

# 22 Fab four: Art shows go fantastic, plastic

By Mark Hinson  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The local art scene certainly is starting the New Year with a bang. It's a full-blown art attack.

This weekend is a great chance to sample art ranging from the serious to the whimsical to the coolly ironic made by artists ranging from the famous to the seasoned pro to the recently graduated.

Here's a gallery guide to four shows you should not miss:

## The future is 'Plastic'

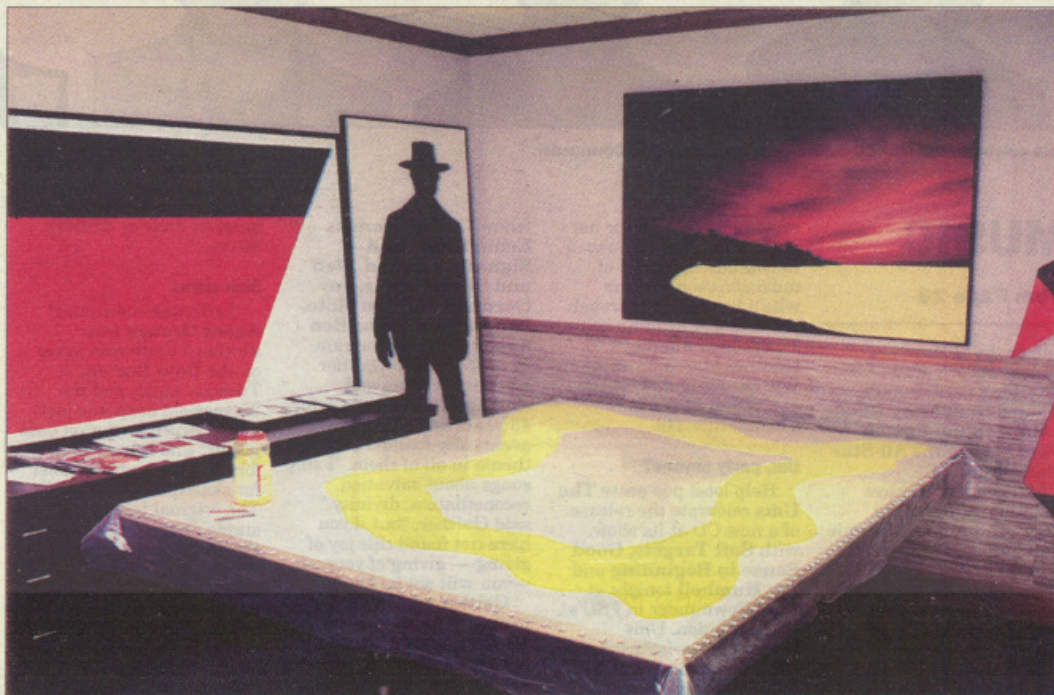
Several years ago, Tallahassee artist-filmmaker Tyler Turkle was at a restaurant following a one-man show of his art in New York.

During dinner, someone asked Turkle's wife, Jesslyn Krouskroup, what her husband did for a living. Rather than say he was an artist, she thought for a moment and said: "Oh, he's a plastician."

"That's about the best description I've heard of my work," Turkle said as he supervised the hanging of his new, career-spanning survey show "Plastic History" at the Gadsden Arts Center in downtown Quincy. "Plastic History" opens today with a gallery talk by Turkle at 6:30 p.m., and a reception follows at 7 p.m.

In the early '70s, Turkle began experimenting with acrylic paint and the artistic approach to appropriation. "I was working as a filmmaker, and I had a lot of downtime in my studio waiting for film delivery from the lab," Turkle said. "I would amuse myself by continuing to pour plastic on things. ... It's like drawing with liquid."

For his "Plastic Publicity" series, Turkle selected found photos — such as black-and-white stills from movies and TV shows — and covered part of the image in layers of black



For his "Plastic Publicity" series, Turkle selected found photos — such as black-and-white stills from movies — and covered part of the image in layers of black acrylic paint.



Tyler Turkle will give a gallery talk at 6:30 p.m. today about his "Plastic History" exhibit opening at the Gadsden Arts Center.

acrylic paint. In one example, Tonto and the Lone Ranger stand ready for action, only the Lone Ranger, with pistol drawn from his holster, is rendered as a black silhouette.

"The silhouette is the most interesting aspect," Turkle said. "It covers one

but it reveals the other to greater degrees."

Over the years, Turkle has appropriated all sorts of images to give the plastic treatment. They range from a place-mat menu from the now-defunct breakfast restaurant called Jerry's to photos of Marilyn Monroe to well-known reproductions by such masters as Matisse and Picasso.

"I think Tyler's work is important," Gadsden Arts Center executive director Tricia Collins said. "His concerns are in a dialogue with contemporary art and art history. And I think the show looks exquisite in this space."

When Collins, a Tallahassee native, worked as a high-profile art curator in New York in the '80s and '90s, she arranged shows for Turkle in Manhattan as well as all over Europe. His

resume includes exhibits in France, the Netherlands, Italy and Russia.

"I've shown all over the world, but this is the first time I've had a survey show of my work where I live," Turkle said.

As an added bonus with the "Plastic History" exhibit, the Gadsden Arts Center is also featuring a collection of photographs taken by Robert Rauschenberg. He's the American artist who, along with Jasper Johns, set the stage for the Pop Art revolution of the '60s. Rauschenberg lives in Captiva.

