

Backstreet hosts reception for Little Dickens winners

FLORENCE — Backstreet Gallery presents artists Bill Johnson and Jan Woodford, who won the Best of Show awards for last December's Little Dickens Show. Their new exhibition will be mighty, but maybe not miniature.

Their reception is April 11, from 3 to 5 p.m., during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour.

Refreshments will be served.

Since childhood, Woodford has loved art with her parents fostering her talents. She's been painting and developing her expertise for 50 years, and pastels for the past 16 years.

Woodford loves to work in series. Her most recent endeavor is her masterfully executed seascapes where one can almost feel the sea spray with waves crashing against the shore. She might paint with oil, plein air or take photos and combine them in the richness of her style with pastels.

One of these beautiful seascapes won best of show at the miniature show in the 2D category.

She is equally adept at portraiture. Woodford coordinates the Figure Eight artists who meet bi-weekly with a live model.

In February, the Siuslaw Public Library showcased her work. She has exhibited at Tsunami Gallery, Mind Power Gallery and Peace Harbor Hospital. She creates with a group of artists at Old Town Coffee, where she is a permanent exhibitor.

Being an FRAA member, Woodford's art appears at the Art Center.

Johnson entered several Little Dickens



COURTESY PHOTOS

Bill Johnson and Jan Woodford, who won Backstreet Gallery's Little Dickens Show, are the gallery's artists of the month. A reception will be held for them April 11. Johnson's creation (top right) and Woodford's painting (at right) are on display.

Shows and won awards at each show for his 3D pieces. He, too, has been artistic since childhood when he loved to draw hot rods.

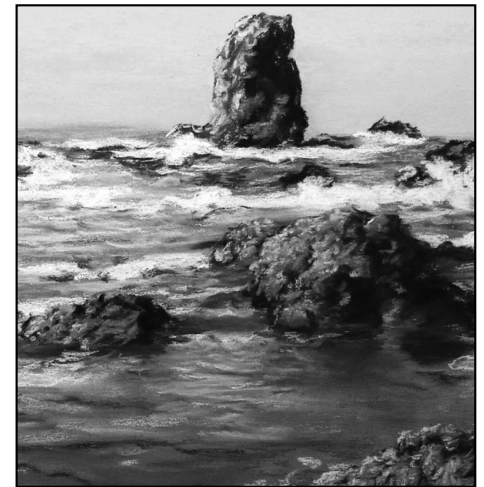
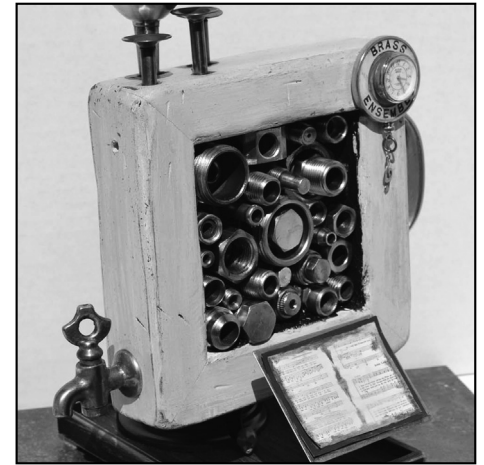
At Pasadena City College, he began to take art and design classes. He pursued a career in the aerospace industry. Later he worked in residential design and graphic arts.

Workshops like "Artist Is You, Art and

Soul," and an assemblage class with Michael de Meng have influenced his present day art.

He expresses himself by gathering discarded objects that he finds in thrift shops and garage sales then transforms and assembles them into freestanding sculptural pieces.

Machine parts, clocks, watches, dials, meters, gears and chains are a few of the



items you might find pieced together in his unique sculptures.

Come enjoy their distinctive creations during April at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St. in Florence.

The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dulin, Maroney next performers in spring House Concert series

FLORENCE — Pianist/composers Michael Dulin and Greg Maroney will be making their third appearances in Kathy Parsons' House Concert series on Saturday, April 18, at 7 p.m., in the Sandpines West development of Florence.

Come enjoy an evening of great music, humor and heartwarming stories about music and life. There is a suggested donation of \$20 at the door, and reservations can be made by calling Kathy Parsons at 541-999-9720 or emailing her at kathypiano@gmail.com.

The address and directions to the concert will be furnished when reservations are made.

Dulin, a native of Brookside, Ala., completed his musical training at the Juilliard School in New York, where he worked with master teacher and concert pianist Adele Marcus. He has competed at an international level as a classical pianist and was a finalist in the (2014) 10th Annual International Acoustic Music Awards.

Dulin's albums of original music have twice been awarded the prestigious Lifestyle Music Award.

Four of his albums have reached the No. 1 spot on Zone Music Reporter's World Airplay Charts, and his newest release, "My Beloved," is headed in that

direction as well.

In addition to performing his original music throughout the United States, Dulin appears both solo and with orchestra in performances of classical music.

He has also toured as keyboardist with the legendary Motown group, the Temptations.

Dulin and his wife, Jan, live in Birmingham, Ala., where Jan is a school administrator and Michael is managing partner at PSI Recording.

Maroney is a contemporary solo piano artist who has released 12 CDs of original piano music including "Spectrum of Love," which was nominated for

Whisperings 2011 Album of the Year.

His emotionally rich music captures the beauty and majesty of life as well as its more turbulent side. Maroney and his wife, Linda, live on a small farm in south central Pennsylvania where they raise a great deal of their own food and seek to live peacefully and in harmony with nature.

House concerts provide a relaxed setting where the audience can interact with the artists.

CDs and songbooks will be available for sale and for autographing by the artists. More information is available at www.mainlypiano.com.