

# Downtown Go 'Round features 'Recession Proof'

BY LADONNA BEEKER  
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**SENECA** — To prove the recession doesn't stop the arts, Blue Ridge Arts Council will present its 21st annual juried show tonight with more than 90 artists featured and highlighting their creativity during an economic recession.

**BRAC Executive Director Lisa Kiser** said 93 artists from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia entered the juried show, which Kiser said is the largest turnout of entrants from every artistic medium.

"This is one of our highest, prestigious shows," Kiser said.

Brian Lang, of the Columbia Museum of Art, judged the show, and Kiser said it took more than 3 hours to make his selections for the "Recession Proof" exhibit.

"We were blown away at the quality of work we received," Kiser said.

Entries for the exhibit opened in October, and artists could submit work completed in the last two years.

"We feel (Brian Lang) did an excellent job choosing the artwork," Kiser said.

"Recession Proof" features 80 pieces, and 49 others will be placed in The Salon, which will also be on display in the studio and collection space at BRAC.

"This show brings a large group of artists that we don't normally get," Kiser said.

To honor the artists,



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**President Melody Davis, foreground, and Bonnie Ouellette label artwork in the Blue Ridge Arts Council's "Recession Proof" exhibit, which opens today. The exhibit features 93 artists from the Carolinas, as well as Georgia.**

## ARTISTS' AWARDS

**Best of Show:** Christy Green, "Mama's Eyes," pencil drawing

**First place, three-dimensional:** Mark Woodward, "Inside Out," ceramic sculpture

**First place, two-dimensional:** Ray Richards, "Converging Arches," photo composition

**Second place:** Nancy Thomas, "Peaceful Feeling," pastel drawing

**Third place:** Suzanne Glenn, "Orchards," batik scarf

BRAC gave awards for Best in Show, as well as first place in three-dimensional and second-dimensional work and second and third place prizes. The artists will be recognized at 6:30 p.m. tonight during a reception at BRAC, alongside Seneca's Downtown Go 'Round event.

"Through looking at art, we gain a deeper understanding of ourselves as human beings and a greater appreciation of the world around us," Lang said.

Appreciating the world and its creativity is how BRAC staff developed the name for the exhibit.

"The creativity of

artists was not affected by the recession," Kiser said.

"Recession Proof" will be featured through March 1 in the BRAC gallery, at 111 E. S. Second St., from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; all pieces are for sale. Susan Goodwin, BRAC's artist of the month, will also be recognized with her artwork displayed in the organization's foyer.

Also featured for Downtown Go 'Round, which is from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tonight through downtown Seneca, is an invitational ceramic exhibit at The Artists' Loft.