Artists to gather Saturday at historic Pickens home

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
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PICKENS — Sandra Thomas finished the last brush strokes on her canvas portrait piece Wednesday in preparation for Saturday's Art in the Garden event in downtown Pickens.

She will be one of 13 local artists featured under the shade trees at the historic Hagood-Mauldin house at 104. N. Lewis St. from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

"I just really like to paint. It's not something I've done my whole life – now it's a hobby when I find time," Thomas said. "I mostly paint or make charcoal sketches of portraits."

These portraits line the walls of Thomas' new art studio on Ann Street in Pickens.

"I usually don't sell my artwork because they are portraits of specific people. Most of the work I do is for people who ask," she said.

She'll be on the Hagood-Mauldin home's lawn demonstrating her technique and will have several works on hand to sell.

Artist Marge Schaefer, publicity chair for the Pickens County Historical Society, said Saturday's Art in the Garden features not only local artists, such as Thomas, but also the Hagood-Mauldin home and gardens.

"The home was built in the mid- to late 1750s at the old Pickens site on the Keowee River," Schaefer said. "It was moved to Pickens in 1868 and sits on the highest point in the city."



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Sandra Thomas puts the final touches on her most recent painting. A portrait artist, Thomas will be one of 13 artists selling and displaying work at Saturday's Art in the Garden event at the historic Hagood-Mauldin house in Pickens.

All that remains of Old Pickens is the Old Pickens Presbyterian Church on the Oconee County side of the Keowee River. It was once a bustling town that stretched eight blocks, but moved to the current Pickens when Oconee County was divided from the Pickens District.

Features inside the Hagood-Mauldin home include the Irma Morris Museum of Fine Arts, a Dutch grandfather clock from the 1740s, original "courting" seats and several Chippendale furniture pieces.

The home's walk-through garden features blooming roses, daylilies, primroses and lamb's ears, and master gardeners will be available for tours.

In addition, Art in the Garden will also highlight weaving, chair caning and woodworking techniques.

"We've been putting this on for four years now, and it's always a great turnout," Schaefer said.

For more information, contact Schaefer at (864) 878-6216. Dogs are not allowed on the property. Street signs for the Hagood-Mauldin home are visible on Pickens' Main Street near the McDonald's.

mikayla@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6681
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