



## Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### Georgia Artists with DisAbilities Exhibit to Visit Douglasville

*Douglasville, Georgia* – Over 45 award-winning pieces of art from disabled artists across Georgia will be on display June 2 - July 22 at the Georgia Artists with Disabilities, Inc.'s 31st annual statewide tour and exhibit at the Cultural Arts Council, 8652 Campbellton St. The opening reception will be hosted by the Douglas County Pilot Club on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Council. The entries in the 2015-16 exhibit includes paintings, photographs, clay pottery, textiles, and other mediums. This year, we have two winning artists from Douglasville – Susan Barton, who created the watercolor painting “Sunrise in the Mountains,” and Zachary Shay with his two clay entries, “White Bird Hold Pot” and “Orange Cloud Pot.”

Susan Barton is a 40 year old artist from Douglasville, GA who has developed a love of painting inspired by art classes taken at the Red Cockerill Gallery over the past two years. Successfully painting a new still life or portrait on a weekly basis has provided a context for Susan to gain confidence in painting while being supported to expand her artistic skills. Susan uses a Dynavox speech generating device and I Pad to supplement her expressive communication. Painting has become an additional mode of expression for Susan to communicate to others her abilities and reflect her perspective.

Zachary is a young artist who has born profoundly deaf. He was also born with no radius bones or thumbs, though he never considered these conditions handicaps. His favorite mediums are clay and oil paint. He specializes in antique looking pottery with naturalistic themes.

“Georgia Artists with Disabilities continues to be an avenue that allows hundreds of disabled artists to achieve recognition and commercial opportunities for their unique pieces of art,” said Ann Brooks, GAWD chair. “We’re proud to be an advocate for the disabled in communities across Georgia and honored to put their art on display every year for the public to see and enjoy.”

Judging the entries in this year’s exhibit were:

Allen Bell, arts education manager at Georgia Council for the Arts. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Berry College and a master’s from Binghamton University.

Meryl Manfre Clark, the current arts center coordinator for The Art Station-Big Shanty in Cobb County, holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Auburn University.

Donna Colebeck, lecturer of studio art in the department of art and design in Kennesaw State University’s College of the Arts.

Continuing with the theme, the Douglas County Courthouse will host the exhibit, “Celebrate Abilities: The Art of Special Olympians” through the month of July. Their opening reception will be held on the third floor of 8700 Hospital Drive, Douglasville, GA on Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 until 6 p.m.

Georgia Artists with Disabilities, Inc. was founded in 1985 by the Pilot Clubs of Metro Atlanta and is supported by Georgia District Pilot Clubs. The goal of the Pilot International Foundation is "full citizenship for people who are disabled." The mission of Georgia Artists with Disabilities is to provide avenues through which Georgia artists with disabilities can display their artistic accomplishments in all disciplines of the arts, and to create public awareness of the artistic skills these artists have developed by overcoming the obstacles of their disabilities. Georgia Artists with Disabilities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County, located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, is open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For directions and more information, visit [www.artsdouglas.org](http://www.artsdouglas.org) or contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770.949.2787.

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*The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/ Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups. The Cultural Arts Council is supported in part by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.*