



# The Huntsville Times

## Athens State alumni turn school into a work of art

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Exhibit runs through Feb. 12 and features a variety of media

Alumni from Athens State University have returned to campus, not for a reunion but to canvas the campus in a different way.

The Athens State Alumni Art Exhibit opened Jan. 11 in the art gallery of Sandridge Student Center and will remain open to the public through Feb. 12. The 2010 show is the fifth year that the former students have shown their designs.

"An opportunity to meet the artists, along with a reception, will be held Feb. 11 from 5 to 8 p.m.," said Guy McClure, director of public relations, marketing and publications at Athens State.

The show includes artwork from 11 alumni. The work was created in various mixed media with oil, acrylic, watercolor, pencil, clay - even a piece created with coffee.

"The exhibit also has photography and graphic design," professor of art Pamela Keller said.

"My favorite just happens to be one of the largest in the show by Gary Anderson," McClure said. The painting depicts a fisherman enthusiastically holding up his catch of the day.

"You can clearly see the happiness in the subject's face - a happiness that I have experienced on the rare occasion that I have actually caught a fish," McClure said.

Southern scenes are represented in the show, but "this show reaches beyond the typical Southern landscapes," he said.

"Richard Drewyor's colorful abstracts are bold and interesting. Lenore Corey has a very interesting narrative piece, and Sasha Easterling created her own style using coffee as an art form," he said.

One alumnus with work in the exhibit is Dennis Johnson, who retired after nearly 30 years of teaching at Athens State, Keller said. "He is exhibiting large abstract oil paintings in light hues that show interesting figure/ground relationships and movement of the forms in the work."

McClure compared the art majors and graduates of Athens State's art department to a big family. "They participate and promote this show yearly due to their collective love of art in both its execution and admiration."

Each artist has his or her own style, "but like a family it all works together for a very cohesive and pleasing show," McClure said.

For more information, call 233-8216 or visit [athens.edu](http://athens.edu).

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