



## Artful Night Under the Stars shines

Event, featuring 35 local artists, raises more than \$12,000 for local education

By MICHELLE UHLFELDER  
Advertiser Special to The Sun

This past Saturday evening, Artful Night Under the Stars gala took place at V Seagrove. It wasn't just a vibrant party; it raised more than \$12,000 for local education efforts at The Tree House Episcopal Montessori School in Santa Rosa Beach.

With local 30A artists featured in the show, bidding wars ensued on the amazing art and silent auction items donated by 80 local businesses.

The main reason close to 100 people attended the gala was because of the 35 pieces donated by the generous local artists in the 30A community. Many artists, including Dallas residents Janet and Steve Thomas in Tandem Photography, attend the gala.

"What a joy to participate in this festive evening, especially as one of the featured artists. Not only is someone enjoying

our work in their home or office somewhere; we receive the double blessing that we are helping local education and giving back to this community," says Janet.

Their work is currently featured at The Hidden Lantern Gallery in Rosemary Beach and Albert F's Gallery in Seaside's Ruskin Place.

Without the event sponsors that generously contributed, this event would have missed its "shine."

Mike Ragsdale with 30A.com ran promotions for a Gordie Hinds' painting giveaway to help publicize the event nationally to all those beloved 30A beach lovers. V Seagrove generously donated the venue space while Sweet Henrietta's Treats provided decadent Tree House themed cupcakes that were "the best desserts I've ever tasted," according to countless guests.

Stunning table flower arrangements created by

### WANT TO HELP?

Know an artist interested in having artwork featured next year at this premier art auction or a sponsor who wants to donate the "glamour" for the annual event? Please contact The Tree House Episcopal Montessori School at info@thetreehousectk.org

Santa Rosa Beach florist Tim Ryan of Botaniq decorated the room, and Grayton Beer provided the endless glasses of pale ale and I.P.A. for guests. And of course the atmosphere would not be complete without tunes from the beloved Alabama-based band Martha's Trouble, which rocked the party with music from their recent album release entitled "A Heart Like You."

"It was amazing to see the wide variety of mediums and techniques 30A artists use to create unique pieces," says Genevieve Torrey, co-event chair of Artful Night Under the Stars. "From



**Above:** With 35 pieces of artwork up for bid, James and Jill Lennon-Perkins left the auction winning three pieces: a painting by Lisa Lee, photography by Amundsen Images and a bee collage painted by The Tree House 2-year-old students with a beautiful frame donated by Jonsey Works. James, who is a die-hard Georgia fan also won two premium seats to an upcoming Georgia football game from the raffle prizes. **Top Right:** One of the most beloved auction items was the glass-encrusted mosaic "Tree of Life" piece created by Mary Hong. She donated this specific artwork as a tribute to the beneficiary of the evening, The Tree House.

photography on brushed aluminum and reverse paint on glass to precious giclées and vintage mixed media, it's obvious the artists on 30A contribute fresh artistic perspective."

Next year, the school has big plans to make the

gala even more fabulous.

"We want to continue to expand the auction by holding it during the winter tourist break in February of 2014 with plans to possibly use the entire V Seagrove restaurant to make this truly the premier

art auction on 30A," says Maureen Paine, director of The Tree House Episcopal Montessori School. "And with this group of fantastic parents and amazing community support from the local artists, anything is possible."



## THANK YOU

Artful Night Under the Stars & The Tree House Episcopal Montessori School would like to thank the generous local artists who donated 35 unique pieces of art to the gala helping us raise over \$12,000 for early childhood education in Santa Rosa Beach.

Amundson Images

Anne Hall Designs

Arlene Newsome

Belinda Parsons

Blessings in Disguise

Chastane

Didon Comer

Gordie Hinds

Franko "Washboard" Jackson

J Conley Images

Janet & Steve Thomas

Jane Whaley

Jonesy Works

Justin Gaffrey

Kim Pall

Kyleigh M. Reynolds

Kyrce Culbertson

Lisa Lee

Lowell Lotspeich

Mary Hong

Maxine Orange

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