

# 'A gorgeous show': Brady-Kendall Juried Art Show names winners

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The Columbus County Arts Council presented awards Nov. 14 for the Brady-Kendall Juried Art Show on display in its downtown gallery.

The show's top honor, Best in Show, was awarded to "Through the Eyes of Autism 2," a painting by Elizabeth Olson of Chadbourn.

Olsen said the piece is deeply personal. "First, that's actually my great grandson," she said during an interview at the event. "He is severely autistic and just a beautiful child." "Protecting him, she said, is "a joy," adding that her artwork allows her to keep "a piece of him with me."

Olsen has painted him before, including when he was almost three years old. That earlier portrait inspired the title: "Through the Eyes of Autism 2." She hopes viewers see the child behind the diagnosis. "Even though he is severely disabled, he is such a sweet child," she said. "He's just got so much going for him as far as a loving mom and family members, and, you know, I'm proud of that. I really am."

In addition to Best in Show, the council announced winners in two categories. First place in 2D was awarded to "Crescendo," an acrylic work by Owen Brown Fiala. First place in 3D went to "Nature Girl," a pottery piece by Terry Stansell.

The Atlantic Coast Vase People's Choice Award went to "Mistresses" by Sue Bennett.



OLSON PHOTO BY JESSICA SMITH

Elizabeth Olson of Chadbourn stands beside her juried piece, "Through the Eyes of Autism 2," which won Best in Show at the Brady-Kendall Juried Art Show. Olson said the portrait is of her great-grandson, whom she described as "a beautiful child" and "a joy" to paint.



"Crescendo," an acrylic painting by Owen Brown Fiala, won first place in the 2D category.



"Nature Girl," a pottery piece by Terry Stansell, earned first place in the 3D category.

honoring Brady and Kendall. The juried show is named for both Brady and Frances Kendall, two early champions of the arts in Columbus County. Brady, a well-known North Carolina artist, traveled from the foothills to Whitesville once a month for years to teach children and adults.

Kendall, a Whitesville artist who worked in print, pottery and mixed media, often incorporated broken glass or hand objects into

her pieces. She taught classes and helped launch art initiatives that strengthened the local arts community. Their influence led generations of residents — including artists who have become accomplished artists — to value and pursue the arts.

**Praise for artists**  
Sally Martin, executive director of the Columbus County Arts Council, thanked the many artists who entered this year's

show. She introduced the judge, William H. Miller, owner of William H. Miller Studios & Fine Art in Myrtle Beach.

"He had very nice things to say about the show. It is a gorgeous show," Martin said. "Thank you, artists, for being a part of this show. And thank you to all the people behind the scenes." She encouraged local artists to join the Columbus County Visual Arts Guild, which will host a show titled "Whisper" in January.

Miller also praised the participating artists. "I want to congratulate all the artists for the hard work they put into their pieces and for participating," he said. "Because that is the main thing that we need in the art community — people participating."