

All-over exhibit: Indoors, outdoors

The wide-ranging show led by 2 artists is part of a push to focus on public art.

By CHRISTINE COLE
SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

MOUNT DORA — Christine Padgett makes no bones about her enthusiasm for the new exhibit at the Mount Dora Center for the Arts.

"People who don't see this exhibit will miss out, because they will certainly hear about it," she said.

"Co-Creation" opens with an artists' reception from 6 to 8 p.m. today.

Padgett, executive co-chairwoman of the center, asked painter Brenda Heim and sculptor Doug Hays to display indoor and outdoor art.

The outdoor pieces, which spill out into the garden behind the center, are part of a push to get people talking about public art and its role in the community.

"This is an opportunity to see public art outside in the fresh air with the sun beaming off it," Padgett said. "It is a powerful, energizing, stimulating experience."

Several large, painted steel sculptures by Hays are surrounded by "Field of Poppies," red discs on tall, slender steel rods that bob in the breeze.

Heim and Hays collaborated on several pieces, including "Concave Metal Panel," constructed by Hays and painted by Heim in automotive paint.

Indoors, Hays' intricate steel sculptures are joined by two of his ventures into functional public art, "Triple Bike Rack" and "Light Bulb Bike Rack," both painted bright yellow.

Heim's Zen brush paintings take over the walls. "Lessons From the Ancestors" sweeps 13 feet across the west wall.

She uses acrylic and enamel paint, sumi ink, copper leaf powder and oversize brushes to create pieces that embody movement.

"What is exciting is not just the large format or the gestural movement, but the actual pigmentation on the surface of the canvas," Padgett said. "At 12 feet, you can see something beautiful, but at two inches, you can see something more beautiful."

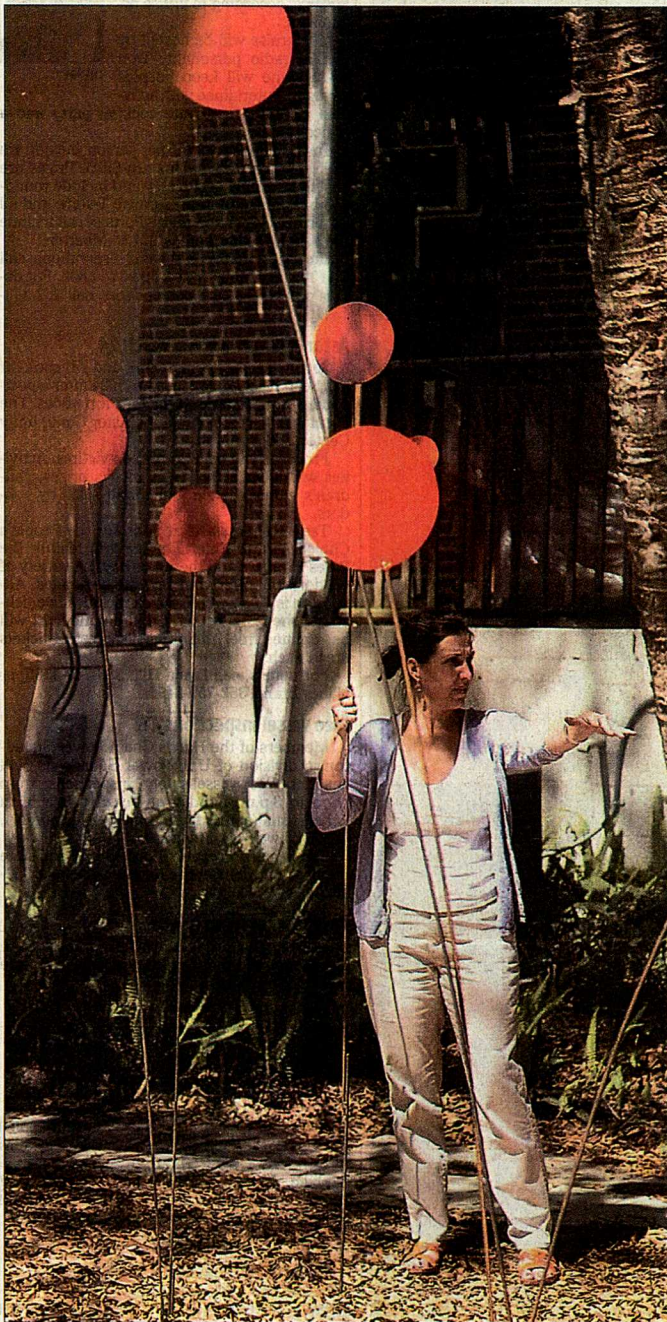
People also are invited to join a discussion about public art at 5:30 p.m. March 21 at the center.

IF YOU GO

What: 'Co-Creation'
When: Today through April 20
Where: Mount Dora Center for the Arts, 138 E. Fifth Ave.
Details: 352-383-0880

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TOM BENITEZ/ORLANDO SENTINEL

ART GETS SOME AIR

Painter Brenda Heim directs assistants Thursday in the placement of art outside the Mount Dora Center for the Arts. Heim was preparing for a new exhibit, 'Co-Creation,' which opens tonight with an artists' reception. The exhibit features indoor and outdoor art. The outdoor pieces are part of an effort to get people interested in public art. The works of sculptor Doug Hays also will be displayed. **Story, G3**