Participating Schools in the 2015 Otero Arts Festival

Cheraw High School  Cheraw Middle School
Crowley County High School  Ward Middle School
Genoa-Hugo Jr/Sr High School  Pioneer Christian School
Fowler High School  Fowler Middle School
Kit Carson High School  Kit Carson Jr. High
Manzanola High School  Manzanola Middle School
Mc Clave High School  Mc Clave Middle School
La Junta High School  La Junta Junior High School
Lamar High School  Lamar Middle School
Las Animas High School  Las Animas Middle School
Swink High School  Swink Middle School
Rocky Ford High School  Rocky Ford Jr High School
Wiley High School  Wiley Middle School
Granada High School  Granada Middle School

The 2015 Otero Arts Festival Committee

Debbie Phillips, Arts Festival Coordinator
Coordinator of Campus & Community Events, Otero Junior College

Steven Kalaher-Taillebois, Art Contest
Instructor of Art, Otero Junior College

RuAnn Keith, Story Telling Contest
Chair Department of Arts
Humanities Faculty, Otero Junior College

Darlene Blackford, Creative Movement Instructor
Entrepreneur

The members of the committee would like to express their appreciation to the students and their art and writing instructors who made this show possible. We also extend a very special thanks to the individuals who helped in the setup of the art show and the volunteers who helped host. Without their support, it would not be possible to continue this worthwhile event. This event has been successful for 59 years due to the dedication of all who volunteer and participate and the continuing support of Otero Junior College administration, faculty and staff. Our sincerest thanks to all.

59th Annual Otero Arts Festival

March 31 - April 2, 2015

“Celebrating the Youth of Our Area”

McDivitt Center Gym

Sponsored by:
Otero Junior College
The Otero Arts Festival is sponsored each year by the Otero Junior College and the Department of the Arts. Its purpose is to provide incentive and recognition for the expression of the arts in the Arkansas Valley and southeastern Colorado. It is our hope that you will enjoy the exhibits which are part of this year’s festival continuing through April 2nd.

Schedule of Activities for Arts Festival Week

Art and Creative Writing Exhibit McDivitt Center

Tuesday, March 31
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Open to the Public
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Open to the Public

Wednesday, April 1
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Open to the Public
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Open to the Public

Thursday, April 2
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Open to the Public
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Open to the Public

People’s Choice Balloting
Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
President’s Award Presented by Jim Rizzuto, President of Otero Junior College
Master of Ceremonies is Debbie Phillips, Otero Arts Festival Coordinator

Art Judges

This year’s judges included two national renown artists, Teresa Vita and Marty Brens.

“From the time I picked up my first crayon I knew that I had found it. The “it” that was my undying passion, forever to be fascinated with color, line, and shape.” explained judge Teresa Vito. Teresa Vito’s paintings reflect the beauty she sees all around her. She loves painting living energy, whether it is the outdoor landscape, berries and flowers picked for a still life, or the unending variety of the human face. Vito has been a full time oil painter since 1992, currently lives in Pueblo, Colorado. Vito has a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from the State University of New York at Geneseo and has taught and studied at the Art Students League at Denver and the Loveland Academy of Fine Arts. She painted with Richard Schmid for five years.

Vito has won numerous national awards including an Award of Excellence, Best Portrait and Best Still Life Awards from Oil Painters of America. She also received the Best of Show Award from the Artists of Colorado Exhibition held at the Colorado History Museum. Southwest Art Magazine, Collector’s Edition, chose her as Collector’s Choice for Still Life in 2006. Recently Vito received the Best of Show Award from Plein Air Artists of Colorado’s National show and Art Of The West Editor’s Choice Award and Best Body Of Work at the 10th Anniversary Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painter’s National Paint Out. Vito has been granted signature membership with Knickerbocker Artists, Oil Painters of America, Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters and Plein Air Artists of Colorado. The Sangre de Cristo Art Center purchased a painting for their permanent museum collection.

Vito is known for her enthusiastic and knowledgeable teaching skills. She has taught numerous workshops locally in Colorado and New Mexico and internationally in Provance, Burgundy and Bordeaux France, the Island of Hydra, Greece and in Tuscany.

