

Art patrons in for twice the pleasure

2 galleries opening exhibits Saturday

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NEW SMYRNA BEACH — Two exhibits are opening Saturday, one at Arts on Douglas and the other at Harris House. The first showcases Florida landscape oil paintings by Heidi Edwards, while the other features fiber arts submitted by artists from around the world.

The Arts on Douglas exhibit, "Spots of Time," is inspired by 19th-century poet William Wordsworth's philosophy on nature and the imagination. Wordsworth believed that scenes in nature create lasting memories or "spots in time," which can be recalled in our minds and re-experienced to elevate our spirits.

"Looking back over 40 some years of painting landscapes, I have found that certain places repeatedly appear in my work," Edwards has said of her creations.

Her new body of work encompasses the most significant of those lasting impressions and most treasured places. Paynes Prairie, Rainbow River, Cumberland Island and Guana River have provided the backdrop for her paintings.

In a past interview, Edwards said, "I strive to portray the essence of these places through color and convey a mood that might elevate the spirits of my audience, much the same as they have sustained and inspired



This steel and fabric piece by Trishia J. Hassler will be included in Saturday's Harris House exhibit.

me."

Edwards has a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Illinois. She has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Her works are included in the permanent collections of the city of Orlando, Amway Arena and Southeast Bank collection in Orlando.

The Harris House exhibit, "Stretching the Threads," includes nearly 60 works by artists from around the world.

"They not only stretched the

thread but they stretched and delved deep into their imaginations to create the art," Harris House program coordinator Mary McBride said.

An international call for artists through Fiberarts Magazine successfully brought in 120 applicants from New Zealand, Iceland, Ireland, Scotland, Canada and Germany, as well as the United States.

Former fiber-artists-turned-sculptors, Els Meijns of Daytona Beach and Joanna White of Melbourne, chose the 59 pieces from more than 400 works. Their selections include silver jewelry embellished with wool balls, a hand-crocheted granny-square afghan made from telephone wire with attached speakers that gives "granny" a chance to explain how to make an afghan and even a copper bra.

The exhibit also features several art quilts, which are almost traditional in comparison to items made from zip ties, plastic bags, shredded paper and old super 8 film, as well as rusted steel plating, wrapped wire and red rubber bands.

"These artists have taken great pains to use unusual materials in traditional ways from weaving to knitting and sewing," McBride said. "In some instances, until viewed up closely, it's hard to distinguish the difference in these art works from craft. The materials used give



Journal photos/PAUL MARSEGLIA

Ren Morrison of Harris House installs an afghan created by Lisa J. Solomon for the "Stretching the Threads" exhibit, which opens Saturday at Harris House.

them away. Other works are so enormous or tiny that their scale gives away the secret — these are works of art!"

Both exhibits will open with a

reception from 4 to 7 p.m. and are free to the public. Arts on Douglas is at 123 Douglas St. The Harris House gallery is at 214 S. Riverside Drive. Each of the ex-

hibits will continue through April 28.

For details, call Meghan Martin, (386) 428-1133, or Mary McBride, (386) 423-1753.