

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Barbara Hanapole

Email: publicity@MarbleheadFestival.org

Phone: 978.969.3239 (o)

Cell: 781.608.7784 (c)

URL: www.marbleheadfestival.org

NOTE: We have a wide array of pictures from the Festival, including shots of award winners, performances, Children's and Street Festivals, Sand Sculpture competition, etc. Please contact Barbara Hanapole at: publicity@MarbleheadFestival.org to discuss the images you are looking for.

2006 Marblehead Festival of Arts

Event Recap

Marblehead, MA (July 7, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts enjoyed a record turnout at its wide range of events scheduled for this past July 4th weekend. From the opening Writers' World keynote by Julia Glass until the last juggler went home from the Street Festival, the 2006 Marblehead Festival of Arts celebrated one successful event after the next, breaking new ground with the Mixed Media Exhibit and drawing old friends together on the dance floor at the Crocker Park. Just how far do visitors travel to attend this annual event? A guest book at the Boxes in Bloom exhibit recorded visitors from:

In Massachusetts: Marblehead, Swampscott, Beverly, Salem, Danvers, Walpole, Melrose, Leominster, Rowley

Outside of the Bay State: Silver Lake, Ohio; Morrisville, PA; West Bend, Wisconsin; Sarasota, FL; Philadelphia, PA; New York, NY; Bedford, NH

Outside the US: Sweden; Beirut, Lebanon; Paris, France; Edmonton and Alberta, Canada

Artist submissions from a broad spectrum of media were acknowledged by both accomplished judges in their respective fields and also the very popular People's Choice awards.

Here is a recap of the People's Choice award winners and just some of the festivities (For more award details see attached spread sheet and for descriptions of individual events, please visit the Festival website at: www.marbleheadfestival.org):

AWARDS:

People's Choice Award Winners:

Crafts: Robert Pelletier "Time for Marbles & Bells"

Drawing: Pete Meehan "West Beach—November"

Film Festival: Coleman Miller "Usu Justo"

Mixed Media: Ursina Amsler "Migration Quilt" (Handmade Paper Assemblage)

Painting: Dick Buckley "Sun Dancer"

Painting the Town: Susan W. Daly "Flores Mantilla"

Photography: Stephen F. Fulghum, Jr. "Wake for Me"

Printmaking: Lynda Goldberg "Fall" at the Pond

Sculpture: Beverly Seamans "Coming In"

Senior Art: Joan Gessner "Antigonne"

Boxes in Bloom Awards: See attached spread sheet.

Painting the Town Awards:

Best of Show: Holly Aloha Jaynes "Walking Up Tucker Street" (Oil)

Outstanding Works:

Elaine Caliri Daly "Seascape" (Watercolor)

William Cloutman "Little Harbor" (Oil on board)

Honorable Mention:

Em Marquis Brown "Little Harbor in Action" (Oil)

Suzanne Hennessey "Three Shacks" (Watercolor)

EVENT-BY-EVENT SUMMARIES:

Film Festival

The longest film in the 15-film short lineup (22 minutes), Coleman Miller's "Usu Justo" won the "People's Choice" award for the best film at the Film Festival. Miller's film, the title of which means "Fair Use" (a legal term pertaining to the appropriate use of copyrighted material) is about a group

of characters in a 1959 Mexican hospital drama who suddenly realize that the film in which they are acting is "found footage" and that they are now characters in an experimental film. The film thoroughly entertained Festival-goers as it was as insightful about the challenges experimental film makers face, as it was funny.

"Somedays" by Swampscott's Emily Roberts, an experimental music video about the need to connect, won Honorable Mention in the People's Choice awards. This is the third film shown by Roberts (now a student at Brown University), and she never fails to surprise.

Logo Store

A full wardrobe of items emblazoned with the award-winning Festival logo was offered at this year's Festival. For those who were not able to get their official MFoA 2006 Logo Gear at the Festival, a limited supply of tee shirts and assorted pieces are still available at Irresistibles, 50 Atlantic Avenue and at Mud Puddle Toys, 1 Pleasant Street, both in Marblehead.

Mixed Media

While the consistent traffic at the new Mixed Media exhibit was not a surprise (even up to the very end on the 4th), the interaction between Festival-goers discussing the pieces was unexpected. Adults and children alike seemed to really study the pieces, choosing their favorites and debating why they liked one piece over another. Several Mixed Media artists showed up to see the exhibit and ended up giving informal "gallery talks" telling how their piece was created and what was their inspiration. People asked questions and got answers and really enjoyed the interaction. The general feedback was that people loved the show and the artists were thrilled that Mixed Media was added as a new much-needed category. The success of this exhibit can be attributed to Exhibit Co-chair May Britt who lobbied for several years on behalf of the Mixed Media artists.

Sand Sculpture Competition

This year, 188 sand sculpting enthusiasts constructed 59 sand sculptures for the competition. Inspired by master sand sculptor, Sean Fitzpatrick who was on hand to sculpt a 6-foot replica of Abbot Hall, there were many innovative designs including Dina Difruscia's "Crab Hotel," Nicole Frevold's use of patriotic materials, and Chris Bingel's "Turtle Castle Island." Most of the sand sculptures were team projects, with one person designated as the team captain. Crusty Molly (aka

Hope Carpenter) face painted many willing young sand sculpture artists, while also serving as Chief Magistrate Sand Sculpture Judge. Photos by Tammy Picone Nohelty are available.

Writers' World

WW Co-chair, Chuck Scheffreen reports that the attendance at Writers' World this year and its workshops far exceeded any previous year. Workshops that would normally see 8-10 people present had 20-30 people attendees ... all of them!

RANDOM QUOTES:

From Steve Webster, designer of award winning 2006 Festival Logo: "The Webster family would like to thank you all for organizing such a great Festival this year. We have lived in town for over 20 years now, and have attended the Festival of Arts every July. This is our first year of being a part of the event, and we now have a much deeper appreciation for all the work and volunteer spirit that goes into making the event so successful. We attended as many of the events as we could, and will say that you really did Marblehead proud. You all must be very pleased. And exhausted! So, congratulations on a job well done!"

From Street Festival attendee: "Oh, I do miss living in Marblehead so much!"

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writers' World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisans' Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

#