

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:

Jody Klase, Director of Development
Phone: 330-392-6244, ext. 1161

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Artists find outlet from mental illness on canvas

October 8, 2010

WARREN - Trumbull Art Gallery showcased Thursday the work of about 30 artists who are dealing with mental health issues, either personally or professionally.

"I think a lot of them find it therapeutic," said Jody Klase, director of development with Valley Counseling Services, whose clients are the artists. "A lot of times it can be an outlet for their anger or their depression."

The artwork in the Valley Community Mental Health Foundation show ranged from pen and ink drawings to paintings and photography and even a balloon cornucopia.

One of the artists, Dave Reahly of Warren, displayed three pieces, including two pen and ink drawings of John Lennon.

"I saw the Beatles when I was 10 years old, and it was a dream to see him," said Reahly.

He said he had a bus trip planned for New York in 1980 in hopes of meeting Lennon, but the former Beatle was shot to death a week before the trip was scheduled.

Reahly also wore a piece of artwork in the form of his jacket, which he said was available to anyone who was interested.

"If someone wants to buy me, I'm on sale. Hang me on the wall," Reahly quipped.

Other pieces that caught the eye of the large crowd gathering inside the gallery was a display by a young artist from Tennessee, Bernadette Resha. Resha was born with Down syndrome and has become known throughout the art community for her vivid paintings.

"Our main goal was to decrease the stigma related to mental illness," Klase said. "There's positivity around those dealing with mental health issues."

According to Klase, the spectrum of mental health represented by the artwork ran the gamut, with some dealing with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anger issues, addictions and everything in between.

"We've planned this for quite some time," said Pat Galgozy, consultant director of TAG. "To see them come in in a gallery environment, to see it hanging... It gives credibility to their art."

One of the artists whose work garnered a lot of attention was David Bullis of North Benton. One of his paintings was a colorful display of reds, oranges and blues with a yellow cross in the middle of it all, and the other a Jackson Pollack-esque painting that stopped many guests in their tracks.

Another favorite was a piece by two young foster children who stamped their hands and feet on a canvas, creating a colorful collage unique from any other.

"It's a beautiful show, we're thrilled to have it here," Galgozy said.

For those who attended, if they donated \$5 or more, they were automatically entered into a drawing with the prize being a P. Buckley Moss print.