. There was a subtle play of light reflected in the foliage and danced along the rippling water that gave the viewer a feeling of a cool summer day in the forest. Though at first glance, the work appears to be photorealistic, upon closer inspection the work reflects the creative hand of the artist interpreting the special place. He won a \$200 cash prize.

Second Place was awarded to Lori McAdams' "Antiquing". This scratchboard work was executed in high degree of technical merit. This medium does not allow any margin of error in achieving the perspective view of an antique shop. Again this work seems to follow the overall theme of the exhibition by allowing the viewer a special insight into a world of old items and treasures of the past. She won a \$150 cash prize.

Third Place was awarded to Ann Walker's

fabric doll, "Addie". This 3D rendering of female figure demonstrate a strong aesthetic sensitivity to form. The delicate handling of the features especially in the face and feet gave the work a demanding presence. This figure will cause you to wonder what the figure was thinking after a hard day's work in the garden. She won a \$75 cash prize.

Merit Awards went to three artists who won \$50 cash prizes.

Martha Manco's acrylic painting, "Chimney Rock in Autumn" was given the Merit Award for its creative impression of a well-known landmark. Many artists have painted its likeness but the strong color palette of autumn moved away from photorealism to impressionistic view of the familiar scene.

Tammy Farley's "Era 1850's" was a sensitive photograph that captured a homey porch scene. The decision of a straw hat placed between unoccupied old wooden chairs proved to a strong draw to this judge's eye. The work portrays a warm look into by-gone days.

Lorene Lovell's "Memory Spaces" was a technically executed watercolor. The artist's decision to pull a strong burst of light through the background trees gives the work an almost eerie impression. This work conveys the artist's special style to a memorable place.

"Gateways to the South" will be on display in the galleries of Southern Arts Society through Nov. 9, 2012 at the depot, 301 N. Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information call 704-739-5585. This is a free event, there is no admission fee.



Ann Walker's fabric doll 'Addie'



Above: Gary A. Shelley's 1st place oil painting, 'Fallen Timbers'



At right: Martha Manco's Merit Award winning acrylic painting, "Chimney Rock in Autumn"