3 new exhibits arrive at Pickens Museum

Dolls, paintings and Cherokee masks will be on display

By Paul Hyde
Arts Writer
phyde@greenvilleonline.com

Cherokee masks will share space with paintings and art dolls as the The Pickens County Museum of Art & History opens three new exhibitions on Sept. 10.

"We try to touch a lot of bases, offering a lot of variety for the community," said Allen Coleman, executive director of the Pickens County Cultural Commission. "These three exhibitions are very different but they'll complement each other quite nicely."

The exhibitions, running through Nov. 10, are:

» "Masks of the Cherokee: the Blumer and Smith Collection."

» "The Stuffits: Art Dolls."

» "The Fine Art Ramblers Totally Safe Art & Music."



The Fine Art Ramblers is a group of visual artists who also enjoy performing music together. Their works will be on display at the Pickens County Museum of Art & History on Sept. 10. PICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

The Cherokee mask exhibition features more than 60 works by 24 contemporary Cherokee artists.

Masks are an important part of Cherokee culture and are used during prayer and in dances for everything from celebrating the harvest to seeking help before a hunt, Colemen said.

"A great collection of masks will be on display," Coleman said. "It's all beautiful work."

The works include a variety of Clan Masks, representing the seven clans of the Cherokee, as well as several Booger Masks, which symbolize the enemies of the Native American tribe.

The Cherokee works come from the collections of Thomas J. Blumer and Robert P. Smith.

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This mask by John Wilnoty II represents the "Paint Clan," one of the seven Cherokee clans represented by the masks that will be on display at the Pickens County Museum of Art & History beginning Sept. 10. /PICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

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The "Art Dolls" exhibit, meanwhile, showcases a variety of 85 cloth arts dolls by a dozen local members of "The Stuff-

"We've worked with the Stuffits twice in the past 15 years," Coleman said. "It's a popular item. I've always enjoyed working with them."

Some dolls were inspired by storybooks while others represent trolls, dragons and other characters of the fantasy world.

Each doll is completely hand made. Founded in 1993, the Stuffits meet monthly at the Pendleton branch of the Anderson County Library.

The third exhibition features the works of "The Fine Art Ramblers," a group of well-known visual artists who also happen to enjoy performing music together.

The artists are Patti Brady, Jim Campbell, Bob Chance, Phil Garrett, David McCurry and Joel Wilkinson. They work in a variety of mediums, from painting to pottery.

"These are very well-established artists," Coleman said. "We'll feature five to six pieces from each of these artists."

Musically, the group enjoys performing old songs as well as some swing and blues.

The "Fine Art Ramblers" will perform some of their music at the opening reception of the three exhibitions from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sept. 10. The public is invited to this free event.



This mask by Paul Hornbuckle represents the "Wild Potato Clan," one of the seven Cherokee clans represented by the masks that will be on display at the Pickens County Museum of Art & History beginning Sept. 10. PICKENS COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

YOU CAN GO

What: Three exhibitions at the Pickens County Museum of Art & History: "Masks of the Cherokee: The Blumer and Smith Collection," "The Stuffits: Art Dolls," and "The Fine Art Ramblers Totally Safe Art & Music."
When: Opening Sept. 10 and continuing through Nov. 10. Museum hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (The Fine Art Ramblers will be featured at the opening reception, Sept. 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)
Where: The Pickens County Museum of Art & History, 307 Johnson Street in Pickens.
Tickets: Admission-free
Information: 864-898-5963

Arts writer Paul Hyde can [illegible] 1004.