

ARTISTS BEAT

Thomasville Cultural Center Arts Guild

Spring 2003

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR 2003 SUMMER SHOWCASE PROSPECTUS!

To be mailed out the third week of March

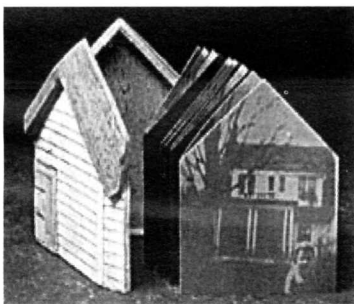
A trip to our galleries will be a great learning experience for any aspiring artist. The articles in this issue will help you gain some historical perspective on the spring exhibits that will give you a fresh understanding of the art forms you are viewing. Definitions of some of the terms used are given in the Learn the Lingo section. As you view these works you will be challenged to expand your horizons and perhaps find your own "artistic voice" in your work as you try something fresh and perhaps totally different than you've ever done before.

Art Books

Post-Modernist Approach to Hand Made Books

April 7 — May 17 Hallway Gallery

The ancient Babylonians made their marks on clay tablets. For centuries Egyptians, Greek and Romans scrolls were used to convey information. The accordion fold book was developed in Asia and traveled to Africa through Ethiopian and Egyptian Coptic examples. Through the Gothic period monks carefully copied the words of Scripture on parchment and embellished them with calligraphic lettering and painted illustrations colored with tempera, inks and pure gold.



In the last 20 years there has been a proliferation of artists who make books. When we say "book arts," the beautifully designed and printed text on handmade paper in a fine binding is what first comes to mind. Yet the most interesting of the Post-Modern books are primarily sculptural and sometimes without words.

Today, some crafts people with decades of experience in the book disciplines have developed new approaches often influenced by the efforts of artists who have not necessarily mastered the intricacies of techniques. Many of the artists in this exhibit have reproduced the book structures of distant times and places, have handled and studied the book forms of many cultures and incorporated the aesthetics of the world's civilizations by direct contact. They are designing new book structures developed from traditional forms and adapting old structures to convey a contemporary vision.

Edward Mitchell Bannister

19th Century American Landscape Painter

April 7 - May 17 Main Gallery Small Room

Edward Mitchell Bannister was particularly proficient at seascape and landscape paintings. This collection of oil paintings reflect the beauty of the Rhode Island coast and countryside where the artist lived from the mid-1870's until he died in 1901. Also included are some portraits, a still life and a figure titled "Maiden of the Sea."

Bannister was influenced by the new romantic realism style of the Barbizon School that was brought to the United States by William Morris Hunt. His painting "Under the Oaks" won a first-place bronze medal and certificate of award at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. In winning this award Bannister became the first American artist to gain international recognition for American landscape painting, making the Barbizon landscape style prevalent in the United States.

This award also made Bannister one of the earliest known and highly visible African American artists of this period. The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association awarded him a silver medal in 1881 and again in 1884. The same association in 1878 gave him a bronze medal.