"This really is a New York show in Quincy," said Collins, who presented an exhibit by internationally known artist Vik Muniz in the gallery during the summer.

Please see ART, 27

## GALLERY GUIDE

■ Tyler Turkle's "Plastic History" and Robert Rauschenberg's "America Mix" photogravures open with a reception today from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gadsden Arts Center, Quincy. Turkle gives a gallery talk at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.

■ John Lytle Wilson's "A Low Dose of Menace: Paintings by John Lytle Wilson" runs through Feb. 8 at the Tallahassee Community College Fine Art Gallery. It's free.

■ "Introductions 2007: New Art Faculty" opens with a reception today from 7 to 9 p.m. at the FSU Museum of Fine Arts. It's free and runs through Feb. 4.

■ George Blakely and Stuart Riordan's "Duo Solos II" exhibition runs through Feb. 11 at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science. Admission is \$6 general public and \$3.50 for students and seniors.



"Plastic History" includes Turkle's new lighthearted "Palm Pilot Project: Family, Friends and Strangers." Over several months, Turkle approached artists, journalists, politicians and anyone else with an invitation to quickly sketch an image on his digital Palm Pilot screen. The tiny drawings were blown up in size and transferred to plastic banners. They adorn one large wall at the Gadsden Arts Center.

"No contemplation was allowed," Turkle said. "They just had to draw and draw fast."

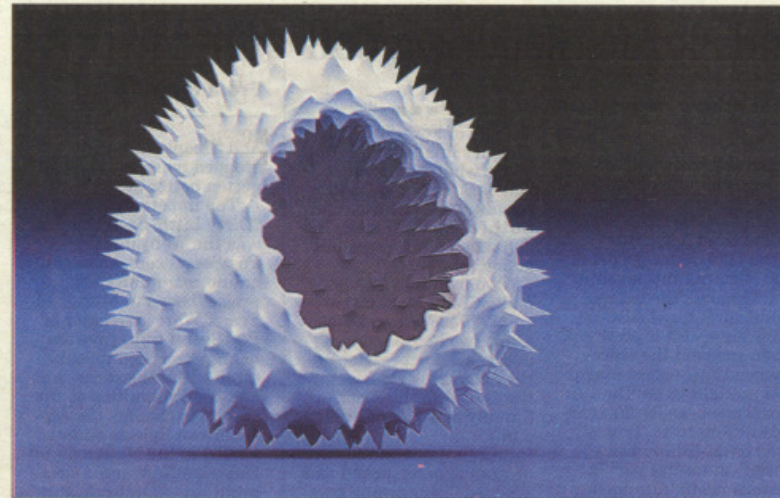
Like the Lone Ranger.

#### Look out for robots

While Turkle, who is in his 50s, is an artist with a lengthy career, painter John Lytle Wilson, 29, is just getting started.

Wilson recently got a master's degree from Florida State University's art department. He maintains a studio in the Railroad Square Art Park where he creates 8-foot-tall canvases featuring boldly colorful, highly stylized, iconic bears, monkeys, rabbits and other critters.

"I always doodled these animals in class, but I never thought this is where



The "New Art Faculty" exhibit, which opens with a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, will feature works by Joelle Dietrich, Chad Eby, Holly Hanessian, John Mann, Joe Sanders and Mary Stewart.

my art would go," Wilson said. "Little by little, the animals took over."

Wilson's "A Low Dose of Menace" exhibit is now on display at the Tallahassee Community College Fine Art Gallery through Feb. 8. The "Menace" show also features Wilson's recent series of robot paintings.

"I was always doodling robots, but I couldn't justify why I would ever paint robots," Wilson said.

"I sort of dove in and had fun with it. I'm still working out exactly why. If the animals are the id, the robots are the super ego. I'm still

exploring that. I'm becoming less worried what they're all about and more about how they look. Maybe that's bad, I don't know."

Just don't tell the robots.

#### Meet the new crew

Everything runs in cycles and recently the FSU art department has seen some of its best known professors (photographer/cartoonist Robert Fichter, for example) retire from teaching.

That means that there's plenty of new blood in the department, and the latest FSU faculty exhibition will reflect the shift changes.

"Faculty shows usually don't get much attention," FSU art professor and photographer George Blakely said. "So this year we decided to showcase our newest hires. We want to introduce them to the community as well as the rest of the university faculty."

The "Introductions 2007: New Art Faculty" exhibit will feature works by Joelle Dietrich, Chad Eby, Holly

Hanessian, John Mann, Joe Sanders and Mary Stewart. It opens with a public reception from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Florida State University Museum of Fine Arts, corner of Copeland and Call streets. "Introductions" runs through Feb. 4.

#### Not going 'Solo' alone

Photographer Blakely is also an exhibiting artist this month with the continuation of the knockout "Duo Solos II" show at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science on Kleman Plaza.

Blakely's fun-house approach to art, photography and obsessions is balanced with numerous large-scale paintings by Tallahassee artist Stuart Riordan. Using paint, dirt and photo emulsions, Riordan conjures up subtly disturbing images with nude and semi-nude figures that could've drawn by Renaissance masters.

"Duo Solos" runs through Feb. 11.

Tickets to the Brogan are \$6 general public and \$3.50 for students and seniors. For more, call 513-0700 or visit [www.thebrogan.org](http://www.thebrogan.org). Please note: The exhibit contains images of nude models, so parents may want to preview the content before including the kids.

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