

College artists decorate atrium with creativity

By **KATHLEEN MURPHY**

For the *Frontiersman*

About two dozen people wandered around chatting among displays of fine art while sipping punch and munching on appetizers at the opening of the Mat-Su Annual Student Juried Art Show at Mat-Su College Monday night.

Vicki Cole, coordinator of the art faculty, organized the presentation with the help of many volunteers. It featured a variety of art forms, including water color, acrylics, photography,

bead work, metal work and weaving.

But the star piece of the show was Barbara Cordy's peyote stitch and improvisational bead work necklace titled "Give Me a Hand Out, But Don't Expect Me to Wash Dishes Again." Cordy received a double honor winning the "Best of Show" category and the "Director's Purchase Award," which means the college will purchase her piece for display. The art form is a new style for Cordy, who learned it at a recent workshop in Whidbey Island,

Wash.

"I've been a weaver since 1986, then I got interested in tapestry last February. It just seemed like everything I learned was building on each other and this



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Barbara Cordy wears her Best of Show necklace from the Mat-Su student art show.

was the next step," said Cordy.

The necklace was Cordy's first attempt at the new style and its title has significant meaning for her.

"Sometimes people need a handout, but after one accepts a handout, everything changes. Sometimes it changes for the good and sometimes for the bad," said Cordy. It depends on how the person who receives the aid chooses to use it. For example, the tiny Coors beer can in the necklace represents the fact that some people will choose to spend it on beer, she said.

Gail Moses, who won the "Best of Mixed Media" described her "Untitled" piece as an etched brass with marbled paper scrolls. It is a small brass box with miniature handmade paper books that fit inside it like files in a folder.

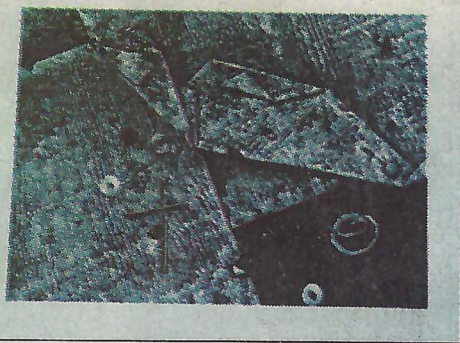
The paper must be dipped evenly to get the marbled effect, explains Moses, and each tiny scroll has a different pattern.

"Gilded for War," a helmet and breast plate by Arklee Wilson, won the "2nd Mixed Media" award.

The items actually fit Wilson, who said she didn't even want to guess about how many hours she had into the work. She used birch bark, horse tail, copper wire, shells and bones to create a warrior's garb.

"I did everything from stripping the birch to trimming the horse's tail," said Wilson.

Other winners were Amy Menerey, who won both first



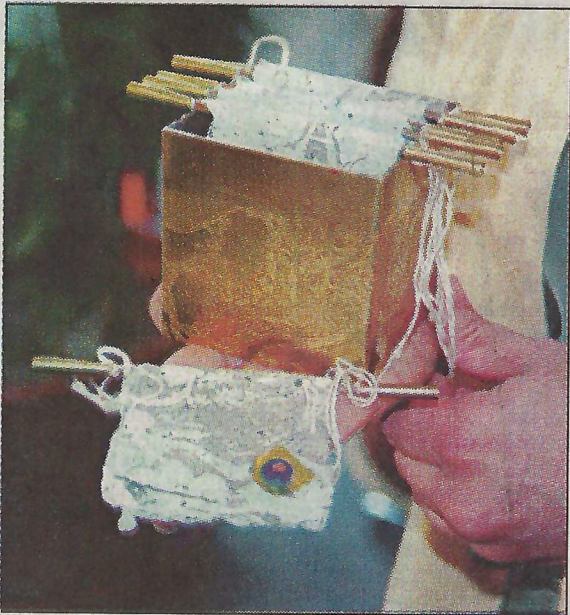
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At left, Arklee Wilson's wearable art "Gilded for War" earned a second place in mixed media. Above, Amy Menerey's "Riveting" earned a best photography award. The artwork will remain on display until May 13.

and second for her photography with "Riveting" and "I Have Fallen;" Bianca S. Rauch, who won "Best of Fiber" with her representation of ravens called "Corbies;" and Lulu Pittard, who won the "Best of Painting/Drawing" for her watercolor titled "A Street in Madrid."

All winners received gift certificates donated by Blaine's Art and Graphic Supply, Blue Barn Yarn, The Rock Shop and Birchgrove Studios.

The show will be on display in the Mat-Su College Atrium through May 13.



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Best of Mixed Media award went to Gail Moses, who designed this etched brass box with marbled paper scrolls.



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Gail Moses (right) is all smiles when she receives an award for Best of Mixed Media award from former college director Glenn Massay for her work entered in the Mat-Su College Annual Juried Student Art Show.