

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Wearable art fashion show a big hit

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The Beautiful Apparel to Beyond Belief Wearable Art Show staged May 14 in the gym at Fort Worden State Park was a sold-out fundraiser for the Jefferson County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls.

An audience of 150 admired 28 official entries, plus costumes designed by Port Townsend High School art students. The official entries included the use of salal leaves, bubble wrap, moth-eaten wool, acrylic paint on actual wedding dresses, fishing nets, papier-mâché, and fine silk fabrics.

Best of Show honors went to the entry by Margie McDonald named "Caution: Water Line Below", modeled by Alison Wood. The sparkling outfit is made entirely from a roll of blue caution tape bearing the words that became its name.

The People's Choice award went to "Slide Dress," modeled by Jennie Townsan and created by Judith Bird. It featured 425 photographic slides.

Three student creations were accepted into the show: designs by Anna Moore, Hana McAdam and Annalise Rubida, all ninth-graders at Port Townsend High School. The "Paper Sun" dress made and modeled by McAdam was voted best student entry.

The show's judge was Anna Nasset, owner, curator, dreamer and achiever of [Artisans on Taylor](#) Gallery in downtown Port Townsend.



"Caution: Water Line Below" is the name of the dress designed by Margie McDonald (center) and modeled by Alison Wood. It is made entirely from a roll of blue caution tape bearing the words that became its name. The garment won Best of Show, announced Debbie Steele (right), event chair. Photo by David Conklin

Debbi Steele, event chair, said she was ecstatic at the audience turnout. Tickets were sold out before the May 13 event, and people had to be turned away at the door. She praised the sponsors and volunteers who made the event possible, and the artists themselves – many of them first-time wearable fashion creators.

The show was a fundraiser for the Jefferson County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls. In the last month, about \$20,000 has been raised for this fund's endowment.

The fund was started in May 2010 with a mission to empower women and girls through local investment. The first grant was awarded in January 2011 to the Port Townsend Marine Science Center's GIRLS (Girls in Real Life Science) Project which mentored middle school and high school girls.

Madrona MindBody Institute hosted the fashion show at their gym building at Fort Worden State Park.



The People's Choice award among 28 entries went to "Slide Dress," created by Judith Bird with 425 photographic slides. It was modeled by Jennie Townsan. Photo by David Conklin

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