Judge Marty Brens was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado and as a young person she passed a lot of her time drawing, mostly with pen and ink or pencil. She was encouraged early on by her mother who purchased her first set of pastels in the sixth grade. From that period on she began playing with other mediums, watercolor, acrylics and oil pastels. She sold her first watercolor commission at the age of 16, and it was then that she saw the possibilities of painting as a livelihood. In her twenties she worked in the design field and painted mostly in an abstract style. In 1990 she began to paint with oils on a more serious level, painting outdoors on location, “At this time my interest began to shift to representational work,” stated Brens.

Brens believes that the process of painting is an endless and challenging journey. “Painting is a humbling experience; every painting is a new lesson in technique,” explained Brens, “You are constantly being pushed to new levels. That’s the beauty of the journey!”

Brens chooses to paint intimate, simple compositions. She enjoys painting small parts of a whole; a piece of a mountain, small section of a garden, or intimate close up views. Her compositions seem inspired by a unique point of view.

Brens studied at Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design and took a commercial advertising course at Platte College in Denver.

She has studied with artists Quang Ho, Kim English, Michelle Torrez, Mark Daily, Lorenzo Chavez, Skip Whitcomb, Kang Cho, Kevin Macpherson, Teresa Vito, George Strickland, and others.
Award winning poet and writer Alysse Kathleen McCanna judged the Creative Writing competition for the 59th Annual Otero Arts Festival to be held March 31—April 2. Recently honored with a first place award for her poetry entries by the Sixfold Poetry Winter 2013 contest.

Returning judge for the creative writing entries will be writer and poet Alysse Kathleen McCanna. McCanna, who currently lives in Pueblo, works for the Colorado State University-Pueblo History and Psychology Departments. McCanna graduated from Smith College in 2007 and is currently pursuing her Masters of Fine Arts in Writing and Literature at Bennington College in Vermont.

“This creative writing contest sounds absolutely wonderful,” said McCanna “I would be honored to be a judge.”

McCanna’s poetry has appeared in or is forthcoming from Southwestern American Literature, Pilgrimage, Eleventh Muse, Calliope, The Comstock Review, Poesia, Porcupine, and Wisconsin: People & Ideas, among others.

McCanna was recently names the winner of Sixfold’s winter poetry contest in December 2013. Sixfold is a collaborative journal published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, each issue is free to read online and downloadable at www.sixfold.org. Five of McCanna’s poems appear in the winter 2013 edition.

“Each year, I write 30 poems in 30 days in both April and November,” said McCanna “I spend my spare time writing, editing, and sending poems & manuscripts to contests & publishers.”

In 2010 McCanna was the winner of the Mark Fischer Poetry Award (out of Telluride, CO), and placed third in the Women Who Write Annual Poetry Contest. In 2007 McCanna was awarded the Elizabeth Babcock Poetry Prize from Smith College, and in 2003 placed 2nd in the Harlan O. Roberson poetry contest from the Wisconsin Center of Academically

Art Contest Scholarship & Special Awards

Otero Junior College Scholarship
Bailey McManahan, Fowler High School
Instructor: Mrs. Rebecca Zartman

Otero Junior College Scholarship
Cassi Vasquez, Cheraw High School
Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Otero Junior College Scholarship Alternates
Rebecca Barrett, Crowley County High School
Instructor: Mr. Tim Goettel
Maritza Olvera, Manzanola High School
Instructor: Mrs. Crystal Cuckow

CSU-Pueblo Scholarships
Bailey McManahan, Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Rebecca Zartman
Rebecca Barrett, Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Tim Goettel

CSU-Pueblo Scholarships Alternates
Leah Roberson, Swink High School, Instructor: Mr. Max Cordova
Joshua Rocha, Swink High School, Instructor: Mr. Max Cordova

Presidents Awards
Rebecca Barrett - Title: “Butterfly”
Crowley County High School—Instructor: Mr. Tim Goettel

Judge’s Best of Show
Senior Division
Unique Froese - Title: “White Tiger”
Cheraw High School—Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Junior Division
Olivia Isenbart - Title: “Diamonds”
Kit Carson Junior High School—Instructor: Mrs. Lois Behrends

Judges’ Special Award
Senior Division
Drew Yochum -Title: “Art Class”, Cheraw High School - Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Junior Division
Colt Honey - Title: “Guardians of the Sky”, Cheraw Middle School - Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Judges’ Choice Award
Senior Division
Shannon McLeLland-Title: “Flower Vase”, Crowley County High School-Instructor: Mr. Tim Goettel

Junior Division
Ally Bartholomew -Title: “Fierce Lion”, Cheraw Middle School - Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner
Art Special Awards continued...

