



New Smyrna High School students, from left, Victoria Paulis, Kendra Yarborough and Emily Edwards, work on a chalk drawing at Chalk It Up on Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach on Saturday.

Journal photos/PAUL MARSEGLIA

# Leaving a mark

## Artists on the draw (on the sidewalk)

By PAUL MARSEGLIA  
CORRESPONDENT

**NEW SMYRNA BEACH** — Imagine an artist completing a great piece of work and then just walking away from it and leaving it behind.

Such was the case at the inaugural Chalk It Up sidewalk festival along Canal Street on Saturday. The daylong event brought together dozens of aspiring and professional artists competing for a variety of prizes and awards.

"Sidewalk art is truly community art," said Jude Bragg Pardo, a graphic and fine arts artist. "This art you don't take home, you just leave it for the public to enjoy. I've been doing this type of art since 1995. I started in Downtown Disney and I have gone back every year since."

**"This art you don't take home, you just leave it for the public to enjoy."**

JUDE BRAGG PARDO  
artist

"I truly enjoy doing sidewalk chalk art. I like when people stop to look at my work, ask questions and tell me how much they enjoy it. It makes being on the sidewalk on my knees just about the entire day well worth it."

Before beginning her sketch, Pardo laid out her work area in a grid. Then, using a photograph as a reference point, she worked grid by grid until the piece was completed.

The Main Street Association sponsored the event, which was spearheaded by Jennifer Kerr-Marsch of Mosquito Mud Pottery.

"My husband, Christian, and I are artists and we travel the country doing art shows," she said. "Throughout our travels, I have seen several

SEE MARK, PAGE 4



Jude Bragg Pardo, left, works from a drawing on a floral piece of art early Saturday morning. Her segment of sidewalk art blossomed into completion, right, later in the day.



4★ Wednesday, November 7, 2007

NEWS

## MARK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

chalk art exhibitions but the one that impressed me the most was from a recent show we did in Chattanooga. The event was sponsored by the Girl Scout Council and the work was fantastic.

"I kept thinking what a great idea this would be for New Smyrna Beach and especially on Canal Street. When we returned home, I went online and checked out chalk artists and I discovered Lee Jones, a professional painter in Orlando."

Kerr-Marsch contacted Jones and asked her if she would come to New Smyrna Beach and assist in putting on a chalk art festival. The painter agreed and the Chalk It Up became a reality here.

Jones, a 15-year veteran of chalk drawing, was not on the sidewalks Saturday because of a recent bone spur operation. However, she was conducting workshops and offering assistance to other artists.

Participating artists arrived with original designs, photographs and sketches of artwork they intended to duplicate and were given a box of pastels at registration and assigned a work area.

"This type of art is completely new to us. We're art students at New Smyrna Beach High School and we work in different mediums but never chalk," said Victoria Paulis, who was working with classmates Kendra Yarborough and Emily Edwards. "It's fun being outdoors on your hands and knees and doing art. It's completely different from what we usually do."

The girls agreed that although working with chalk on a sidewalk was challenging, it was also very forgiving since mistakes could simply be rubbed away.

"When I was a kid we were always drawing on the sidewalk, 69-year-old Olga Phelps said while strolling past the designs. "It was usually a hopscotch game or stick figures. We didn't have colored chalk then, it was only white chalk and we would

### Chalking Up Awards

Awards were given in 10 categories. The awards and categories are listed below:

- Best of Show: Gina Granieri
- Most colorful: Renita Woods
- Most inspiring: Gina Granieri
- Best technique: Jim Pleterski
- Best rendition of a master: Denise Watts
- Most humorous: Steve and Reanna Hardock
- Best of Show high school team: Kathy Bohman and Kendra Yarborough
- Best of Show middle school team: Sacred Heart
- Best of Show middle school: Joshua Paris
- Best of Show high school: Ray Shover



Journal/PAUL MARSEGLIA

Shannon Tse, a student at New Smyrna Beach High School, puts finishing touches on a painting of a koi fish at Chalk It Up on Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach on Saturday.

get the chalk dust all over our clothes. What you see here today is real art, not what we were doing. I wish I was young enough and able to get down on the sidewalk and give it a try."

Several restaurants donated food, snacks and drinks for the artists. Lori Retz, of Riverside Catering and Market, which provided free lunches, said, "This is just a fun community event. A lot of work went on behind the scenes putting this together and I am just glad that I was able to be of assistance."

Kerr-Marsch said she was very satisfied with the event and hopes to sponsor it again next year.

"Everyone involved had a

good time and I just want to say a big 'thank you' to all the people that made this possible," she said. "A real surprising thing happened though between 2 and 3 p.m. — some of the people strolling Canal Street were unaware of the chalk festival. When they saw what was going on, they went and got some chalk and before you knew it, there were another 30 or so adults and kids drawing on the sidewalk in front of The Penny-saver."

The artists began drawing at 8 a.m., and at 4 p.m. judges Nicole Carni from the Gallery Group on Flagler Avenue and Gainesville artist Allyson Barrett selected the works for final judging.

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