



April 10, 2017
For immediate release

**“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy
in creative expression and knowledge.”**

- Albert Einstein

ArtCenter Manatee Welcomes the Work of Students from the School District of Manatee County, Grades K-12

BRADENTON, Fla. April 10, 2017 – What do you get when you challenge young artists in grades K-12 to express themselves creatively using paper, paint, markers, crayons, clay, copper and all sorts of other materials, and then bring it all together in the galleries of ArtCenter Manatee? You not only get an incredible art exhibit, you get a glimpse into our future, one where nothing is impossible and all our senses are engaged. Color, shape, dimension, mass, problem-solving, creative thinking, insightfulness and joy. These are some of the elements present. We are honored to host this fourth annual exhibit.

According to the National Arts in Education Association, learning to paint, create a website or design an energy-efficient home requires mastering skills which are often invisible to the naked eye, but are developed through a strong visual arts education. In Manatee County, we're fortunate to have a Board of Education that has made a continued commitment to teaching the visual arts in its elementary, middle and high schools. By partnering with ArtCenter Manatee, that commitment is furthered by giving these young artists a 'voice' – three museum-quality galleries – where their work can be professionally displayed and where the artists can receive positive recognition by a wider audience.

ArtCenter Manatee offers the gallery space, marketing and expertise to help these budding artists get their due. The ArtCenter will also award scholarships to art classes to students whose work is judged (by an independent juror) to be among the best in each of three grade ranges.

For many students, it will be their first experience in preparing their work for display. And certainly for pricing their work with an eye to selling it. For most students, it will also be the first time they have ever been to an art gallery. The experience will show students the process of creating and preparing artwork for exhibit. The lessons they learn will stay with them throughout their lives.

The opening reception, with Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, will be on Wednesday, April 26, from 5:00-7:00pm. Light, kid-appropriate snacks and beverages will be served. Exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

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About ArtCenter Manatee

Founded in 1937, ArtCenter Manatee celebrates its 80th Anniversary this year. Located in downtown Bradenton, Florida, ArtCenter Manatee is the premier center for art, art education and unique gifts in Manatee County. The nearly 10,000 sq. ft. building features three galleries, five classrooms, an Artists' Market gift shop and an art library featuring over 3,000 art volumes.

Day, evening and weekend art classes for adults and children are offered year round in painting, drawing, pastels, pottery, jewelry, photography and more.

The Artists' Market features unique, affordable gifts by local, regional and national artists. Exhibitions in the galleries change monthly and showcase local, regional and national artists. Meet the exhibiting artists at the monthly evening opening receptions.

For more information please visit <http://www.artcentermanatee.org> or call 941-746-2862

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"44 Years by the Sea" by Rolf, 11th grade, First Place award Winner, 2016



"Leo the Lion" batik by Molly Persson, 9th grade, 2015