

## 'Graceful Warriors' visit the airport

Local artist's original works displayed in exhibit at Tallahassee Regional Airport

7:04 PM, Aug. 8, 2012 | 1 Comment

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Local artist, Annie S. Harris, uses unconventional mediums in her own artwork, including tin, cardboard, driftwood, and glass. / All photos courtesy of Lindsay Marshall

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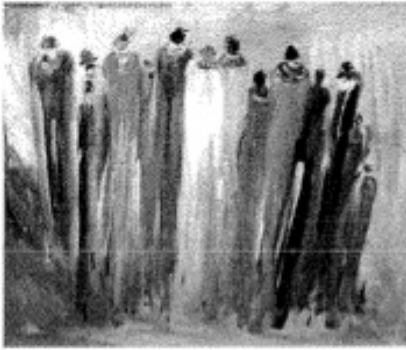
Graceful Warriors, a collection of local artist Annie S. Harris' paintings, will be on display in the ArtPort Gallery at the Tallahassee Regional Airport until September 10.

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The collection pays homage to the beauty of life and the potential for greatness in everything. The exhibition is presented by the Council on Culture and Arts, the local arts agency for Tallahassee and Leon County.

Harris has been painting for 13 years, and her artwork has been displayed in many galleries in Florida, including locations in central Florida, the Culpepper Center at Florida State University, and Harris has also had private showings on the beach. She is pleased



with the recognition she is receiving at the airport, and the inspiration she is giving visitors.

"People are very impressed," Harris said. "They're inspired. I've gotten notes in the mail from people who say things like, 'I was traveling and saw your artwork and was inspired by it.' That's really great."

Harris describes her work as being everything that is fine and beautiful. She typically will paint people without eyes or facial features. The idea behind this is her audience will see themselves in her paintings, and realize we are all similar and can overcome adversity by working together. The medium of most of Harris' art is acrylic paint, however, she also transforms objects many people would consider trash into unique pieces, such as tin, cardboard, driftwood and glass.



"Sometimes I see something that people would want to discard, and I can make it beautiful," said Harris.

Harris receives her inspiration in different ways. She is inspired by everyday people, children, sights while traveling and even images on television.

"Sometimes somebody will say something inspiring, and I'll think, 'I wonder if I can capture that in a painting,'" said Harris.

She wants to show people of all ages, especially young people, that a fancy studio is not necessary in order to create art. Giving children the opportunity to embrace their creativity is important to Harris.

"Painting is something that gives me a chance to do inner expression," said Harris. "I hope schools will keep it so children can do the same."

Harris says she likes to share her ideas with young people to help them explore their own creativity. She believes everyone has the capability to be creative; it is just something people have to find.

"Children doodle," said Harris. "But that can lead to other kinds of creativity. You just have to show them how that can happen."

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