



CONTENT BY JORDAN HOYLE

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On the first Friday of every month, art galleries in downtown Grand Junction keep their doors open late, welcoming locals to participate in First Friday art walks, keeping with a tradition shared by cities across the country.

On the evening of Friday, Feb. 7, Junctionites came out and experienced the wide array of talent that surrounds them. The Art Center, located at 1803 N. 7th St., hosted its annual Members' Exhibit, which was free and open to the public. Camille Silverman, Executive Director and Curator of the Art Center, spoke to her fellow art-lovers, stating that with over 300 works of art entered

into the exhibit, it was one of the largest shows she'd seen in her six years of working there.

Local artists and art-lovers also congregated at the Raw Canvas Tattoo Studio and Art Gallery, 507 Main St., for the opening of FLIGHT!, a member exhibit featuring 20 artists. Patrons and artists munched on appetizers from Bin 707 while being serenaded by the local band, Magpie.

Paintings, photographs, sculptures, mixed media pieces, and digital drawings were also on display at Interiors, Etc. on 602 Main St. and +1 Gallery, located at 225 North 5th St.



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1. Maria Pinder and Carolyn Thompson admire the beauty of Sheila Plsek's 'Regal Riot,' featured at the Art Center. Their first thought was that the butterflies on the piece were fake, but they were amazed to look closer and find that the insects were actually made of carved gourds and wood.

2. Four-year-old Leia Herrera poses in front of her paintings featured below those of her father, local artist and Raw Canvas member Aaron Herrera.

3. CMU student Daniel Stocker plays around with a magnetic piece of Matthew Bennett's statue at the Raw Canvas.

4. Ashtonn Means, a CMU junior and fine arts major, has been taking classes at The Art Center since she was 13. Means entered two pottery pieces in the Members' Exhibit, one of which (on top) she titled 'Cornflower' for the color and design that both resemble the sweet crop.

5. Joe Jones poses for a photo with his acrylic on canvas piece, 'Ladder Canyon Locomotive,' on display at the Art Center. "I enjoy painting actual landscapes rather than creating something in my head," said Jones, owner of Rock'n'Art Gallery and Studio, LLC at 2701 Highway 50.

6. Friends Rachel Culpepper and Kayla Castle pose to take a "selfie" at the Art Center after finding two pieces of art they both enjoyed, which were conveniently located right next to each other.

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