Fine Arts League Best of Show

Senior Division (Graduating Student)
Bryan Ceron - Title: “Twin”, McClave High School, Instructor: Mrs. Giget Brubacher

Senior Division
Drew Yochum - Title: “Trees”, Cheraw High School—Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner
Emma Brown - Title: ‘When in Rome’, Swink High School—Instructor: Mr. Max Cordova

Junior Division
Karley Kreiger - Title: “Mother Nature”, Manzanola Middle School—Instructor: Mrs. Crystal Cuckow
Haley Eckhart - Title: "Young Thomas", La Junta Junior High School—Instructor: Mr. Justin Miller

Art Senior Portfolio Awards

First Place
Bailey McMahan, Fowler High School, Instructor: Mrs. Rebecca Zartman

Second Place
Rebecca Barrett, Crowley County High School, Instructor: Mr. Tim Goettel

Third Place
Cassi Vasquez, Cheraw High School, Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Fourth Place
Mackenzie Mayo, Cheraw High School, Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner

Honorable Mention
Shelby Polkinghorn, Manzanola High School, Instructor: Mrs. Crystal Cuckow

Excellence in Art Awards

Senior Division
Grace Rink, Title: “Monsters of Men”, Granada High School, Instructor: Mrs. Damiani
Unique Froese, Title: “Oliver Sykes”, Cheraw High School, Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Turner
Sukey Kingster, Title: “Apocalypse Schmocalypse”, La Junta High School, Instructor: Mr. Justin Miller
Lexi Suiters, Title: “Sibling Love”, Swink High School, Instructor: Mr. Max Cordova

Junior Division
Austin Ballard, Title: "Mouse", La Junta Junior High, Instructor: Mr. Justin Miller

3D Awards

Best of Show - 3D
Marlene Garcia, Title: “Wu Yi Fan”, Manzanola High School, Instructor: Mrs. Crystal Cuckow

Judges’ Special Award
Kaitlyn Griffee, Title: “Sea of a State of Happiness”, Cheraw High School, Mrs. Jessica Turner

Judges’ Choice Award
Andrew Madrid, Title: “Hut of Bubba Jugga”, Lamar High School, Mr. John Gersick

Excellence in Art Award
Kelsey Eddy, Title: “Ball” La Junta High School, Mr. Justin Miller

Creative Writing Contest Scholarship & Special Awards

Judge’s Best Representative Work

Senior Division
Matt Alwin - Title: “Curse of the Maiden’s Basin”, 11th grade Short Story
Crowley County High School - Instructor: Mr. Henry Grossen

Junior Division
Emily Kelly - Title: “Ink”, 8th grade Poetry
Manzanola Junior High School - Instructor: Mrs. Williams

Otero Junior College Scholarship
Becca Smith - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Otero Junior College Scholarship Alternate
Devin Camacho - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Creative Writing Senior Portfolio Awards

First Place
Becca Smith - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Second Place
Devin Camacho - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Third Place
Kamron Grasmick - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Fourth Place
Zeph Pope - Swink High School, Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Honorable Mentions
Jennifer Franklin - La Junta High School, Mrs. Kelly Jo Smith

Creative Writing Book Winners

Best Overall Creative Book — Veronika Viescas, Title: “The Beauty of the World Surrounding Us”
Rocky Ford High School—Instructor: Mrs. Sue Shelton

Most Creative Creative Book — Hayley Stephenson, Title: “Gray”
Swink High School—Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Most Original Creative Book — Michael Weber, Title: “Poetry of Poetry”
Swink High School—Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Best Storyline Creative Book — Stephen J. Gossman, Title: “Life’s a Daydream”
Swink High School—Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen

Most Artistic Creative Book — Bethann Traver, Title: “Proper Tense”
Swink High School—Instructor: Mrs. Bonnie Grossen